

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY—MARCH, 1957

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I am writing this to you on the closing night of the year. 1956 is slowly drawing to an end, and the New Year is about to dawn. Personally I do not like thinking of the passing of time. It always tends to make me depressed. I suppose that there is more than one reason for this. We seem to be in the midst of forces beyond our control. We don't like to think of it. We would rather forget all about it. After all we are Christians and believe that life never ends, and we would rather dwell on that than on the passing of time. We are not surprised, then, when people remind us that the New Year is not a Christian festival. We like to recall the words of the poet—

“Grow old along with me the best is yet to be
The last of life for which the first was made :
Our times are in His hands Who said a whole I
planned :
Youth shows but half ; trust God, see all, nor be
afraid.”

There is a value, nevertheless, in the calendar year. For one thing it would be almost impossible to carry on business without it. It helps moreover to mark important days, for example like your children's birthdays ! It also enables us to look back and thank God for blessings we have received. I will always indeed remember 1956 for your great kindness to my wife and myself. You did not spare yourselves in trying to make it for us a most memorable occasion in our life. We will never forget your great goodness to us. I just hope that some one will do for each and all of you what you have done for us.

The most outstanding event in the national and international life has been the controversy, and more, over the Suez Canal. One feels a deep sense of thankfulness to God that what seemed to be a very dangerous situation in the Middle East has for the time at least been resolved. Something entirely new has emerged from it, something that has never before been seen in history, the appearance of an international army of the United Nations. Strong or weak as it may be, it is there at the centre of the trouble in the Middle East, and that is a wonderful advance towards the peace of the world.

As we look towards the New Year we do so in the hope that it will bring prosperity to our nation and Commonwealth, and peace to a distracted world. In particular, our prayer will be that the people of Hungary will be enabled to return to their land in peace and freedom. We pray for our own congregation that it may be a year when we do our best to live the Christian life and do the work that God wants us to do both within the Church and beyond its doors.

To all of you I wish the best that life can give to you,

W. MURRAY MACKAY.

OBITUARY.

Mr. John McGibbon.

Mr. John McGibbon, Kingarth, Ayr Road, died last week at his home in his 80th year. Mr. and Mrs. McGibbon came to this district from Newlands in 1926. They were amongst the earliest of those who moved out from the city to inhale the purer air of the moors of Mearns. They soon allied themselves with this congregation, and for some years Mr. McGibbon was a member of the Congregational Board, or the Board of Managers as it was then designated. Many will know that he was a master of the art of penmanship. This was all the more amazing in that he suffered from a deformity and had but the limited use of his right arm and hand, and accomplished it with the other. That was indicative of the determination of the man. If he set out to do anything it was accomplished with all his might. He was eager, alert and zealous in all

he did. Despite the physical handicap under which he suffered, he never complained about it or made it an excuse. He had a wonderful brightness about his personality and that when perhaps his handicap often severely tried his patience. He was a regular attendee at Church, and deeply interested always in the work of the Kingdom.

To his two daughters, his sons-in-law, his sisters, and all his kith and kin we extend to-day our deepest sympathy.

A LONG SERVICE MAN.

It falls to be recorded at this time that Mr. Stewart Telfer has completed sixty years of service as a teacher in the Newton Mearns Church Sunday School.

The Scottish Sunday School Union has already sent to Mr. Telfer the official certificate which they present to all who render such long service.

The Session has decided that the congregation shall recognise this long continuous interest in the young life of the district.

Mr. Telfer has omitted to keep the roll books of the classes he has taught and is not able to tell the number of boys who have passed through his hands, but on a moderate estimate some three hundred or more have been influenced by him in some way.

Before becoming a teacher he, too, had been influenced and his mind and heart had been directed.

It might almost be claimed that Stewart Telfer was born into the Sunday School. He was so early led into it and progressed from the “Beginners” through the various classes, ultimately reaching the top and then being given the charge of a class at the bottom.

