

Youth messenger

Vol. XXXII, No. 4

2

No Fear?

6

Impact!

11

How Can YOU Make an Impact?

14

Can You "C" the Words?

15

God Answers Prayers!

19

The Valley of Depression

20

Busy as the Bees

23

Victory at Last!

27

Fanny Crosby

31

Awesome...

no

FEAR?

BY BARBARA MONTROSE

*“If thou, Lord,
shouldest mark
iniquities, O Lord,
who shall stand?
But there is
forgiveness with
thee, that thou
mayest be feared”
(Psalm 130:3, 4).*

There's a popular expression that's been going around in recent years: "No fear". It means different things to different people. But while it's true that courage is to be commended, there's a certain fear that we should not avoid. Actually, it is an extremely healthy—and wise—fear for us to cultivate.

The fear of God. Often we try to explain away that the fear of God simply means reverence and respect. There may be some validity to that—but actually, to fear God is something much greater than we realize. It seems that the farther away we get from the actual creation of the world—that is, the more history unfolds—the farther we seem to be from actually understanding what it is to have a pure, genuine fear of God.

FEAR INTRODUCED

Where should we go to get a clearer picture of this important quality? Your school textbook explains concepts in the beginning of the book. Later in the book it is assumed that you already know those things, so the author builds upon them. Likewise with God's textbook, the Bible.

So, in order to understand the fear of God, let's start in Genesis. That's where this fear is first described by Jacob while he was alone in the wilderness.

"Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Genesis 18:16, 17).

Dreadful! That's no light description. Jacob was overtaken with wonder and astonishment. When Jacob's father Abraham encountered the Almighty, he fell on his face (Genesis 17:3). So did Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:3, 4).

What should we learn from the depiction of Moses in the mount? "Ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:" (Hebrews 12:18-21).

WHY SHOULD WE FEAR GOD, ANYWAY?

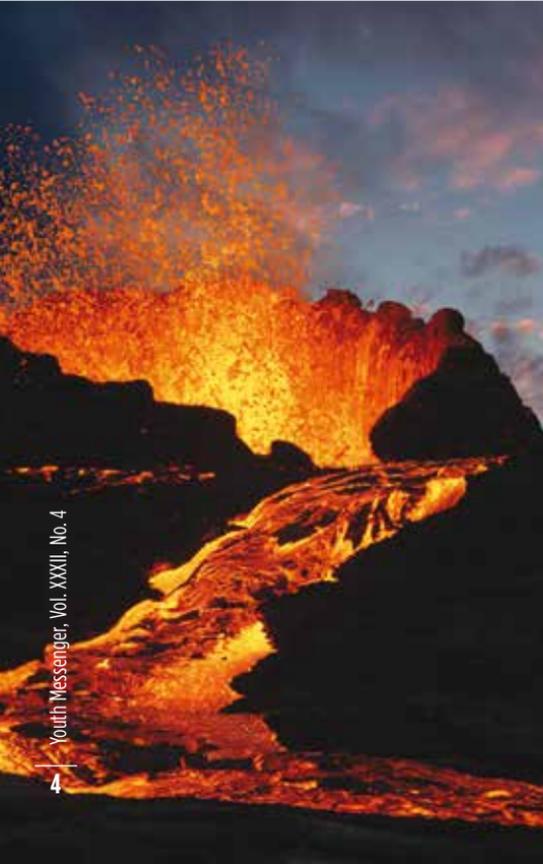
1. For Who He is. "Who in the heaven can be compared unto the Lord? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all [them that are] about him. O Lord God of hosts, who is a

strong Lord like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them” (Psalm 89:6-9). “Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O Lord; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee” (Jeremiah 10:6, 7).

2. For what He has done. “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the

sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33:6-9). “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3). God made the universe out of nothing! All He has to do is speak and it happens! There is a scientific law that matter cannot be created nor destroyed—it simply can change form. Yes, that’s true—it cannot be created by human power. But, “Is any thing too hard for the Lord” (Genesis 18:14)?

3. For what He is doing. “Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men” (Psalm 66:5). “Has not God given you every evidence of His love? Did He not allow Jesus to come to this world as our pattern? Men could not endure the perfection of Christ’s character, and they took and crucified Him. There is a crucifixion that must go on in our lives, a constant dying to self and sin. We must walk circumspectly, that our lives may preach the gospel of Christ to those with whom we associate. If we will speak and walk circumspectly, the light of Christ will be revealed in our



lives.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 7, p. 25. This light of Christ being revealed in our lives is evidence of His activity right now. The Holy Spirit is working in your life. That’s why you decided to read this article in this magazine. God is drawing you with cords of love. Perhaps the biggest thing He wants you to know about is His forgiveness! “If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared” (Psalm 130:3, 4). Because this forgiveness is so great, so vast, so unsearchable, we fear Him. We fear Him because we love Him. “Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THIS FEAR?

“Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out

of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.” (Psalm 34:11-18).

“The youth will not become weak-minded or inefficient by consecrating themselves to the service of God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The youngest child that loves and fears God is greater in His sight than the most talented and learned man who neglects the great salvation. The youth who consecrate their hearts and lives to God have, in so doing, placed themselves in connection with the Fountain of all wisdom and excellence.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 329. [Emphasis supplied.]

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:25-29). 

IMPACT!

By Joan Sureshkumar

We are all familiar with historical social figures such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela and various others. What about others such as John Bonier, John Wesley, Martin Luther, and so forth? Similarly, in the biblical world, we have heard endless iterations about the life of those such as Joshua, Daniel and his friends, Joseph—and the list could be quite extensive. What exactly do these groups of people have in common? They were obviously from different time periods and have different relevance to our history. But, did you notice the key word in the previous sentence, “relevance”? All those mentioned above have made a difference that permeated into society, tussled with the way society functioned, and made a lasting impact that still affects us today.

So what about you? Have you thought about the kind of impact that you could make or are making? At this vital time in your lives the world could seem vast and daunting, yet it is filled with endless opportunities. Now you may ask: “How could I make

such an earth shattering change when I am so young?” Let’s take a look at youth in the Bible that God has used.

DANIEL

George Washington wisely stated, “Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.” This rings true in the case of Daniel, the young Hebrew. We are all quite familiar with the story of Daniel and his friends who were taken from their homeland and sent to Babylon. Unlike the other young men who were also taken, Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, refused to indulge themselves by partaking of the same food as the rest of the members of the royal court. In doing so, these young men stood up for their principles and captured the attention of the king.

