

November 1951

pamela dawn says . . .

Keep Your Eye Upon the Donut, Brother!

WHILE waiting for my appointment one morning, I sat idling over a cup of coffee and donut in the little shop around the corner. Glancing up at a framed sign I gazed at these words for quite some moments:

“AS YOU RAMBLE ON THRU
LIFE, Brother,
Whatever be your goal,
Keep your eye upon the Dough-
nut
And NOT upon the Hole!”

It was one of those clever placards that many of us have seen time and again in Donut-oriaums across the country. But it wasn't the colorful story-book

Jester pointing his finger in warning — it was the import of that homely little verse that registered with me.

GOAL! YOUR GOAL - MY GOAL! Whatever it may be—we are to keep our eye on its SUSTAINING qualities; on the “meat” of it; on its SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE.

Yet how many of us do manage to keep our eye steadfastly upon it as we “ramble on thru life?” All too often we let outer influences and opinions cause us to make untrue DETOURS — which are as fruitless, or as

This Month's Thought to Remember . . .

“Prosperity is an attribute of God. Since God operates in and through me, I will claim prosperity and supply from the great Source of all Life.”

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much of a vacuum—as the HOLE
IN THE DONUT!

This idea took me back in retrospect to an experience I had during World War I, when women were doing their bit by going out as farm hands, or “farmerettes” as they called them. I joined those forces one summer, securing a leave of absence from my office in the city. The spring had been rainy and cold. The farmers were late putting in crops, so my first task was plowing!

With my little five foot one

figure decked out in coveralls, and my ninety pounds bubbling with energy, I felt quite masterful sitting atop that huge new Twin City tractor. The foreman indicated an expansive, rough looking field on which I was to start, asking, “Do you know how to keep your first furrow straight so the field will be true?”

“No, I don’t,” I replied.

“Well, I’ll tell you miss,” he drawled. “You look straight across to ’tother end of the field and pick out some mark—fence post, boulder, clump of weeds or such — to aim for. Then head the radiator cap toward that mark, and KEEP YOUR EYES ON THAT GOAL.

“Don’t look down,” he added, “for the tractor will take care of the rough places enroute. You won’t have any crooked furrows, IF YOU KEEP YOUR VISION STRAIGHT.”

“So it is with life,” I mused. “If we but keep our mind’s eye

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At left is a picture of the author as she appeared in her “plowing clothes.”

the wayfarer says . . .

Enjoy God Forever

A MAN's religion should bring him deep satisfaction. He should be a very happy man, quite in contrast to all of the misery around him. Dyspepsia and melancholia have no place in the life of the man who is profoundly religious, if that man have faith in God Who is supreme over all of His world.

Did you ever think of enjoying God forever? That is possible and indeed is the glowing reality for the daily grind. I was riding along "into the wonderful October sunset" on a given day many years ago. My fellow-passenger was an elderly man — I call him a saint — and, after some moments of silence as we watched the sunset, apparently at the end of the ribbon of concrete we were riding upon, he turned to me with tears in his eyes and said: "Don't mind me, I am so happy, I am just thanking God for that sunset." It brought me around quickly to a reality of living which I as a young man did not then deeply appreciate: namely, that faith in God could bring a man deep enjoyment even in daily simple observances and observations.

Since then I have come to know many people who have

taken literally the New Testament admonition to "Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS." I know of a lady who recently celebrated her eighty-third birthday. She is the widow of a beloved minister; she raised a big family on a small income; now she is nearly totally blind; she would recognize you by your voice if you had come but once to visit her. Her face is wreathed in smiles, and her faith is the most joyous of any living person I now know. God is so real to her — as indeed, He may be to each of us — that her companionship with Him keeps her buoyant and satisfied with His providences.

I would like to tell you how to enjoy God forever, using some simple words with a quiet assurance of their validity for all men. First, I take it that you do believe in God, that He exists as the great uncontradictable and incontrovertible Reality. Put it this way: if you are to communicate with me, you must believe that I am a real person, not a figment of someone's imagination. I must be able to communicate with you in answering your own questions or in projecting problems to you for solution. Apart from

this faith in me as a person, you cannot presume to develop communion nor trust. So it is: step one is to believe without any hesitancy in the reality of God. Atheists cannot enjoy God forever, because they do not believe in any god. Agnostics cannot be happy with any kind of a god, because they do not "know" about him at all. But the humble believer can have faith in Him as an existing Reality, even more surely than they believe in a person they love.