There must have been a formative influence in the home. Telfer is a striking “craft” name and there must have been a wonderful strength in his forebears.

It is a name that goes back to the middle ages, if not even to the dim and misty past. How far Stewart Telfer can trace his direct ancestry we don't know, but certainly he can go to Great, Great Grandfather, and they worked in the craft the name implies, workers in iron. The Telfers were blacksmiths.

What a change there has been at Mearns Cross. Six decades ago there was the local posting station where twenty horses were stabled for the use of travellers.

The new petrol filling station erected there is still for the services of travellers.

During the early period, Stewart Telfer was greatly influenced under the superintendency of Mr. McMeechan, and the love for the Sunday School was engendered at that time and it has never lessened.

Stewart Telfer was also fortunate in his general education. He had a natural aptitude and a keen desire for knowledge with a passion for reading. In addition to these gifts, his schoolmaster saw in him these characteristics and delighted to encourage him in every way, although he did not “spare the rod to spoil the child.”

When Stewart Telfer is encouraged to speak of his school-days it is touching to see in his manner the regard with which he speaks of his schoolmaster and the indebtedness due to him for studies wider than the ordinary curriculum.

What Stewart Telfer has gathered in this long apprenticeship he willingly gives out to the boys he wins around him and he is supremely happy when he gains their interest.

COMING EVENTS.

The Ordination and Induction of new Elders in the congregation will take place at the forenoon service on Sunday, 20th January. The names of those who have agreed to accept the office, and have been ratified by the Session, are Messrs. Sydney Brunton, Hansen Gray, H. J. Frost, Murray Hanna, Thomas Marchant, Andrew Russell and John S. Black.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed on the first Sabbath in February. The Preparatory Service will be held on the preceding Friday. About 80-100 persons regularly attend this service but we would remind you that this hour of preparation is offered to you also.

The Session has had under discussion the meeting hour of the Primary Section of the Sabbath School. At present it meets on Sunday morning in the Upper Hall at 10.15 a.m. Some feel, for various reasons, that a better hour would be during the forenoon service. The Session has decided that parents of the primary children, and also those who have younger children who will soon be using it, should be asked in a letter that will be sent to them, their preference.

THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The young life of the congregation was well catered for during the Advent season and night after night the Hall rang with the merriment of Life Boys, Brownies, Girl Guides and "B.B.'s" and this is what could be wished for.

The Recreational Group, too, was not behindhand in throwing care aside for a brief spell.

The Sunday School Party was a happy affair, but for the teachers led by Misses Hay, Wilson and Russell it started the night before. Food for the tea had to be prepared and the Christmas Tree had to be dressed and the Hall decorated. It was approaching midnight when they wended homewards, tired but happy.

By 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon the primary department were thoroughly enjoying themselves with Miss Wilson leading the children in game after game supported by her helpers.

After tea, finished off with jelly and ice cream, Mr. Telfer provided a film show during which the youngsters were loud in appreciation. After this, Santa Claus came in and each received a gift.

At 5 o'clock the first of the junior department arrived and in quick time to the strains of "The Grand Old Duke of York" the proceedings began and the fun was boisterous until 9 p.m. under the leadership of Mr. Murray Hanna and the younger teachers who did not spare themselves. Things were a little quieter during tea which every one enjoyed, but during the film show, which Mr. Telfer provided, the young folk displayed wonderful lung power and found much fun in the pictures.

About a quarter before nine the sound of "Jingle Bells" signalled the arrival of Santa Claus in traditional attire and with a bag over his shoulder. He had a gift for every one.

A very happy party terminated by the singing of Auld Lang Syne, but the children were dismissed with the Benediction.

It must be noted, though, that the children who were in Mearnskirk Hospital were not forgotten, for at the morning service on the Sunday before Christmas Day the children brought gifts which were taken to the Hospital. The gifts were so many that they won from Dr. Dale a very appreciative letter in which he thanked the children and their parents for the pleasure they had given to the patients of the Hospital.