“What if Daniel and his companions had made a compromise with those heathen officers, and had yielded to the

pressure of the occasion by eating and drinking as was customary with the Babylonians? That single instance of departure from principle would have weakened their sense of right and their abhorrence of wrong.” (*Councils on Health*, p. 65, 66.) Thus, a simple act of practicing temperance in appetite had a great impact on even the rulers of the land. (Daniel 1:1-21.)

DAVID

David, the son of Jesse, had his humble beginnings as a shepherd before he went onto becoming the second king of Israel. He is also known for his various talents; he is known to have been a skilled musician, an experienced warrior, a prominent psalmist, and a loyal friend. Though he possessed various talents and was an excellent king, David faced a plethora of temptations and succumbed to many of them. While David's life is blemished with transgressions, it is evident that he loved God and truly longed to serve Him to his fullest ability. It is also evident through his properly chronicled life that through earnest self-examination and fervent prayer we all can attain forgiveness. He is also known to be the ancestor of Jesus. Acts 13:22 states, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." Looking at David's past life, today's society might consider him to be a flawed individual. Yet, David's name is

mentioned Hebrew 11:32-34 among the faithful: "And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to fight the armies of the aliens."

JOSEPH

Imagine growing up in a house with ten other siblings who were older, stronger, and more experienced. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, but the first son of Rachel. Much to his brothers' discontent, Jacob's love for Rachel earned Joseph a special place in his father's heart. This quickly triggered envy and animosity, due to Joseph's dreams depicting his older brothers' bowing down to him in subservience. Being sold into captivity to Egyptians by one's own brothers would prove to be a tragedy in anyone's life, but Joseph chose instead to follow in the footsteps of his forefathers. "Joseph's checkered life was not an accident; it was ordered of Providence." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 174. In Potiphar's house, in prison, in the presence of the pharaoh, and finally his reacceptance of his brother's prove that through

trust in God and abstaining from erroneous behavior Joseph was a shining light and an instrument in the saving of a nation.

“Joseph’s real character shines out, even in the darkness of the dungeon. He held fast his faith and patience.” Ibid.

WOMEN

We are all familiar with stories about young men in the Bible and the great things they have done that impacted history, but what about women? “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30).

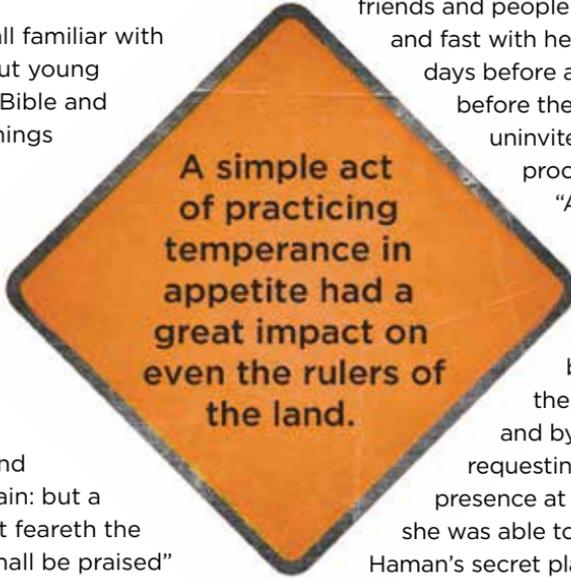
ESTHER

Esther is considered by many to be the epitome of Biblical heroines—she was young, beautiful, loyal, kind, faithful, powerful, and a princess who saved the lives of her people. Orphaned at a young age, she was raised by her cousin Mordecai. She was eventually taken, along with other eligible young women in the kingdom, to be presented to the king to choose a new queen. Among the hundreds of other women, Esther clearly

made an impression on the King’s mind and soon became the queen. Through the help of Mordecai, she even saved the life of the king by revealing news of an assassination. When Haman, a high ranking advisor to the king, plotted to exterminate the Jews, an alarmed

Esther requested the aid of her friends and people to pray and fast with her for three days before appearing before the king uninvited. Bravely proclaiming, “And if I perish, I perish” she went before the king and by cleverly requesting his presence at a banquet, she was able to disclose Haman’s secret plans and save the Jews of Persia.

“A study of women’s work in connection with the cause of God in Old Testament times will teach us lessons that will enable us to meet emergencies in the work today. We may not be brought into such a critical and prominent place as were the people of God in the time of Esther; but often converted women can act an important part in more humble positions. This many have been doing, and are still ready to do.”
Special Testimonies, Series B, p. 15.



ABIGAIL

They are quite a few prominent women in the Bible that stand out for various reasons. Very little is known about Abigail, yet she is one such woman who, through her clever thinking and piety, saved the life of her husband and others. While David was considered by king Saul to be an outlaw, Abigail's husband Nabal provided refuge for David and his men in his pastures. While encamped there, David and his men provided protection to Nabal's flock of sheep and cattle. When an invitation was requested by David's men to a celebration, Nabal not only refused but also mocked them. Enraged, David set out with his men to destroy Nabal. Abigail's servant went to her with this new information and with her quick thinking she was able to gather together food and other offerings to appease David's wrath and save the life of her husband.

It is clear that Abigail was a clever woman of virtue who was trusted and beloved by her servants that they trusted her to have the wisdom to take quick actions with such tragic news. She was courageous, prudent, resourceful, and quick to action. In a moment when selfishness could have caused her to flee for her own life, she remained behind and saved the life of not only her husband but also the whole household. "With nothing of ostentation or pride, but full of the wisdom and love of God, Abigail revealed the strength of her

devotion to her household [...] Abigail did not take to herself the credit of this reasoning to turn David from his hasty purpose, but gave to God the honor and the praise [...] In the character of Abigail, the wife of Nabal, we have an illustration of womanhood after the order of Christ."

Daughters of God, p. 42.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

While on their way from Jerusalem to Galilee, a very exhausted Jesus rested at Jacob's well while His disciples went to the village of Sychar to buy food.

