



# MISSOURI MISSION MESSANGER

VOLUME IV ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, NOVEMBER, 1943 NUMBER 11

## When Johnny Comes Marching Home

One of these days it will all be over! Guns will cease belching out death, the smoke will clear away, men will no longer pitch forward to quiver and lie still on sodden ground or sandy beaches. At home the whistles will blow, bells will ring, men and women in a hysteria of release will scream and shout, and bedlam will tell humanity that another great milestone has been passed in the march unceasing, to make men free in body and spirit. What will be the aftermath?

Post-war planning occupies the greatest place in the affairs of statesmen and nations today. Are we at the threshold of a new world? Will there come out of this carnage and strife a brotherhood of man, which will maintain the vital links that have been forged by the hand of necessity—links of cooperation, mutual respect, and international esteem? Will there come to all mankind an abiding sense of relationship and a desire to help spread culture to the remote corners of the material universe? These are important questions, but to us, the most important angle is, what part the church will play in this great march of affairs.

It is time that we took stock of our resources. We need to determine what our objectives should be, and start planning to attain them. We cannot miss the opportunity now offered us to take our place in the development of Christian character. If the church fails in this hour, we will pay for our neglect in eternity. We must gird our loins for an inevitable struggle; the struggle to keep our youth morally clean in a world where dreams have been shattered and customs of living rudely discarded. We can do one of two things. We can either sit down and fold our hands and say it is no concern of the church what the world does, or we can meet our destiny and attempt to make a

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## OUT OF THE PAST

"We need two things: (1) To be full of the knowledge of salvation ourselves; and (2) To go everywhere preaching it. This cannot be done mechanically, or by a few men working at it, as a trade, for money, and all the balance doing nothing, only paying a little money. This never did the work in any part of the world and never can. The building of God is built of lively stones; not simply a part of it, but the whole building. Their hearts are full of the grand theme of redemption; their souls are overflowing with the love of God; their very songs pour forth 'peace on earth and good-will to men'; their exhortations burn with zeal and ardor that move everything around them; their prayers have an unction that appears like opening the very gates of heaven; their conversations manifest a solicitude in the cause, a divine concern for the recovery of man, the reclamation of a race of polluted, degraded and lost mortals, that appear without limit; their hearts are full, their tongues will not be silent. If they were to hold their peace the stones would cry out. Their eyes gleam with eloquence, delight and happiness, as they fluently proceed with their wonderful theme.

These are genuine missionaries of Jesus, in the true spirit of missionaries, and their work manifests itself, not in getting up great organizations, confederations, conventions, speeches, etc., but in lives spent in spreading the gospel, extending the knowledge of God among men, and recovering them from the menaces of sin and death. They wait not for a great assembly, a fine meeting house, a pulpit, or any great occasion, to preach Christ. Their minds are stored with these words of salvation and life; their hearts are full to overflowing, and their desire to save men is unbounded."

Benjamin Franklin in  
"The Gospel Preacher"

## DON'T FORGET

You can now place an order for the new book, "To Every Man That Asketh" which will be off the press in a short time. It has seven sermons by as many Missouri brethren. There is also a story of the life of each together with his picture. It surely is worth the asking price. You can have two copies for a dollar bill. It is a real volume to hand to outsiders and new members. The time to order is before it is printed. Then you'll have the books among the first... When you receive a card notifying you that your time on the Missouri Mission Messenger is up, to send in your renewal. It may be interesting for you to know that we have never been able to make the subs pay for this paper. We are willing to make up the additional cost out of our own pockets as long as we can, if the little sheet is helping to stimulate interest. Your encouragement is worth a lot... Winter is the time to have a Protracted Bible Study under a good teacher. Each congregation could surely arrange for such an investigation. I know that many of you have read the Roman letter, Hebrews or some other and wished for the chance of investigating it with a good teacher. Bro. E. M. Zerr and some other teachers are available for the winter months yet. Why don't you give them a chance to work with you a couple or more weeks... The Saint Louis New Testament Reading starts the first Monday in the new year. It will continue for six weeks. You are invited to come and study with us. You've heard about this Reading, and you've always wanted to attend it. Why not make it in 1944? If you plan to come or want information about it be sure and write at once to Robert Morrow, 7117 Manchester Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri... Soldiers like to hear from you and it means a lot of their morale. Let's all write and cheer them up.

