

THE SOWER

By Rev. James A. Turner
Pastor Methodist Church

WHAT CAN MY CHURCH DO FOR ME?

"A friend tells me this significant story, says Dr. Luther E. Lovejoy: "A modest little church, on the coast of England, was struck by a hurricane. When the tempest was over, the graceful church spire lay a wreck upon the ground. The times were hard, and the trustees had no money with which to rebuild.

One day, soon after, an imposing official, decorated with gold braid and brass buttons, came to the village and asked to see the trustees of the church.

"Where is your spire?" he declared. "It fell down in the tempest," they replied.

"And are you not planning to rebuild it?"

"We have no money; we cannot rebuild."

"Well, then, if you are not able to rebuild your spire, the British Admiralty will do it for you," the officer said. "This spire has been here for many years; it has come to be one of the range-marks by which the ships from the seven seas of the world steer their course in these waters. It is upon all our maps and charts! It is a part of the British Admiralty, and cannot be spared by the world of commerce."

"And so my church," says Dr. Lovejoy, "has always been, and must ever be, such a landmark for the voyagers of the world."

"I have recognized that my church will provide me with a growing fellowship of inspiring friends. That as we all move forward, toward finer and worthier living, we shall grow more sympathetic, understanding and helpful. That our intercourse will be pleasant, and that in times of trouble we shall be a source of mutual strength. I shall not walk through life alone, but shall always have the choicest companionship. I shall pray for grace to bear my part in this fellowship, and to remember that he that hath friends must show himself friendly."

My church is to be to me a glowing hearthstone, a "Father's house," and all the finer intimacies of family fellowship are to be mine. This is precisely what Jesus meant his church to be. His apostles were men of the most varied types, yet he said: "All ye are brethren." His wish for them: "That ye love one another, as I have loved you. His prayer for all disciples: "That they all may be one."

On the very day that the new church launched its mission to the world—the day of Pentecost, "all that believed were together, and had all things in common. They were of one heart and of one soul. They prayed together, went to the temple together, ate together, visited from house to house and even shared their meat or wealth."

This is an outstanding feature in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It is a feast of friendship—a common element, common memories, common sorrows, sympathies, aspirations, a common Saviour. And to find a fellowship based on this family tie the apostles went everywhere, proclaiming a spiritual democracy, where there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free. The great outstanding feature of the Church is fellowship.

That I may have a suitable atmosphere for communion with God, a quiet retreat where I can "love my soul," think my noblest thoughts, and join with other disciples in worship, I am given the privilege of the sanctuary.

To the Christian, every place is hallowed ground; but a peculiar sanctity invests the house of common prayer, because there God has invited us to come to meet with his hand with one another. Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, the apostle directs, for he knows that

such association has spiritual values which can nowhere else be found.

This atmosphere of God's house is conducive to prayer. Normally we ought not to have to urge ourselves to pray. If for but a few moments we could shut out from our lives the clatter of the world, and let the quiet of the sanctuary steal over us, prayer would rise spontaneously to our heart, and we should be saying with Elizabeth, "My soul doth magnify the Lord." In such a climate prayer reveals itself to us, not as a charm to ward off misfortune or bring us good luck, but as a personal and spiritual interview with Him who is "the Father of our spirits."

One morning a Protestant bishop met his friend, a Catholic layman, a man of large influence and business ability, upon a street in San Francisco.

"Good morning," said the bishop. "Aren't you getting about your business rather early?"

"I'm always out early," said the business man.

"But will you find anybody at your office at this time of day?"

"I am not going to the office yet," said the man, quietly. "Every morning of my life I go into the cathedral for an hour of meditation and prayer. Only in this way can I be fitted for the tests and duties of the day."

PATTON METHODIST CHURCH

James A. Turner, Pastor.
Church school, 10 a. m. Worship services, 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Epworth League, 6:30 p. m. Mid-week Bible class, Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.

The words of Dr. Ernest Fremont Tittle ought to be written in glowing lines on the heart of every man and woman in the Church of Christ.