A Samaritan woman came at midday to draw water at the well. This was quite peculiar, as it was uncommon for women to come to draw water at the hottest time of day. Much to the woman's dismay and against all local customs, this Jewish man decided to talk to her; even more shockingly he asked her for water. This startling introduction paved the way for a life-changing conversation. Upon realizing the immensity of the truth she had just heard, she rushed back to the village to enthusiastically inform the town's people and bring them the source of all truth. Jesus remained with

them for two days—"And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying; for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" (John 4:40-42). "She proved herself a more effective missionary than His own disciples [...] But through the woman whom they despised a whole city full were brought to hear Jesus. She carried the light at once to her countrymen. This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 102. 🌐



YOU

how can

by Joan
Sureshkumar

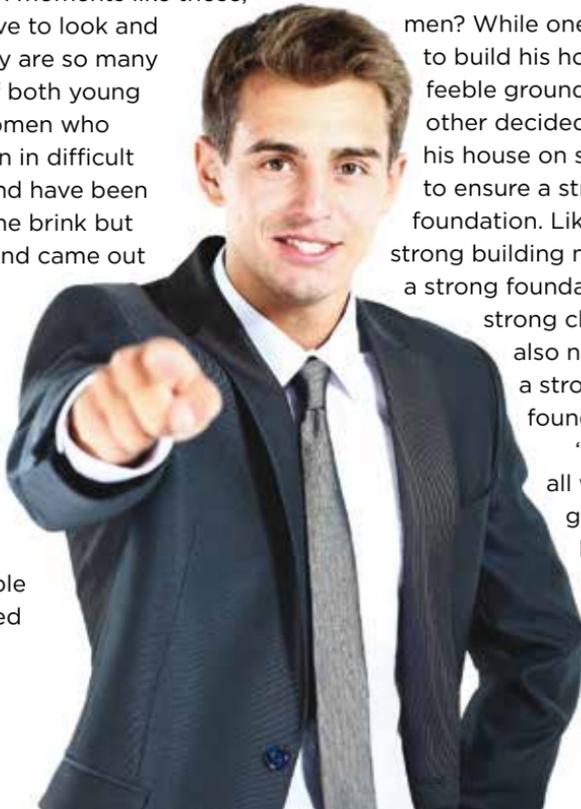
make an impact?

We've read about the number of youth in the Bible that have made an impact in someone's life or to society. While many of us yearn to make a difference, it can be quite daunting and it becomes quite easy to compare ourselves to great people in history and think it is impossible for someone like me to do that. In moments like those, you only have to look and see that they are so many examples of both young men and women who have all been in difficult situations and have been pushed to the brink but stood firm and came out triumphant. What about you and me? How do we go about doing something like that? "These people have all saved nations and done things

that impacted history. I can't do that" you may say, but the key is, all these youth didn't get to that point in life at a moment's notice. It is all due to a strong foundation.

THE FOUNDATION

Growing up we've all sung the song about the wise man and the foolish man. What was the main difference between the two men? While one decided to build his house on feeble ground the other decided to build his house on solid rock to ensure a strong foundation. Like any strong building needs a strong foundation, a strong character also needs a strong foundation. "That is all well and good, but how do you from a strong



foundation? I am no longer and infant learning and forming habits” you may inquire. It is said that “it is by small things that our characters are formed to habits of integrity. It is only by exercising principle in small transactions of ordinary life that we are tested and our characters formed.”

Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 23).

As seen by the examples of the above-mentioned youth, we see that while they were faithful in little things in their early life they, through the help of the Holy Spirit, were preparing for the greater test that lay ahead waiting for them.

A good character must be built up brick by brick. Those characteristics which will enable the youth to labor successfully in God’s cause must be obtained by the diligent exercise of their faculties, by improving every advantage Providence gives them, and by connecting with the Source of all wisdom” *Gospel*

Workers, p. 59.

“Strength of character consists of two things—power of will and power of self-control. Many youth mistake strong, uncontrolled passion for strength of character; but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real greatness and

nobility of the man is measured by his powers to subdue his feelings, not by the power of his feelings to subdue him. The strongest man is he who, while sensitive to abuse, will yet restrain passion and forgive his enemies.” *Messages to Young People*, p. 413.

HOW MUCH IS AN UPRIGHT CHARACTER WORTH?

Our character qualities distinguish us and set us apart from the billions of others on this planet. We know that people with good character are held in high regard, but how much is a good character worth? Is it worth your reputation? Wealth? Or fame? In fact, it is stated that “an upright character is of greater worth than the gold of Ophir.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 223.

“Young men and women should regard a good character as a capital of more value than



An upright character is of greater value than gold.

gold or silver or stocks. It will be unaffected by panics and failures, and will bring rich returns when earthly possessions shall be swept away” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 656. Our characters are the only things we can take to heaven and “Without it none can rise to an honorable eminence” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 223. It is the only quality that can distinguish us as His own people. “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

ACQUIRING AN UPRIGHT CHARACTER

If a good character is essential for entrance into the eternal kingdom, how can you and I acquire this entry ticket? “Character is not inherited. It cannot be bought. Moral excellence and fine mental qualities are not the result of accident. The most precious gifts are of no value unless they are improved. The formation of a noble character is the work of a lifetime and must be the result of diligent and persevering effort. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 223.

“A noble character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. It is the result of self-discipline, of

subjection of the lower to the higher nature, of the surrender of self to the service of God and man.” *Prophets and Kings*, p. 488.

“The mental and moral powers which God has given us do not constitute character. They are talents, which we are to improve, and which, if properly improved, will form a right character. A man may have precious seed in his hand, but that seed is not an orchard. The seed must be planted before it can become a tree. The mind is the garden, the character is the fruit. God has given us our faculties to cultivate and develop. Our own course determines our character. In training these powers so that they shall harmonize and form a valuable character, we have a work which no one but ourselves can do.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p.606.

CONCLUSION

As the pressure to stand out and make an impact on the world mounts, it is easy for us to look for inspiration from great leader or social/historical figures, but let us be sure to look in the main source of inspiration. The Bible presents a plethora of examples of youth who have overcome insurmountable obstacles. “In perfecting a Christian character, it is essential to persevere in right doing” *Messages to young People*, p. 46. By forming a strong character with a solid foundation based on Christ, we can surely make an impact on the world. 🌱

Can You the Words?

CANVASSING

CELL

CEMENT

CHARACTERS

COMFORTED

COMING

COMMENDED

COMMUNICATION

COMPANION

COMPROMISE

CONFLICT

CONSECRATING

CONSIDERED

CONVENE

COURSE

CREATED

CROSBY

CUSTOMS

Word Search

B K C O N V E N E C C P E S D N
C E M E N T D S O Y E R S M E O
D E T A E R C E I P L S R O R I
Y B S O R C D I D M L H U T E N
G N I T A R C E S N O C O S D A
C H A R A C T E R S E R C U I P
G N I S S A V N A C Z M P C S M
C O M F O R T E D L D S M M N O
T C I L F N O C O M I N G O O C
C O M M U N I C A T I O N J C C

God Answers Prayers!

By Eunice Braidman

It was one of those days when the books felt heavier than usual, when the sun felt hotter than normal, and when the idea of simply sitting down anywhere to rest was almost irresistible. The second month of canvassing was going by quickly and the project in London would soon be coming to its close. Most of us were plain worn out by this time, and we felt its effect more acutely in the afternoon when our stomachs were full from lunch and the sun was highest in the sky. Indeed, one would have to admit that this was when it was the hardest to put all of one's heart into canvassing, especially if you had sold nothing all day and discouragement threatened to overtake you.