## Woman and Bible Study

We desire to pay tribute to the good being done by various groups of sisters, who regularly meet to study God's Word and edify each other on week days. In Saint Louis at one congregation the ladies meet every other Thursday at 11 o'clock, study intensely for one hour in the Old Testament, then eat lunch together and afterwards study for two hours more in the New Testament. Their reviews of various portions of the scriptures are well conducted, and it is apparent to all that a wonderful increase of understanding of God's will has taken place in the hearts of those who rock the cradle and by that method shape the destiny of the church for the future.

Among other things they cultivate among themselves the ability to read correctly, pray understandably, teach scripturally and share with each other the experiences of life. Always they mail out convalescent cards to the sick, words of cheer to the shut-ins, and expressions of sympathy to the bereaved. I have visited in hospitals where among the first thing non-members of the church would mention was the cheerful sentiment received from the Ladies Class. Many of them call on delinquents on their way home, discuss ways of helping take care of those who are in need. Recently one such class sent a complete layette to an expectant mother in another state, because she had recently lost her husband in a terrible accident. For all of these things the church gets the glory, and it is being demonstrated that there is such a thing as aid from the ladies without the Ladies Aid.

In other churches in our vicinity as well as throughout the whole state faithful groups carry on after this fashion. They are an asset to the Cause, an encouragement to the weak. They have chosen that good part—to sit at the Saviour's feet.

## MISSOURI MISSION MESSENGER

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Dedicated to the task of arousing churches in this state and elsewhere to a greater zeal in mission work, and assist in developing the talents of all to be used to the glory of God.

## CARL'S CORNER

It is amazing to note the number among us who have such little contact with the brotherhood in general, that they live in a sort of haze, religiously speaking. They do not know the names of our preaching brethren, are not informed as to the latest mission points, do not know what books are being published for the good of the brethren, and in short are just leading a sort of hermit existence in total ignorance of the busy Christian world about them. Much of this comes from a prejudice against papers published by the brethren. Some are so foolish as to say, when one paper betrays their confidence, that all papers are wrong. If they used that same argument on preachers, there would be no faithful proclaimers of the gospel today. Some quit a paper because it is a fighter, never realizing that the fight it has made has preserved them a free church in which to worship. Of course there are a great multitude who are subscribers, and are informed as to activities. They read all the news reports and know what is going on. To those who do not, we simply say, "Wake up and live." This is a pretty interesting brotherhood we are in. Better get acquainted.

—W. Carl Ketcherside

Do unto others as you want them to do unto you.

## AMONG the CHURCHES

**KIRKSVILLE** — Our meeting closed the night of October 14, with a fair attendance. Only a few from out of town, but the audiences were made up of at least one-half from other churches. Eleven were added to the membership. Bro. William Smith led the singing and did a fine job. I made my home with him at night and visited others in daytime. I enjoyed the work.

W. E. BALLENGER

**SAINT JOSEPH** — A new work program has been introduced here, designed to give each male member an opportunity to take more part in the Lord's work. In connection with this new effort a class in song instruction meets each Lord's Day afternoon, under direction of local brethren. Improvement is noted and the work of the Lord is gaining in Saint Joseph. Bro. Harold Hays is home after 2 weeks vacation, half of which was spent in directing songs during the meeting at "Old Antioch" near Bethany. We plan a class in development work in early spring. D. V. to be directed by Bro. William Henstley

—CLEO GIBSON

**KANSAS CITY** (26th and Spruce)—The churches at Spruce St., 59th and Kenwood, and Independence looking forward to six months of work with Bro. Robert Brumback, beginning December 1. He will be at Independence on Tuesday nights, Spruce Street on Wednesday nights, and Kenwood on Thursday nights in a series of lectures lasting six weeks, on the subject "The Church." Friday night will be devoted to a development class for the men. They will consider "The Work of the Church" and these training sessions will continue for two months at each location. We have had excellent lessons from our preaching brethren on recent Wednesday and Sunday nights, with one added last Wednesday night, October 20.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. and Sister Moore in the recent loss of their son. We are also sorry to report that Bro. L. L. Ballenger fell down his basement steps and sustained a broken arm. Despite the pain, he has been able to come to church.

Two of our young people, Ellen Frazler, daughter of Bro. and Sister J. L. Frazler, and Paul Sears, son of Bro. and

Sister L. I. Sears were united in marriage on September 5, by Bro. Ralph Acree. The ceremony was at the home of the bride's parents. They will live in Kansas City.