The Woman's Guild, too, sent a box of Christmas Cheer to the Orphanage for Jewish Children in Hamburg.

The Youth Fellowship also had maintained contact with the family in Germany that they have adopted.

THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP.

This is the title of a talk given recently to the Youth Fellowship by our Organist and it had been the intention to give an extended notice for Mr. Cuthill dealt very thoroughly with the subject and as he said in his opening remarks: "It was a great gratification to me to find that Church praise was considered worthy of a place alongside the weighty matters treated in a syllabus of the Youth Fellowship."

Owing to a limitation of space at this time it cannot be done, but the "cry from the heart" just before he concluded his talk might be quoted in the hope that the appeal may win a response from the adult congregation.

"Organist and choirmasters have a trying time obtaining members for their choirs. I am old enough to remember when choir members looked forward to the weekly practice, let alone the Sunday Services, as a social event. In these days wireless was in its infancy and television unheard of. Choirs were keen and enthusiastic.

To-day there are so many assorted calls on the attention of the young that the choir work suffers.

In our Church Choir in Newton Mearns we still have a few of the older enthusiasts and one or two younger members to whom I as organist am eternally grateful.

From the very nature of our congregation I contend there is undoubtedly a great deal of talent in our midst and I appeal to any of you people here with some musical ability not to hesitate any longer but to come in and encourage your organist—I can tell you from bitter experience it can get one down.

To those of you who are students a break from "prep" on Thursday nights would be a balm to your overworked brains and jaded nerves."

AN INCIDENT.

This happened during the recent Evangelist Campaign. Two young men were talking. One was a member of the Newton Mearns Church: the other was associated with another Church and had been making personal calls in connection with the Campaign. It was overheard that the latter had been kindly received at one house and in course of conversation was informed they were members of Newton Mearns Congregation but had not attended Church for some six years.

This was rather interesting because the home was within walking distance of the Cross but was probably nearer to the Broom Church, to which they had not attached themselves.

In the dire calamity (through which most have to pass) when one is taken and the other left, approach would no doubt be made to the Minister of Newton Mearns Church, and knowing Mr. Mackay's readiness to give sympathy, nothing would be spared to render service.

Consider how much the Cause and the community has lost through this indifference. Again how much loss to them by cutting adrift from an association capable of so much goodwill!

By far the best thing to do when members remove to a place considered to be too far to admit of regular attendance at the "Means of Grace" is to lift their "lines" and promptly present them to the minister of the church convenient to new home and take an interest right away. Unless such action is taken attendance becomes irregular and it is not long until "lapse" ensues.

Texts and Subjects of the discourse delivered by Dr. Fawcett during the Evangelistic Campaign in Mearns from 21st October to 4th November, 1956:—

Isa. 6, 1 & 8	... Isaiah's Commission.
Ruth 1, 14	... Ruth's Vow.
Acts 28, 24	... Does it matter what we believe?
John 19, 30	... It is finished.
Heb. 11, 3	... Through faith we understand.
Eph. 2, 8	... Is being saved old fashioned?
Mark 14, 8-9	... What she could...
John 12, 27-28	... Overcoming difficulties.
Isa. 44, 15	... A wise man's folly.
John 4, 42	... First-hand faith.
Mark 5, 15	... The Gadarene Demoniac.
Psalms 27, 1	... Light. Salvation. Strength.
Matt. 27, 22	... What shall I do with Jesus?

EARLY CAROLLING.

The Morning Service on 16th December followed the usual pattern as far as the Children's Address. Thereafter it took the form of a special Christmas Musical Service when four carols and two solos constituted the programme. "How beautiful are the feet," from Handel's Messiah, sung by Miss Margaret Hunter, set the seasonal pattern and the other solo, "Virgin's Cradle Song," a lovely Christmassy piece by Max Roger, was given its rightful presentation by Mrs. Thom.