My canvassing partner had gone into the first house on his side of the street and was deeply engaged in conversation. Unsure of whether I should continue alone without telling him anything, I decided to stand at the corner of the street for a few minutes and wait to see if he would be finished soon while also take the opportunity to rest a bit. About fifteen minutes passed by before

I realized that my partner wasn't going to be coming out of that house any time soon. I fought the urge to simply find a place to sit and continue waiting—it was a tempting proposition. However, after a few moments of slight hesitation, I decided with determination that I wouldn't let the Enemy prevail by giving in to my feeling of fatigue. I couldn't afford to sit around and waste time—time during which precious souls could receive truth! With a quick but fervent plea to God to give me renewed courage and energy to do His work, I firmly grasped the books and directed my steps towards the next house



on my side of the street. It took effort, and I did have to force myself to take the first steps, but I knew I was doing the right thing. I had finished several houses but had either gotten no replies or people who weren't interested, but I kept on. I realized that my tiredness had gone away and I felt I was putting everything I had into my canvass. I smiled often and put all the enthusiasm I could muster into presenting the books while spewing out words that not even I could understand where they were coming from, especially considering my usual shyness! This realization that God was answering my prayer and was helping me made me excited beyond words and I felt so happy and thankful despite still not having made any sales. It wasn't long, however, until it all paid off, and my joy climaxed when I finally sold my first book that day—a *God's Answers to Your Questions*. It couldn't have been more than half an hour later when I sold my second book. I remember at that point I stopped to thank God over and over for hearing and answering my prayer in such a wonderful way. Not only had he given me the strength I needed but he had also rewarded me by allowing me to make those two sales when I was feeling almost hopeless. It was one of those moments when I could truly feel God's presence and power.

It had been nearly two hours since my partner had gone into that house, but there was still no sign of him. I had finished my entire side of the street and had even completed his side. All of our assigned territory was done, except for a building of flats which was situated at the very end of the street. I had purposely left it for the end in hopes that my partner would be finished by then and would canvass it with me. For some strange reason, I always felt a sense of fear and panic when it came to canvassing flats—but even more so if I was alone. Something about them seemed foreboding, especially this one. However, I pushed those feelings aside and decided I would take a step of faith and face my fears. With decided steps I walked towards it and paused to stare up at its looming form. It was about five or six stories high and seemed quite unwelcoming. It was a dark, plain cement structure with small windows and a littered yard. If truth must be told, it looked a place where only rough, poor people would live. I had no idea what to expect when I knocked on the doors, but I had already decided. I prayed another prayer—perhaps the most fervent one that day. I specifically asked the Lord to be merciful and give me someone kind at the door (something that didn't happen all that often) because He knew and understood that it wasn't easy for me. I repeated that prayer several



times as I huffed and puffed up the stairs all the way to the fifth floor to begin from the top down. I reached my first door. I glanced around and felt a slight sense of fear and claustrophobia in that small and dark porch space that separated the two doors which faced each other. I took a deep breath and knocked firmly on one of the doors, momentarily freezing when I heard footsteps approaching the door. To my surprise and relief, a sweet, young African American woman with a friendly smile stood before me. Before I had said much, she glanced at the ID pinned to my shirt and exclaimed excitedly, "Are you an Adventist?! So am I!" To make a long story short, that led to a friendly chat in her living room, the sale of another

book, and her visit to our health seminar that weekend. This is one of my favorite experiences which is dearest to my heart because I have never felt my prayers answered so perfectly. It touched my heart in an inexplicable way to see how God indeed does listen to our pleas. I never would have expected to meet such a nice person at that door, and much less an Adventist! I know without a shadow of a doubt that God was rewarding me for trusting in Him in spite of my fears, unworthy though I am. May His name forever be praised!

"Verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me" (Psalm 66:19, 20). 🙏



THE VALLEY OF DEPRESSION

BY MARK ANGEL HERNANDEZ

Here we convene again in the valley of murkiness, guilt and shame
Bewildered, puzzled and dazed how you arrived here once again
with only yourself to accuse and blame.

You question yourself, how and why? How did I let it transpire?
Why did I permit myself to come to the Valley of Depression once more?
The adversary declares that it's no use to come to the Lord.
"You have gone way too far and overreached God's limit of forbearance.
You are beyond His forgiveness, His mercy and His love.
Heaven's Market is closed! His charity for you is no longer in store!"

As you continue to listen to his suggestions
that you are lost, doomed, ruined and hopeless,
misery, distrust, fear and disbelief give you a wintry caress.

Be still and hear my plea.... God speaks to my heart....

"My child, My arms isn't too short to save.
My compassion, love and mercy are in endless supply.
Thou your countenance reveal embarrassment, dejection and disgrace.
Let My pierced Hands wipe the tears of sadness and anguish from
your heart and off your face.
Reach out your hand, open your heart and accept My
tenderness and Grace.

"Come back home! Return to Me! Revisit Your First Love
Allow Me to reside in you and give you the power, strength and courage
to surrender all.
Let Heaven bring comfort, healing and peace from above.

"So, instead of desolation and loneliness in the valley of hopelessness
that leads you to devastation and destruction,
In Me, you will have My Peace in the Valley!
My child, don't be afraid, don't be fearful, and don't delay!
come back to Me today!" 

busy as the bees

by Pam Stemmler

HOW SWEET!

Do you like sweet things? God has given us something sweet that is gathered by very diligent workers and packaged just right so that we could use it. It is sweet, it is good for you (as long as you don't eat too much), and it can help with healing certain things, too. Honey!

Where do we get honey? From those little workers called honey bees. Bees are fascinating to

watch and study. They can teach us so many lessons. Created on the 5th day of the creation week, God designed them very uniquely. They are quite small and do not live very long, but they work hard and continuously to help their team—the beehive.

THE LAW OF ORDER

The Bible says, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).



Bees are created to show us the importance of order among many other things. The queen bee lays thousands of eggs in prepared cells in definite patterns and in specific sized cells to provide what is necessary for the well-being of the hive and to make sure there are enough bees to work together.

Some eggs are laid into drone cells, some into worker cells. The size of the cell determines whether the egg will become a male or female bee. Worker cells are smaller—and when the queen fits herself into the position to lay the egg, her abdomen is squeezed and then the egg is fertilized so that it will make a female bee. These worker bees are really busy!

BEE LIFE

When the eggs hatch into larvae, busy nurse bees faithfully feed these little babies the best bee food around—royal jelly—for 3 days, and then a pollen mix for the time they are in the larva stage. Once the larva is mature enough, it is enclosed in its cell for the pupa stage, the time of more development.