Millard Van Deusen was with us again on a recent Sunday. He was leaving Sedalia, expecting to be sent overseas. Our prayers go with him. Bro. G. E. Johnson and wife were also here a short time during his leave from Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi.

—LERITA FRAZIER

**SAINT LOUIS** (5344 Lillian Ave.)—Bro. D. A. Sommer was with us at the prayer meeting service on October 14. He extended the invitation after the class period and Wanda Smith placed membership with us. Kenneth Morgan also was a visitor the same evening. We were glad to have these preaching brethren in the audience.

We note the following additions since last report: Jean Fancher by membership transfer on October 3, when her brother Jack Lamb extended the invitation; Meta Whanger by baptism, when her brother Randall extended the invitation; Sylvia Baker and Betty Kincaid by membership; and Bro. Elmer Scott restored upon confession of wrongs.

Visitors in addition to those mentioned in the first paragraph have been Henry Boren and wife from Camp Gordon, Ga.; and Percy Faenger from Bonne Terre. On our sick list we find the names of Judy Roland, Sisters Spray, Hefner and Black, and Brethren Flowers and Scott.

Sister Vera Breechen, whose husband was a pitcher for the Saint Louis Cardinals has now moved to Oklahoma. She was very faithful in attendance while in Saint Louis. Robert Chilton has been inducted into the army from our congregation. We congratulate Bro. and Sister Handsome on their new arrival born October 19.

—JESS PARKS

**INDEPENDENCE** — We are now meeting at Walter Kreeger's home, 1212 S. Noland and will continue to do so until January 1. We have been halted in our building plans temporarily, but have our lot and the building fund, so will start as soon as practicable. Bro. Harold Hayes and family worshipped with us on Lord's Day, October 24. They are from Saint Joseph, also

Sister Gladys Burton attended on Sunday night, October 17. We are always glad to have visitors. We have a new family meeting with us now, that of Bro. Lewis McBride of Centralia. They are very faithful and we appreciate them much. Bro. Arthur Nelson is recovering from an appendectomy at Independence Sanatorium. Sister Bessie Hedgepeth is also slowly recovering from an operation.

—IVA KREEGER

**NIXA**—Our meeting of two weeks duration closed the night of October 31. Crowds were excellent every night, and interest supreme. Six were added and restored. In addition to regular night meetings, all day services were held each Sunday, with basket dinner and afternoon sermon at Ozark. Special meetings were held each Saturday morning for 2 hours, in which questions asked by the audience were answered. The variety of questions provided excellent material for comment and edification. Other all day meetings during the week were held at the homes of Sister Thelma Bussard, Bro. John O'Neil and Bro. Walter Haguewood. Much time was spent in singing and a lesson on the work of the church was given in the afternoons. A meeting was also held at the home of an aged and infirm sister, with exhortations to faithfulness given. The congregation gave me a fruit and vegetable shower which was indeed welcome in these days of rationing. They supported the meeting wonderfully. It is planned that we will sponsor a Bible Reading there when it is possible. In the meantime a program of development has been outlined which will be reported later.

—EDITOR

**SHAMROCK**—This little congregation has had an average attendance of 25 since its inception. Many of the members attended fairly regularly and the series of meetings at Nixa conducted by Brother Ketcherside, Bro. R. O. Webb of Secor, Ill., is expected back soon for a visit enroute to his work in Colorado. He held an excellent meeting for the new congregation earlier in the season, and won the respect of the entire community round about the church.

**SAINT LOUIS** (7121 Manchester)—Congratulations to Luke and Jessie Thomas, who are the proud parents of a baby boy.

Bernice Weems is back in the city after an extended visit at

her old home. J. W. Temple and Douglas Bell were recently with us on their brief furloughs. Valera Schlieper visited us from Hartford, on Sunday, October 31.

Word comes that Verlin Roberts is somewhere overseas now. We hear regularly from Walter Henry, who is stationed somewhere in England. A cable from Clarence Grover says that he also had a safe crossing, but we do not know as yet where he is located.

We are pleased to report that Mary Ruth Bell is getting along nicely after her appendectomy. She is recovering rapidly and is released from the hospital.

Several from Manchester attended the all day meeting at Salem on October 31. Brother William Hensley is engaged in work there.