Step Two is to seek to put one's self into the way of life which is the way of God's purpose for men. No matter where a man turns to find out what it is that God speaks for the happiness and for the welfare of mankind, he must put forth an honest effort to understand that purpose WHEN HE FINDS IT for himself. The holy books of the ages are interpreters of the purpose of God, and within them are wonderful techniques men have used to discern what God's plan is. The Christian Scriptures are very clear in their revelation of what God would have done, despite controversial points along the way. Remember, that God's plan, as we know it, is never evil nor unpleasant. (This is not saying that it is never "difficult" of performance.) His purpose is "good and acceptable and perfect." Further, man by his evil or his stubbornness or his blindness may delay God's will, but he cannot frustrate it ever. Just as the river finally gets to the sea, despite the gorges it needs to cut through mountains, and

despite its crazy meanderings through the plains and meadows, so God's ultimate plan is to be accomplished. A man is wise and happy when he puts himself into the way of God's plan and seeks to understand it thoroughly. He then never feels left out, but is always included in the fellowship of the good. This satisfies his deep need for comradeship and recognition, apart from which a man cannot long survive and be at peace with himself and with his world.

Being practical, where may one find God's purpose for himself, and therein find his enjoyment? I indicate a few of the sources: (a) Get to know God well—the God you believe in has not left Himself without a witness; though His witnesses learn of God directly and with effort. (b) Listen to your inner voice, which is sometimes called conscience. This is an inner light to illumine the pathway, and you are born with it. (c) Exercise plain common sense in most cases, although you will "hear the voice of God" sometimes admonishing you to cut across the road of common sense. (d) Listen to the reasoned and inspired advice of your friends who are close to God and who live nobly in His world. (e) Look into the biographies of great men. Surely God has purposed through them to get His work done, and in their response to historic moods of developing life there is light for us who will read expectantly. (f) Also, listen to the voice of the best truth you know. For some of us it will

(Continued on page 9)

marcus bach . . .

Living Thoughts for Better Living



"Where there is no vision the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

1.

FRANK B. Robinson once told me that the supreme awareness of God in one's life was a vision which could not be sustained for long. He said that twenty minutes of this "reality" was about all he could stand at one time!

In this he was in accord with other authorities on the subject. They all say that mystical states are brief and overpowering. Transfigured moments do not last. Conferences with the Most High are never very prolonged. The glory is too intense. The mountain top experiences are too brilliant, too transcendent, too consuming for "spirits still bound in mortal clay."

William James, the noted psychologist and researcher, insisted that, excepting in rare instances, half an hour or an hour seemed to be the limit. He used the experiences of saints, martyrs and reformers as his case histories. Even the best of them

found their Damascus Road encounters too awesome to be extended in time and too consuming to be held permanently in vision. But the afterglow of vision remains. The consciousness of the far persists.

2.

What I am interested in is the *awareness* of the state of vision, not the duration or the degree or the intensity of it. I am vitally interested in the fact of the experience and in the afterglow.

What I want to get across to you is the simplest rudiment of the mystical experience, namely, the realization that you have a spiritual outreach which is your guarantee of the power and presence of God in your life.

Do not despair because you do not have prophetic experiences. We said at the start of this series that we were not aspiring to prophethood. Do not become discouraged if your "religion"

fails to produce all the results you feel it should. Do not become weary because you have had no beatific revelations. The laboratory of faith does not always produce miracles. But the true scientist never gives up. The spiritual scientist never gives up. He has one word written upon his heart: VISION. And he is alive or dead to the prompting of the inner spirit as he keeps or loses this word: VISION.

3.

Some years ago a phrase caught the imagination of the world. It was as simple as a nursery rhyme and as homespun as a saying of Poor Richard. "Every day in every way I am getting better and better." The words became a new gospel. People on every cultural level began quoting them. Here was an affirmation that worked, they said, and work it did. Why? Because it plunged its users into a mystical consciousness. Superficial? Perhaps. Trumped up? Maybe. Just good psychology? Why not?

It brought to life an extension of man's vision. It said, "See here, you cannot measure life's meaning in terms of present circumstances. You cannot say, 'I am sick, discouraged, defeated. Life has me down. All I get are bad breaks.'"

The affirmation said: your life is the reflection of your state of mind. Build a new neural groove in that brain of yours. Start working on a hopeful outlook. Tomorrow is another day. And there are a thousand to-

morrows still to come in this life and the next. Success and failure are separated by the thinnest possible screen. Good luck and bad are only a hair apart. Happiness is so close to sorrow that a single thought can carry you from one to the other!

Many used the affirmation and were helped. They repeated it to themselves. They believed in it. They related it to a consciousness of the presence of God in their lives. They made it the basis of an adventure and it worked.

In the vision of the far lies the sublimation of the near. A bad day today? Vision says there will be a better tomorrow. A good day today? Vision reminds you to invest it for the future. Caught just now in the "sufferings of Job?" Job had vision. He said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him!"

When we think only of self we are self-bound. When we think only in terms of today there is no escape for us. Our presumptions build our walls. Our vision cuts out windows and doors. We look out. We see a path leading to a more perfect day. We see a highway, beckoning.