When the pupa is old enough to come out of its cell as a new bee, it has its first job to do. It is able to do this responsibility and instinctively understands that it is good to do. Can you guess what this job is? It cleans its room—that is, its cell. A beehive needs to be kept clean to prevent disease. What jobs

can we do in our homes that will help keep things clean and neat? Are you cheerfully doing those things? “Whatsoever your hand findeth to do, do it with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

WHO'S THE MOST IMPORTANT?

The beehive has a lot of bees in it. But are they all going around doing whatever they want? Are they being lazy? No, they work together especially hard to protect and help the Queen bee.

She is not much larger than the other bees, but she has some different characteristics, like being longer and having a larger abdomen.

We cannot hear bees giving instructions, but they can communicate with each other. Beekeepers know that they can quickly tell if there is not a queen in the hive. The beehive makes a sort of roaring sound and they are not ordered or calm....

We need a Leader in our lives or will not be peaceful, calm, and joyful. Do you know Him? His name is Jesus. “And He [Christ] is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church” (Colossians 1:17, 18).

The queen lives longer than the other bees. She can live up to five years. She lay many thousands of eggs in her lifetime. Born into a cell like others (that was formed larger), she was fed royal jelly longer than the

other bees, allowing for further development. Why? Because the hive knew that the other queen was getting old or sick or the hive was too full and they needed to move some of them out to a new home. (That is called swarming.) Since every hive needs a queen in order to grow, the bees make sure there is another.

DILIGENCE IN DUTY

At different times in their short life, the bees are given different jobs. How do they know what they should do? They know by what they are able to do. First, a bee can clean, so that's what it does.

Then it can make wax, so it is busy repairing broken places and building new cells so that more honey can be stored, or more eggs laid in their baby baskets.

Then they have better communication skills. They know how to do their bee dance to give directions and how to listen to and follow the directions of others. They know how to fly a long way and to carry food back and not get lost or confused. They can even recognize which house (hive) is theirs even if there are 30 of them in one group.

There is also the job of guarding the hive from intruders. The bees that do this must be very diligent, with no sleeping on the job. They don't think about whether they want to or not, they just do it.

"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule" (Proverbs 11:24).

USE YOUR ABILITIES

Like the bees, we can work hard at the jobs that are given us to do, even if we don't feel like it. As everyone grows older, they learn new skills with which to help others. God has given each one special abilities to be a blessing to the whole human family. So don't worry about what you can't do—be happy to do what you can! "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BEES WORK!

Bees like to work. You can tell. How? As soon as the weather is warm enough in the spring, they are out flying around looking for food. They don't sleep in late, but as soon as it is bright enough, they are out of their hive beds. No one has to remind them of their duties, they get right to it. Even if the weather looks like it will be rainy, they don't care. They have food to gather for their hive. Sometimes it gets very cold, but if it is just warm enough for them to fly, fly they do.

What an example for us! We shouldn't make excuses for not doing things, but just get to it. We can build the "want to" into our characters as we practice working and enjoying it. Someone has to do the jobs. It might as well be a cheerful worker like you. "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23). 

Gaining Grandeur from the life of Gideon

VICTORY AT LAST!

by Ellen G. White (Part 4 of 4)

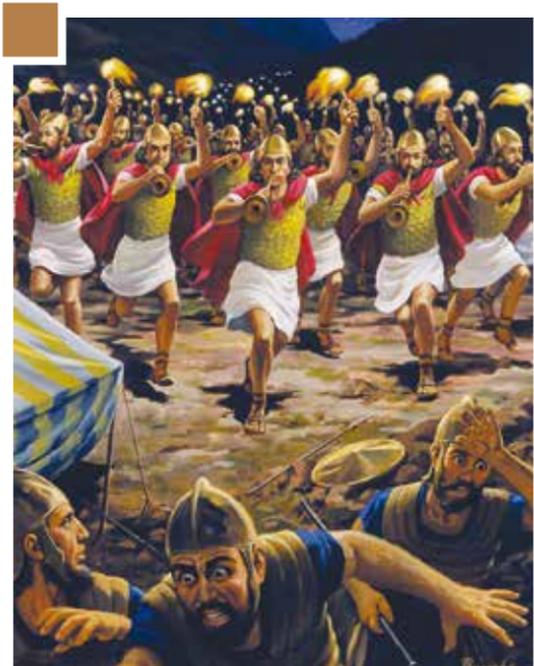
as published in *The Signs of the Times*, July 14, 1881

When Gideon stood at the head of thirty thousand men to make war against the Midianites, he felt that unless God should work for Israel, their cause would be hopeless. At the divine command the Hebrew force had been reduced by successive tests, until there remained with him, only three hundred men to oppose that countless multitude. What wonder that his heart sunk within him as he thought of the conflict of the morrow.

But the Lord did not leave His faithful servant to despair. He spoke to Gideon in the night season, and bade him, with Phurah, his trusty attendant, go down to the camp of the Midianites, intimating that he would there hear matter for his encouragement. He went, and waiting there

in darkness and silence, he heard one soldier, just awakened, relate a dream to his companion: "Lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it that the tent lay along.

The other answered in words that stirred the heart of that



NOT A SINGLE EVENT OF HUMAN LIFE IS UNKNOWN TO OUR MAKER.

unseen listener, "This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host."

Gideon recognized the voice of God speaking to him through the words of these Midianitish strangers. His faith and courage were greatly strengthened, and he rejoiced that Israel's God could work through the humblest means to abase the pride of men. With confidence and hope, he returned to the few men under his command, saying, "Arise, for the Lord hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian."

The apparently powerless condition of that little company of Israelites, compared with the vast host of the enemy, was fitly represented by the cake of barley bread. But as that loaf overthrew the tent upon which it fell, so would the handful of Israelites destroy their numerous and powerful enemies. The Lord himself directed Gideon's mind in the adoption of a plan which the latter immediately set out to execute. He divided his three hundred men into three companies. To every man was given a trumpet, and a pitcher containing a lighted lamp. He then stationed his men in such a manner that they surrounded

the entire camp of Midian. They had been previously instructed how to proceed, and at midnight, at a signal from Gideon, all the three companies blew their trumpets, uncovered their lamps, and broke the pitchers, at the same time shouting, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The light of three hundred lamps, piercing the midnight darkness, and that mighty shout from three hundred voices, suddenly aroused the sleeping army. Believing themselves at the mercy of an overwhelming force, the Midianites were panic-stricken. A terrible scene of confusion ensued. In their fright they fled in all directions, and mistaking their own companions for enemies they slew one another.