"There is imperative need of a religion that calls for a complete dedication to God and His purposes in history. In the world of today there are non-Christian religions that demand and secure an unlimited devotion to the object of their worship. Good Shintoists are prepared to lay down their lives for the emperor. Good Communists are prepared to be beaten up, to go to jail, even to be killed. Good Nazis are prepared to obey orders at whatever cost to themselves. But what shall be said of good Catholics, good Episcopalians, good Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Methodists?"

It is the scandal of conventional Christianity that it makes no severe demand upon its adherents. It asks people to believe in God. It does not ask them to give absolute loyalty to God. It does not ask them to seek first the Kingdom of God. It does not ask them to make any sacrifice for the things they believe in.

Conventional Christianity, whose symbol is a cross, is, in fact, a religion without a cross. It does not expect men to go to prison for Christ's sake. It is not a little shocked when they do so. Conventional Christianity which does not ask much of its adherents, is, of course, unable to cope with those non-Christian religions which demand and secure an unlimited devotion. Salvation is not to be found in a Christianity that is content with a nominal allegiance but only in a Christianity that partakes of the nature of its Founder, who, in loyalty to the purpose of God, gave up his life on a cross. When it can be said of Christians that they are not behind Shintoists, Communists and Nazis in readiness to meet the full demand of their faith, the forces of darkness will be scattered and there will indeed be hope for the world."

LOCAL 6594 BUYS BONDS

From the assistance fund of Blandburg Local 6594 a \$1,000 defense bond has been bought to aid the Nation's fight against the Axis Powers.

Stanley Rabbit is recording secretary of the local.

—On pay day buy Defense Bonds.

Argentina Keeps Her Powder Dry



A sturdy, tough army, biggest in South America, shows that Argentina is ready to back herself up when her policy of neutrality runs out. She knows that the fact that she has no severed relations with the Axis will not save her from being an Axis objective, when the time comes. Here her army is pictured in review. Notice the helmets, not much unlike German helmets.

GALLITZIN SAILOR DIES IN JAVA FIGHT

A young Cambria County sailor was among the 1,100 and 1,300 United States Navy men who lost their lives in one of the greatest naval engagements of the present war—the tragic battle of Java.

One of the first Cambria Countymen to make the supreme sacrifice in defense of America in the far East was Rupert E. Howell, 25, of Gallitzin.

The Navy Department officially listed Howell, a fireman first class, as missing in action with the sinking of the U. S. Destroyer Pope in a terrific engagement between the Allied Nations and Japanese forces off the coast of Java.

The young sailor's father, Frank Howell, who is widely known in mining circles is seriously ill at his home. Mr. Howell is employed as an efficiency expert at the Moss Creek mine of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke

Corporation. Death of Howell ends a navy career of nearly six years. The young man enlisted in the Navy in Altoona in 1936. He was born in Gallitzin in 1917. His mother is dead.

FREE SOCIAL SECURITY PAMPHLETS NOW GIVEN

A new supply of Social Security pamphlets explaining how workers may protect their benefit rights under the Federal Old-age and survivors insurance program has been received by Richard C. Westling, manager of the Johnstown office of the Social Security board. He announced today that the circulars are for free distribution to persons who may be entitled to a benefit under the program, either now or later, and are especially valuable to workers and their families.

"How to Calculate Benefits" and "For Workers and Their Families" were recommended for general information on the Government's family insurance plan, and "Protect Your Benefit Rights" was described by Mr. Westling as valuable to those per-

sons now receiving insurance payments or those who have received such benefits and have returned to work.


It is not necessary for anyone to buy unofficial explanations when one of the official publications will be given free to anyone who asks for it.

CAMBERIA FARM LOAN UNIT NAMES LEADERS

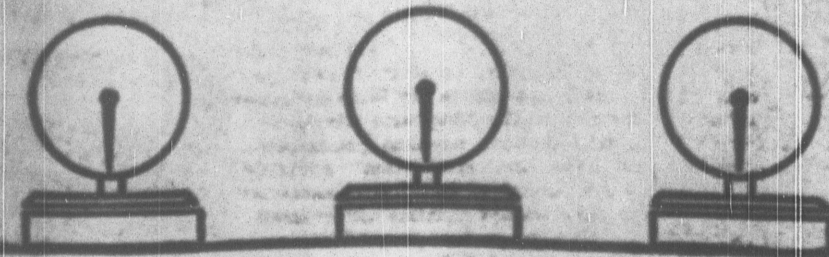
Officers for the ensuing year were elected last week at a meeting of the Cambria County National Farm Loan Association, a branch of the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore. All present officers were retained, as follows: R. W. Meloy, president; Lawrence Cretin, vice president, and Harry Nichol, secretary-treasurer. Members of the Board of Directors are E. H. Adams, Big Louis Adams and A. E. Kline.