"Pilgrim, do you see yonder shining light?" Keep your eye on it. Follow it. Trust it. The road of vision is the road of life.

(Next issue: THE VISION OF THE NEAR and some secrets for a balanced life.)

Questions & Answers

(This section is devoted to questions which have been sent to us by our students. If you have a question, the answer to which you feel would be of interest to other students as well as yourself, send it in to us. We reserve the right to choose those questions which are published.)

How is one to know when contact with the Spiritual Realm is made?

CONTACT with the God-Law is something which is strictly within the individual person, but it is also recognizable by that person. If you talk with God each day, or set aside a definite time of day for a communion period, then you already know that the Power of God is recognized and accepted by you as an integral part of your being. When your thoughts are turned to God, what logical things do you actually think? Is not God Peace, Comfort, a source of Healing, and a Soothing Power? When you have problems do you not take them to God and affirm that they will be solved? And do you not feel that, after having taken your troubles to God, they are in the process of being solved?

The feeling of absolute security you have that whatever you take to God will be acted upon

favorably — this is the result of your communing with God. Maybe you can't tell exactly when you have made the contact, but as sure as the sun must shine, you will be able to absolutely recognize your oneness with God through the glorious feeling of peace and relief that follows the telling to God of whatever it is that is burdening your mind.

The first step — recognize God in you and as the guiding factor in your life. Second—tell your cares to God as you would to a friend. Third — rest secure in the knowledge that your burdens will be relieved and forget about them. Then, the comforting peace which follows is your definite assurance that God has taken over and the feeling of peace which you will experience will be indescribable, and you will know that you have made contact with the greatest Power in this universe.

Before the Dawn

by

Frank B. Robinson

available Dec. 1, 1951

Price: \$3.25

Frank B. Robinson...

The Fields Are Ripe



THERE is a quiet Power in the life of those who know God. That's because the Life which is God manifests through them as their own life. This is the only difference between one "in tune with the Infinite" and one "out of tune with the Infinite." The one in tune *recognizes the fact of what God is and where God operates.* The other knows nothing about that. It's the same Life-Spirit manifesting in each, only the one knows it while the other doesn't know it. It is the duty of the one who knows it to tell the one who doesn't know it, for if every man and woman in America today recognized the Power of the Spirit of God in his or her life, what sort of an America do you think we would have? You can't conceive of what it would be. There would be no poverty for those who have would give to those who have not. There would be no sickness for the Power of God would drive that out. There would be no strikes because both workers and employers

would do what is right. There would be none of what we call "sin" because everyone would know and recognize the Spirit of God as the motivating impulse in every life.

The hustle and bustle of today is a disease. Yet it is but the birth-pangs of a new day. No one will descend on the clouds of heaven and wipe all the enemies of God out of existence. The Spirit of God does not operate in that manner. Do you know how the Spirit of God does operate? Shall I tell you? Well, *the Spirit of God wins people by It's own presence and Power as manifested through others.*

Your only job, then, is to keep submissive to the energizing Power of God. Then, when God calls to you, you will be ready for the work God has for you to do.

"The fields are ripe unto harvest—the laborers are few."



wayfarer... (from page 4)

be the voice of the church as it has spoken and does speak at its highest and best throughout its ecumenical message to the world. For others, it may be the Lessons being studied and practiced, coming from the pen of our own beloved Frank Robinson. Still others, using a composite of the good of the race, wherever it is found, regard this composite guidance as the answer they seek and are thereby guided into all joy.

Finally, the third step is to rely on the success of action in keeping with the will of God as you understand it. Remember, it will always be for your good and the good of others.

None will be harmed by performance.

"But in the dawn of the early morn

A clear Voice seems to say,
'I am the Lord of the final word,
Ye may not say me nay'.

'Unfold your hands that your brother's need

May ever find them free,
Unbind your feet from their winding sheet

Henceforth they walk with me.'

And lo, I hear! I am blind no more!

I am no longer dumb!
Ont from the doom of a self-wrought tomb
Pulsate with life I come."



Letters

FROM MEMBERS

Wisconsin
October, 1951


Dear Sir:

While visiting my aunt, I have read your ten lessons, each entitled "Psychiana." I am very, very interested for through them I am beginning to see the Light. I have been floundering for years, never being fully sat-

isfied with anything taught in the different churches I have attended. Now I know I'm on the right track and feel very grateful to you. If only there were more like you, what a happy world we could have, through this teaching.

Thanking you again,

Mrs. D. L. Mc—.