**LEMONS**—Am in a meeting of two nights old at this place as I write. Concluded 2 weeks effort at West Concord, September 26 with good attendance and 2 immersed into Christ. I was then with the church at Bethel (east of Milan) for 3 weeks, where we had 16 added, 11 by baptism, 2 from Christian Church and 3 by membership. Others seemed almost persuaded. Brethren at these places showed me every kindness and I enjoyed my labors with them.

—WINFORD LEE

**GALLATIN**—We moved into and held our first service, an all-day meeting in our new building, on October 3. With ideal weather, about 150 persons attended, among them the following preaching brethren; James W. Truitt of this city, Harold Hays of Saint Joseph; Arthur Freeman of Chillicothe; C. C. Teghtmeyer, of Kansas City and C. R. Turner, of Sullivan, Ill. Each of these provided a good message. Two young men from the armed services were present, and attendance from local religious bodies was good. By special invitation, a number came after their lesson period, in a body from one local church which had no minister that day. (Let us hope that the future shall produce fruit from the scriptures which they heard presented). Attendance from surrounding country was good, with representatives from Jameson, Jamesport, Lock Springs, Chillicothe, Bethany, Saint Joseph and Kansas City. Visitors were catalogued from Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas and Colorado. We greatly appreciate the helpful interest shown and hope all come again. Improvements on the building and pre-

parations are not yet complete, and work will be continued as it is possible and advisable. Much delay is caused by shortage of labor. All expenses are being met as we go, and the splendid cooperation of all is greatly appreciated. Attendance was excellent on the occasion of Brother Truitt's last labors with us. Our regular development program goes on each week. May we ever be found "sowing the seed of the kingdom."

—D. PATTERSON

**BIBLE GROVE**—My meeting here resulted in two placing membership who had formerly been associated with the Christian Church. After the close of the work, I stopped two nights in Kirksville and then made a short visit to Saint Joseph, began October 17, with the church at Almartha and good attendance at both services the opening day.

—ROY HARRIS

**WEBSTER GROVES** — Our Friday night meetings are showing increased interest. We are still studying in Acts with the question system. In a recent mid-week meeting we had with us Brethren D. Austen Sommer and L. C. Roberts. We appreciate the encouragement they gave us. Bro. Henry Mabery and wife were visitors in October.

**NORTH MISSOURI (Delayed)** —In our territory there is a district of about fifty square miles that has been hearing some good gospel preaching this fall. In this district, twelve Churches of Christ are located, as follows: Bethel, Holliday, Pollock, Lemons, West Concord, Terre Haute, Unionville, East Concord, Martinstown, Worthington, Bible Grove and Kirksville. The meetings began in August, when Winford Lee held for three weeks at Pollock. Bill Hensley followed with two weeks at Holliday, from which he went to East Concord to hold a three weeks meeting. In the meantime, Roy Harris has been at Martinstown, and goes next to Bible Grove, to begin on Sept. 27. Winford Lee has returned to the area, now working at West Concord, from which he will go to Bethel, and from there to Lemons. Brother W. E. Ballenger will start his work in Kirksville about mid-October and the final meeting in these parts will be that of Bill Hensley who comes to Unionville in November for a three weeks stay.

Most of these congregations are fifty or more years old, the only new one being Kirksville, which is a few months old. But

for a number of years there has been little interest shown among the younger folk. Now however, meetings are taking on the old-time enthusiasm again, and development work is being done with all of the membership. Brethren are discussing the possibility of having an evangelist come to work in this territory to teach, train and develop the churches until we are able of ourselves to make the Cause grow here in North Missouri. It is good to know that the church can do something, if all are alive to their responsibility.

—CRYSTAL BUCKALLEW

**IBERIA** — Although few in number we still content earnestly for the faith. Expect Bro. Harold Shastee soon for a meeting when repairs on our church building are completed. Have been replacing windows and re-roofing. The house is to be wired soon for electricity, but scarcity of help slows down our remodeling. Farmers are very busy at this season of the year too. Mount View will sponsor our meeting as soon as our house can be made ready to accommodate the the services.

**SPRINGFIELD**—Church at 113 National plans a singing school in latter part of November with Otis Crandell as director. We now have a monthly singing session on last Friday of each month. In our regular canvass of the area about the church, all were given an invitation to attend the singing, as well as a tract "An Invitation" with all our services listed thereon. This personal work has resulted in many more visitors at our meetings. We have quite a few old-timers from O'Reilly Hospital, and we attempt to make them welcome come at church and in our homes.