As the news of Israel's victory spread, many who had been sent to their homes returned, and joined in the pursuit of their fleeing enemies. Gideon also sent messengers to the Ephraimites, requesting them to seize the fords of the Jordan that the fugitives might not escape eastward.

In this terrible overthrow, not less than one hundred and twenty thousand of the invaders were slain, and so completely were the Midianites subdued that they were never again able to make war upon Israel. A remnant of fifteen

thousand who managed to escape across the river, were pursued by Gideon and his faithful three hundred, and utterly defeated, and Zebah and Zalmunna, two Midianite princes, were slain.

Nothing can happen in any part of the universe without the knowledge of Him who is omnipresent. Not a single event of human life is unknown to our Maker. While Satan is constantly devising evil, the Lord our God overrules all, so that it will not harm his obedient, trusting children. The same power that controls the boisterous waves of the ocean can hold in check all the power of rebellion and of crime. God says to one as to the other, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther."

What lessons of humility and faith may we not learn as we trace the dealings of God with His creatures. The Lord can do but little for the children of men, because they are so full of pride and vain glory. They exalt self, magnifying their own strength, learning, and wisdom. It is necessary for God to disappoint their hopes and frustrate their plans, that they may learn to trust in him alone. All our powers are from God; we can do nothing



independent of the strength which he has given us. Where is the man or woman or child that God does not sustain? Where is the desolate place which God does not fill? Where is the want that any but God can supply?

Because of the pride and ambition of the children of men, God has chosen to perform his mighty works by the most simple and humble means. It is not the men whom the world honors as great, talented, or brilliant, that God selects. He chooses those who will work in meekness and simplicity, acknowledging him as their leader and their source of strength. He would have us make Him our protector and our guide in all the duties and affairs of life.

His care for the works of His creation is unwearied and incessant. When men go forth to their daily toil, as when they engage in prayer; when they lie

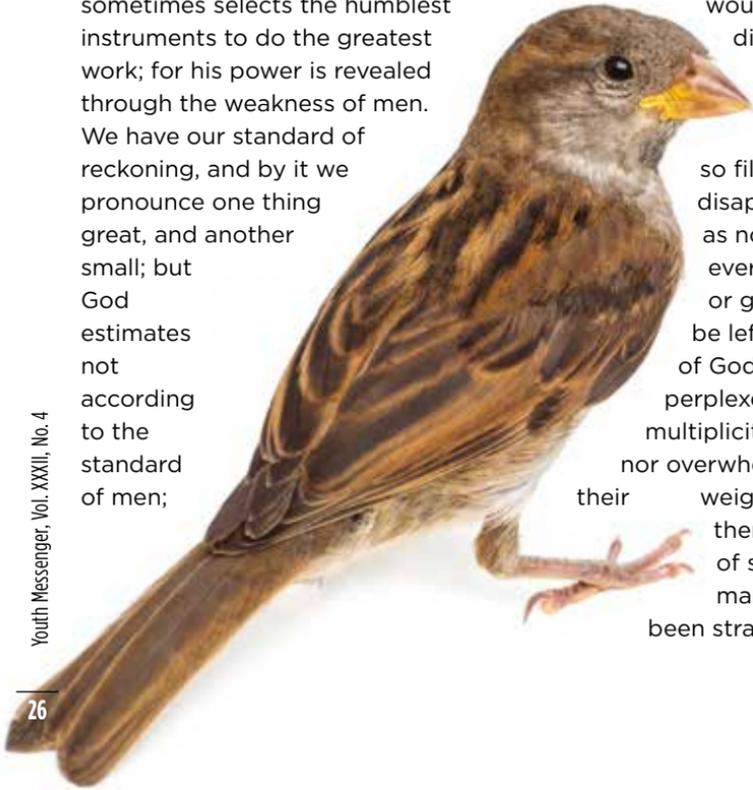
down at night, and when they rise in the morning; when the rich man feasts in his palace, when the poor man gathers his children about the scanty board, each is tenderly watched by his Heavenly Father. No tears can be shed that God does not notice. There is no smile that he does not mark. Those to whom He has committed important trusts he regards with vigilance. All their actions and most secret motives must pass His scrutiny. He has bestowed upon them all their talents and abilities, and He will hold them to a strict account for the improvement of these gifts. If they attain success, it is because the God of wisdom has prospered them.

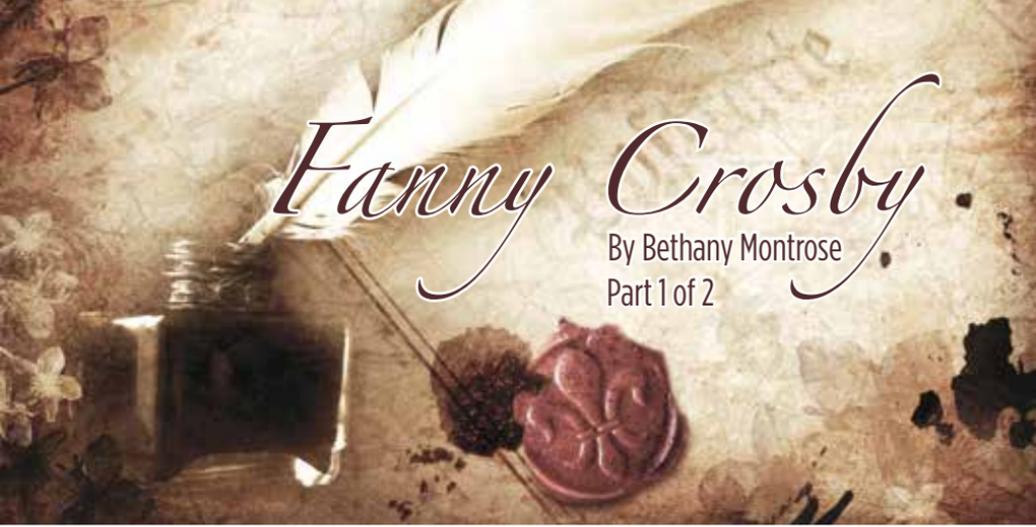
The Majesty of Heaven works by whom He will. His providence sometimes selects the humblest instruments to do the greatest work; for his power is revealed through the weakness of men. We have our standard of reckoning, and by it we pronounce one thing great, and another small; but God estimates not according to the standard of men;

he does not graduate his scale by theirs. We are not to suppose that what is great to us must be great to God, and what is small to us must be small to Him.

He who upholds the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, at the same time cares for the wants of the little brown sparrow that sings its humble song without a fear. He cares for everything and sustains everything throughout the universe that He has created.