Those who walk with God

THERE is a man in this great country of ours who can again place government functions and operations on the highest pinnacle of moral duty, and can once again revitalize and revive the faith of the people in the concept of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Who that man is, I do not know. But I do know that he does exist and I pray that he will be found before it is too late. It will not be an easy task for him — he will have to have the capacity and ability to give to the peoples of the United States his deep-rooted feelings and faith in personal liberties—in the subservient role of government to the wishes of the people. But, my friend, it can and will be done.

Let's look a moment at the taxation problem we have today. You and I are taxed in order to pay for the activities and functions of government. Now if I were given the job of trustee for some one else's money, I would certainly look upon

it as a sacred trust and would do all in my Power to spend it as I would judge the people who gave it would want it spent. *And so should anyone else!*

A person with honesty and integrity and a sense of spiritual and moral values would certainly choose his helpers in government so that this would come to pass. Is this the case at the present time? Do we have men in government who are looking after the interests of the people as a whole — the people whom they rely on for financial support? Yes, we do have a few who are earnestly trying to do a job.

Then again, look at the scandalous actions of some of the men in government who have allowed their sense of moral duty and duty to the people to be used for their own personal profit.

There is a man who can change this, and let's each one of us look to our precious right of the ballot to help the country find him. It can and will be done.

The Way

for December will be
mailed November 30.

dawn . . . (from page 2)

on our goal — never wavering—
God will take care of the rough
spots enroute.”

All too often our biggest deterrent in life lies in our NOT having a goal! Yet we each have the great gift of life, with its marvelous powers of growth and expression, which constantly flows through us whether we realize it or not. Some recognize it and USE IT TO DIRECTED ENDS — others just let it flow.

Let us compare these two methods to two fields side by side. One is planted to corn, the other is full of weeds. The field of corn is planted, tended, and *directed toward one particular fruitful end*. The field of weeds is allowed to run wild without direction or cultivation. Yet both grow with lush extravagance.

YOU and I, EVERYONE, are meant to achieve! That is the purpose for which we were born. But we may ask, “Which direction? How do we know what is God’s will for us?”

There is an adage which says: “God has a plan for every man, and He has one for you.” So it might be well to stop and think what YOU yourself can do about goals.

Do you dream of things that you are going to do *some day*? Dream and talk of them longingly — but always with the vagueness that pushes them into the dim never-never land? It is easy to let things of the present appear as real barriers to the attainment of that which we “hope” for in the future.

If you are a musician, for instance, it was not you who created that original impulse and ability. Our desires and their accompanying abilities were born with us, and we can accept that fact as being an indication from God OF WHAT HIS WILL IS FOR US.

A few years ago I took some piano lessons from a maiden lady of seventy-five. She was a most interesting character, born in Hawaii, where she struggled for a musical career. Her parents lived on a plantation, and as a child she had to walk to a country grade school. In addition, she would trudge across boggy fields twice a week to take music lessons from a distant neighbor.

She later became so facile that she could play any instrument that came to hand — a ukelele, banjo, mandolin, melodeon. She could entertain wherever she went; played for Vespers, and for church services at a city jail for years. When I met her she could still play the harmonica feelingly — in spite of dentures!

This talented woman didn’t keep her mind in one direction (on one instrument only) as her

goal, *but everywhere she went she met her goal!*

Each person's individual goal is indicated by his own talents and abilities; by the things he DESIRES to do, gets satisfaction out of doing, and can do well. It warms the heart, sets creativeness going in the mind, and makes us eager to be about the job!

Luther Burbank discovered so many ways of cooperating with God in his calling of producing finer fruits and vegetables. He accomplished wonders because he accepted God's inspiration as to what could be done with plants, which guided him to do it in an unusual way.

The Wright Brothers were inspired to make a contraption so that men could fly through the air like birds. No amount of public ridicule swerved them from their goal.

John James Audubon when a boy and thinking of nothing but having a good time, noticed that whenever he saw a bird or heard one mentioned, he felt a kind of frenzy in his blood. That was his cue that he should make

working with birds his goal.

In order to make any progress in life, WE MUST HAVE A SPECIFIC GOAL. As long as we have no goal toward which to strive we toil dully — we experience confusion and frustration.

WAKE UP and prayerfully seek His Plan for yourself. The work we do should fill some need of others as well as our own; it will be a service that will not only bless you but it will truly benefit humanity as well. Once you have discovered that something very wonderful that you would like to do or be, NEVER LET GO OF THAT INNER URGE. THANK GOD for the inspiration immediately. Even though you cannot — in your present circumstances — see how it can come about, KEEP THANKING GOD and ask HIM to bring it about, for He works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.

KEEP YOUR EYE UPON THE DONUT (your goal) BROTHER. For the goal that thou seest will He give unto thee.

A look at next month's bulletin . . .



The Wayfarer gives our readers a Christmas experience . . . An outstanding letter from one of our members provides inspiration for all . . . Marcus Bach's series continues . . . and a question many have asked will be answered. . .