Merte Clark, who was a member here before moving to California to come here some. Homer Hurd was home on furlough and met with us October 3; Lenville McReynolds also worshipped with us on a recent Sunday during his leave. Sister Fielder's oldest son was inducted into the navy last week and several others have received their papers.

Several from here were permitted to attend Bro. Hensley's meeting at Salem, and Bro. Ketcherside's at Nixa, though gas rationing placed some restrictions on travel. Bonnie Mae Lindsay has a civil service job in Texas and is a student at Stamps-Baxter School of Music. Her brother, Joe, is in California, employed in a synthetic rubber plant. We hated to see them leave us.

—FAYE WILSON

**ANTIOCH (near Bethany)**—Bro. C. R. Turner edified us greatly in our October meeting. One placed membership and four were added to our number otherwise. We meet at 10:30 each Lord's Day at the church house in the country, and on Wednesday evenings at the home of sister Velma Nighthart in Bethany. Development of talent is being continued, with brethren alternating in giving five minute talks on Wednesday evenings. This in addition to general discussion on a subject pertaining to righteous living, where each member reads references and explains them. We enjoy this work and thank God for opportunities to serve Him.

—VESPER WHITE

**BRIXEY**—Closed the Almartha meeting October 31, with growing interest and more than 300 present for final session. Good attendance all the way through. The meeting which was scheduled for 2 weeks should have lasted longer, but previous arrangements forbad. Four were baptized, one restored. Am preaching at home a few nights before going to Bethel congregation (near Vienna) in Maries County. Expect to preach a couple of nights in Ava on the way.

—ROY HARRIS

**COWGILL**—Our meeting here started off but NOT with a bang, due to lack of previous announcement and advertising. The services at Antioch, near Bethany closed on October 17. We had a good meeting during which I immersed two young married couples. I am certain they will make good workers in the church. One other, who had formerly been affiliated with the church at Old Scotland acknowledged his negligence and restored his covenant relationship with God. I believe he will be a great help to the brethren as he is capable of leading the song service. I promised these brethren another meeting in September of 1944, on the basis that if gas rationing was still in effect, we would have the meeting in Bethany.

—C. R. TURNER

**REMEMBER SUNDAY—**

**COME TO CHURCH**

## Scriptural Elders

NO. 11

A bishop must not be greedy of filthy lucre. Thus the apostle in I Timothy 3:3, states one qualification for this high and holy office. The term "lucre" refers to money, and the word "filthy" is literally translated "base." Thus an elder is not to take his office with the idea of deriving from it such base gain. He is not to desire the appointment with this as the end in view.

At the time when Paul was writing, it was the custom to pay or remunerate the elders of the congregation who spent their time looking after the needs of the church. This was God's divine pastor system, and the only one he has ever sanctioned. Rome in her apostasy created another, in which a clergyman takes over the prerogatives of the local eldership, is placed upon a salaried basis and assumes the work which the bishops have been assigned by the Word of God. Needless to say these two pastor systems—the one divine, the other human—cannot long function side-by-side. One must and will defeat the other. Generally speaking, in these days the heaven-ordained system is pushed into the background, while the unauthorized method goes blindly on its way, duping the communicants, who are kept uninformed in the scriptures, lest they discover the fallacies in their position.

For proof of the fact that it is scriptural to reimburse a man who rules well and spends his time in labor for the church as an elder, we call attention to, I Timothy 5:17, 18, which says, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, 'Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.' And, 'The laborer is worthy of his reward.'"

The use of the word "honor" in this verse can be understood by its sense in verse 3, where we are told to "Honor widows that are widows indeed." This simply means to support those widows that are destitute, that is without close relatives who can repay them. So those elders that rule well are to be deemed worthy of "double honor." They are to receive not only our words of appreciation, to stimulate and support them morally and spiritually, but they are also worthy of financial support. All of us in

the church are entitled to the first, when we labor diligently in the vineyard of the Master, but it cannot be said that everyone who works for the church is entitled to the second or double support, that is financial reward.

This is especially to be given to those elders who rule well the local church and labor in word and doctrine. I do not see herein, that the apostle is talking about a man being both elder and evangelist in the official sense of that term. I do not think that it is necessarily unscriptural for a man to be both, but I think that it is virtually impossible for him to do either of the jobs well, without slighting the other. You cannot supervise a flock by mail, or watch by proxy. At the very best, you would still be dependent for knowledge upon what some one or ones told you or wrote you. I haven't met very many that were big enough for both jobs. But I do think that it is right for an elder, as such, to spend the whole of his time in looking after the needs of a local church, teaching, admonishing, developing, encouraging each member to the fullest degree. Such a man deserves support for his work. "The laborer is worthy of his reward."