If we would but fully believe this, all undue anxieties would be dismissed. With humble prayer and trusting faith, we would seek counsel from God in all our plans and purposes of life. Then all our acts would be governed by discretion, our energies would be rightly directed. Then our lives would not be so filled with disappointment as now; for everything, small or great, would be left in the hands of God, who is not perplexed by the multiplicity of cares, nor overwhelmed by their weight. We should then enjoy a rest of soul to which many have long been strangers. ☉





Fanny Crosby

By Bethany Montrose

Part 1 of 2

What do you think of when you hear the name Fanny Crosby? Maybe you remember a special hymn she wrote. But how many of us really know who Fanny was? Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) was born to John and Mercy Crosby in Putnam County, New York. She is best known for her abundance of hymns. Yet, there is a story behind the famed hymn writer that's worth checking out. She was an amazing person. "The Blind Poetess" was not just somebody who lived many years ago. She left a legacy through her hymns. Why? The answer is not readily available, yet a thoughtful search will unfold the mysteries of her hymns.

Poor little Fanny became blind at a very young age. Before she turned one year old, her father died suddenly. Her mother, Mercy, a very young widow, had to work as a maid to earn a little income for the family. Her grandmother, Eunice, cared for Fanny during

the first few years of her life. Fanny was read the Bible, as well as various literary works. Thus began the long life of someone who would later become author of some of the most beloved hymns in church hymnals.

"...One day I heard a strange sound coming from the meadow, saying, "Whippoorwill." Grandma told me about the bird which gave out that curious note and described its mottled wings and reddish brown breast and its bristled mouth with its white bristled tale." —*Fanny Crosby's Story of Ninety-Four Years*, by Samuel Trevena Jackson

A FAMILY OF FAITH

Eunice taught young Fanny about God. She would take her on walks and tell her of the majesty of God in His created works. She instilled in Fanny a realization of God's presence in every situation, as well as the need for and power of prayer.

Mercy worked all day and couldn't see her little Fanny, except at night. Many times, she would come home downtrodden and discouraged. Eunice would lay her hand on Mercy's shoulder and encourage her with a favorite poem and would finish by saying, "What can't be cured can be endured."

On Sundays, the Crosby's attended a Calvinist Presbyterian Church. There was no organ and no hymns. Finally, Mercy had to move to North Salem about six miles away, which was pretty far in those days. Here, they attended Quaker meeting, which Fannie later remembered for the doleful singing. It wasn't long before they moved again, this time to Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Whenever Fanny would get to visit her grandmother, she would be given portions of Scripture to memorize. Mrs. Hawley, her babysitter, would continue this work. Soon, she mastered the entire Pentateuch and all four Gospels. Proverbs, Ruth, and Song of Solomon were put to memory, as well.

During her teenage years, she often felt discouraged that she could not get an education like other children. During these sad times, she would go off into a corner and pray to God, as her grandmother had taught her to do. She would ask whether God had some little place for her in His plan, whether she could be His child in spite of her blindness, and whether she would be happy and useful.

After these seasons, she would rise with new fervor and determination to pursue her ambitions.

One such experience is related as occurring during a visit to her grandmother's home. She poured out her heart on her grandma's knee. After a long talk, it is said that they knelt down together and prayed that God would grant Fanny an opportunity to learn. She believed that she would receive an answer in due time. This was one of the last times they would share before Grandma Eunice died.

TALENTS FROM GOD

Meanwhile, Fanny grew to be a wonderfully talented poet. She would write poetry whenever anything happened in the community or whenever some famous person was laid to rest. Her Grandfather grew proud of his little darling, yet it would be years before she would be allowed to perceive his delight.

Education was nearly impossible to obtain. She was blind and the district schools had no experience or time for aiding someone with such a handicap. Yet, some years before, she had prayed with her Grandmother that God would make a way for her. And this was sure to be answered. God's timing was soon to come.

Mercy found out about the New York Institution for the Blind. Fanny was taken to this place. Here, she made friends and mastered her studies in English, grammar, science, music, history, and philosophy.

Math was especially not for her, and therefore she was excused from it. But in everything else, she excelled.

Fanny continued to write poetry. She just had to compose it. It was simply a part of her. While at the Institution, she was able to learn more about poetic technique. Soon, she became the top student and was becoming famed as “the blind poetess.”

In addition to her poetry, she played the guitar, piano, organ, and harp. She also developed her beautiful soprano voice. Due to her popularity, the Institution took her along with several other students on a tour. This was not the only time they would do this. During these tours, Fanny got the opportunity to meet many prominent figures and even recited a poem to the United States Congress.

Although she never achieved true fame as a poet, she was satisfied with being, “the blind poetess.” The institution enjoyed being able to call on her when they needed to entertain some visiting dignitary. Fanny also became a teacher at the Institution.

EARNING DISTINCTION

On various occasions, Fanny got the opportunity to meet presidents, senators, and generals. Yet, her success did not become a treasured pride to her. She was still a poor, blind woman and an affectionate teacher.