Mr. Nichol submitted his annual report at the meeting. Miss Emma Hall Eastman, county home economics instructor; Hughbert Farnbaugh and Atty Clarence E. Davis were speakers at the meeting.

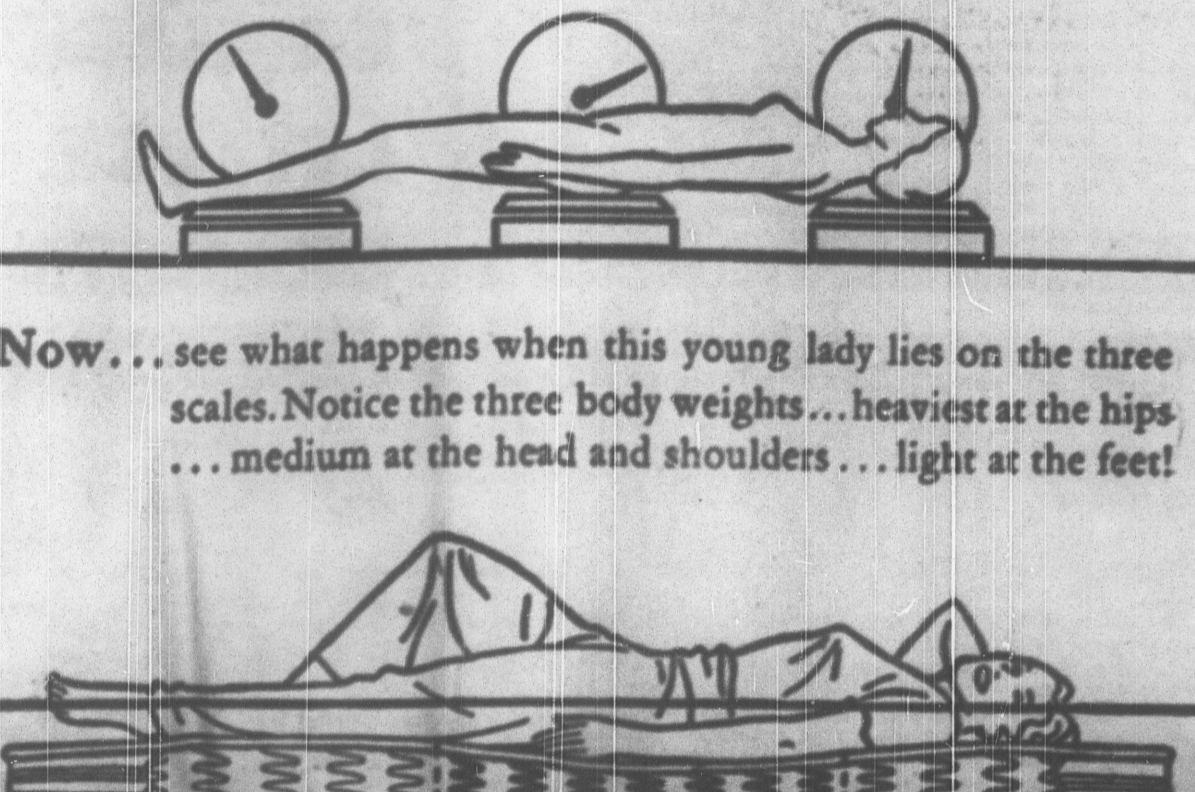
We'll let Dr. Mattison explain this amazing new mattress to you!




First... notice these three separate scales with dials all pointing to zero.



Now... see what happens when this young lady lies on the three scales. Notice the three body weights... heaviest at the hips... medium at the head and shoulders... light at the feet!



That... explains why I have put medium springs at the head of this new mattress... heavier springs in the center... and light springs at the foot of the mattress. You can see how this young lady's body is kept on an even straight line from top to toe. It's real comfort.



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