I have known some elders who were free to serve the Lord all of their time in a local community. But they were never given the opportunity. Instead they had to be out hunting odd jobs to keep them alive, and then once per month the church would have some man come in to feed those elders, and "teach them the way of truth more perfectly," and for the two little sermons that were dished out, such a man was paid enough to support an elder for a full week of activity. To me, this is the height of the ridiculous. No church ever did grow strong under this system, and none can ever do so. I say that without fear that I can be cited to a single instance of where a church grew to a mighty community force under such a method.

But someone says, "The elders are not able to teach and develop the church." Then they have no business being elders, for one of the qualifications is that they must be "apt to teach" and that means "ABLE to teach." They must be "able by sound doctrine to exhort the church and convict the gainsayers." If they are not able to do that, then they are out of place. Who is it running around over this coun-

try appointing men to this executive position, who have not an ounce of executive ability? Whoever does so, violates his sacred trust as an evangelist, handicaps the church, and places good old brethren in an embarrassing position, by saddling upon them a responsibility that they are not able to bear.

Perhaps you say, "But our elders don't know enough about the Bible to develop and lead the flock." They should have been taught before they were put in, for they are to "hold fast the faithful word as THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT" (Titus 1:9). When we have "taught" elders, who are "able to teach," let's get them busy teaching the local churches and developing the membership. Then let's pay them and pay them well, and keep them busy in the Master's work so that evangelists can be released to go out into new fields. The Lord's plan will work if you work it, you know!

### When Johnny Comes Marching Home

(Continued from page 1)

better world of this place where we are forced to live.

There will come back to us, for work in the church, men who were boys when they left. They will be trained, capable, developed and educated from many angles. They will be the material upon which we must rely in the years that lie ahead for the growth of the Kingdom of Christ. We should have an adequate program of Christian service into which they may fit. Churches in past years have been so dead, indifferent and decadent that the young people have been driven from them by sheer neglect when they arrived at the peak of their adolescence. Youth has vision, vitality and action. It cannot stand to be cooped up with nothing to do. Older brethren in the years now gone have not been able to plan a program of Christian service in the community. They have thought it was enough merely to go to church on Sunday morning and drag through an ill-arranged meeting.

But we are now going to have available a number of men who have executive ability. The same qualities of leadership which have been drilled into recruits to enable them to lead their fellowmen in actual attacks on the enemy, are the requisites for leading in spiritual warfare as well. It only remains now to determine whether we will have

the foresight to give these brethren a solid basis of scriptural knowledge so that they are grounded in the faith, and then put them to work, or whether on the other hand we will resent them attempting to work for the Master, and go on in the same rut many of us have been traveling in for past years. There is a great opportunity ahead of us. Congregations which recognize that fact and prepare NOW to meet it will thrive and flourish for years to come. Others will gradually be overwhelmed by surrounding circumstances. What are your post-war plans?

### CHILDREN WANTED

I am asking the aid of brethren to help locate children for adoption. We have private Christian homes for at least five little orphans and have not been able to locate a home which will let them out for permanent adoption. If you know of children of either sex that can be adopted please notify this office at once. We will be able to satisfy the requirements of any court or investigation department as to the status of these foster parents. Will you help us to locate youngsters that may be adopted and given a good Christian environment with all the opportunities for schooling and development so essential to youth?

### American Catholics

The official Catholic directory for 1940 places the present Roman Catholic population of the United States, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Islands at 21,403,136 persons, revealing a net loss of 4,371 since 1939. There were 73,677 converts to the Roman Catholic faith, representing a record for any like period. The number of priests rose from 33,546 to 34,000. Considering the fact that Roman Catholic churches count all baptized infants and children and that Catholic families are among the most prolific in this country, these figures are not very impressive. The Catholic churches must be losing members at a terrific rate since the normal birth rate among their people ought to give them a large annual increase. It is stated that the decrease is accounted for by the Brooklyn diocese cleansing their rolls of inactive members. But what would be the true story were all urban parish rolls to be revised? There would most likely be another tremendous revision downward. — The Watchman-Examiner.