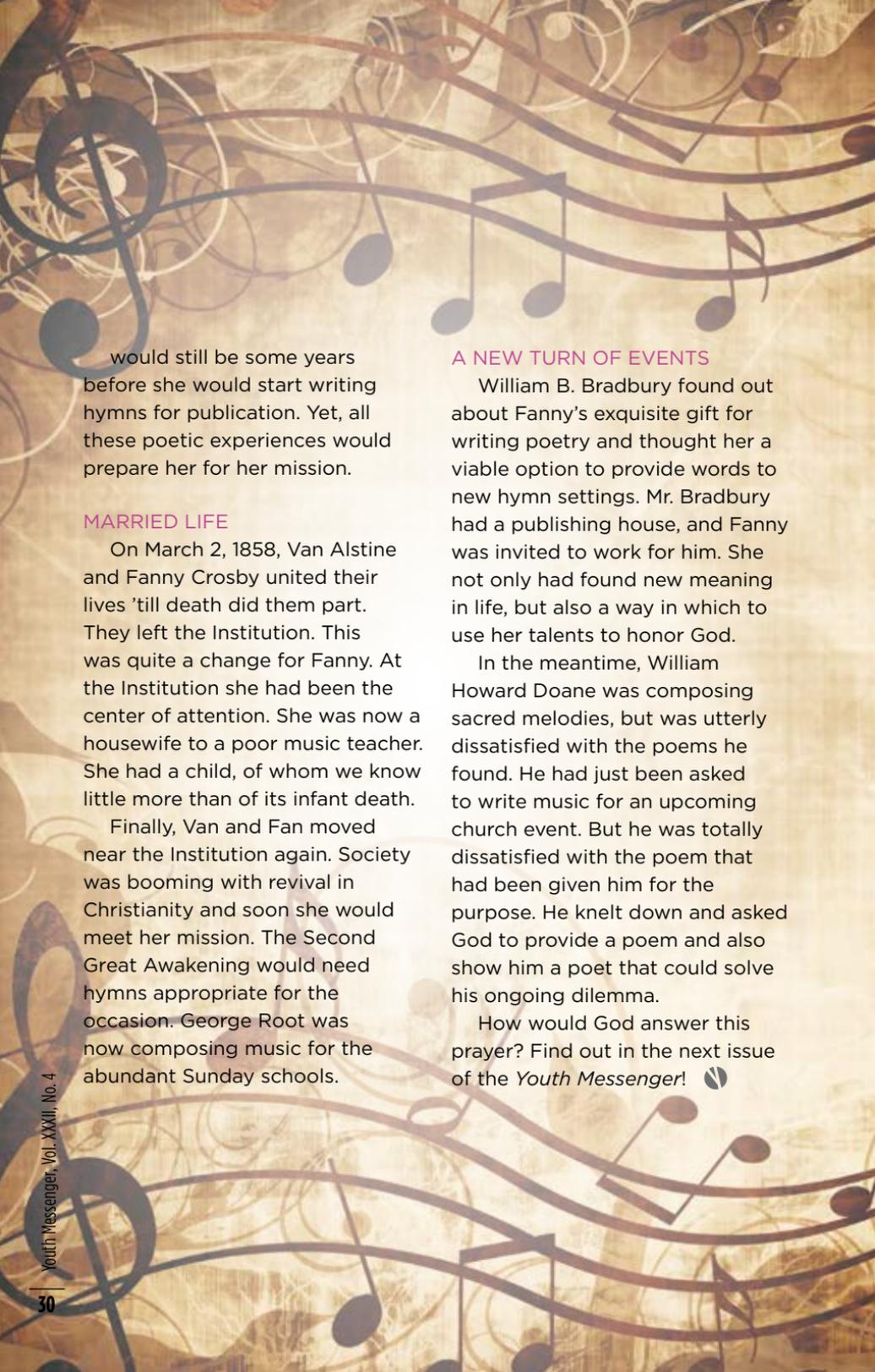
Now, about this time, cholera was sweeping through the

world, bringing tragic realities to all within its path. Soon, the Institution itself was facing these circumstances. Fanny, the blind poetess, was not too proud to treat the influx of cholera patients. She volunteered as a nurse, mixing cholera pills. She almost came down with the epidemic herself, but God spared her life—she had an important mission ahead, one she would not realize for several more years.

It was after this shocking crisis that Fanny chose to become more devout in her relationship to God. She was awakened by the near-death incident to the solemnity of life and the coming judgment. Although she had always led a pious, God-fearing life, she realized that she must have a deepened experience with her Savior.

She was soon invited to a series of revival meetings, where, after hearing the hymn by Isaac Watts, “Alas and Did My Saviour Bleed,” she consecrated her life anew to Christ. It seems that she portrayed this experience in the unpublished hymn entitled “Valley of Silence,” where she says, “For I fell at the feet of the Holy, and above me a voice said, ‘Be Mine.’ And there rose from the depth of my spirit, the echo, ‘My heart shall be Thine.’”

Soon after, Fanny was invited to write lyrics to the songs composed by George Frederick Root. But still she had not found the calling God had in mind. It



would still be some years before she would start writing hymns for publication. Yet, all these poetic experiences would prepare her for her mission.

MARRIED LIFE

On March 2, 1858, Van Alstine and Fanny Crosby united their lives 'till death did them part. They left the Institution. This was quite a change for Fanny. At the Institution she had been the center of attention. She was now a housewife to a poor music teacher. She had a child, of whom we know little more than of its infant death.

Finally, Van and Fan moved near the Institution again. Society was booming with revival in Christianity and soon she would meet her mission. The Second Great Awakening would need hymns appropriate for the occasion. George Root was now composing music for the abundant Sunday schools.

A NEW TURN OF EVENTS

William B. Bradbury found out about Fanny's exquisite gift for writing poetry and thought her a viable option to provide words to new hymn settings. Mr. Bradbury had a publishing house, and Fanny was invited to work for him. She not only had found new meaning in life, but also a way in which to use her talents to honor God.

In the meantime, William Howard Doane was composing sacred melodies, but was utterly dissatisfied with the poems he found. He had just been asked to write music for an upcoming church event. But he was totally dissatisfied with the poem that had been given him for the purpose. He knelt down and asked God to provide a poem and also show him a poet that could solve his ongoing dilemma.

How would God answer this prayer? Find out in the next issue of the *Youth Messenger!* 

Awesome . . .

What does “awesome” really mean? It inspires awe. What is awe? It’s a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear and wonder. It is clothed in mystery. It implies things that are too great, too magnificent for us to fathom.

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is a tremendous mystery. To think that the Creator of all the galaxies and planets—including Earth—would take on human flesh is mind-boggling. After all, He is also the One who made the tiniest microscopic atoms. Just think—He’s keeping your heart beating right now. It doesn’t just tick by itself!

The angels whom He created were amazed to see Him come to live among us as a man. The world has heard about Him and many have accepted Him as their Guide and source of strength in everyday life and their hope for eternity. He has returned to heaven, to be welcomed into the celestial courts, there to plead in our behalf.

It’s awesome to imagine. Yet, how many today cheapen that beautiful word, “awesome” to use in casual—even flippant—conversation on trivial matters. But

this word is really only intended to inspire great reverence for the Almighty. The psalmist prayed, “Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word” (Psalm 119:161).

“The Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still” (Psalm 4:3, 4). Be still enough so you can hear His voice speaking to your heart through His Spirit.

“The hand that sustains the worlds in space, the hand that holds in their orderly arrangement and tireless activity all things throughout the universe of God, is the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.

“The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. ‘The Lord’s throne is in heaven’ (Psalm 11:4); yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand.”—*Education*, p. 132. That includes you.

Isn’t that awesome! 

Editor Barbara Montrose, **Layout** Bethany Montrose, Daniel Lee.

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A WORD

By B. F. M. Sours

*It was but a word, a little word,
But it soothed like a healing balm;
It was but a word of kindliness,
But it seemed like a joyous psalm;*

*For it healed a weary, aching heart
That burden was, and sad;
And it brightened all, like the beaming sun,
For it made the spirit glad.*

*Like the golden gates of the dawn of day
Its gentle accents seemed,
And the sky grew bright with a silver light
To the soul that had sadness dreamed.*

*Did it cost you much, did it spend your coin—
This balm that the spirit stirred?
No! your own spirit glowed like the beaming sun;
As you spoke that loving word.*

The Youth's Instructor, June 4, 1903.