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The Mission Opportunities of the Church in 1944

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mk. 16, 15). This majestic command our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gave to the church, before He withdrew His visible presence from this world and ascended into yonder world. He had but one thing in mind: applying to restless and sin-cursed souls the fruit of His redemption, the forgiveness of sins, the peace with God, the hope of life eternal. Salvation had been acquired through His Perfect obedience unto death, a clean dress of righteousness had been purchased with His blood to cover the filthy rag of man, reconciliation had been effected between God and the world through His mediation. Now man was to enjoy the fruits of this redemption. The Spirit of God was to apply to man these spiritual blessings through the means which God appointed for this purpose: God's Word and the Sacraments. And the Church received the command of Christ to preach the word and to administer the Sacraments, so that the Spirit of God could accomplish the sanctification of man, and restless souls could find peace and joy. No matter what conditions prevailed in the world, no matter in what state sinful man was found, the church was to preach the Gospel to every creature.

Obedient to this command of the Lord saints of all times have brought the message of "peace with God" to condemned souls. Beginning at Jerusalem the disciples of Christ went abroad preaching the things that they had heard and seen. Paul, the great missionary to the heathen, availed himself of every opportunity to proclaim the tidings of joy and peace to the world. He found men worshipping no God at all. He found men worshipping false gods. To all he proclaimed the true God and the works which this God had done for the salvation of man's soul, that they might live in peace with God and enjoy that spiritual life which only God can give. As in the course of the centuries the church was losing the gospel of salvation by faith and was substituting salvation by works, so the zeal of the church for mission work was waxing cold, until finally the members of the church (so-called) became mission opportunities and souls which found no peace in self-appointed works and self-inflicted tortures, relished the pure Gospel which God restored thru His servant Luther. Luther had wonderful mission opportunities and together with others who were brought to the knowledge of the truth made the most of these opportunities by bringing to man the message of rest acquired through the shedding of innocent blood and presented to man as a free gift of God by faith. When rationalism prevailed, when men placed their reason above the Word of God, and in consequence of that, souls were living in doubt and despair, the church proclaimed the divine verbal inspiration of the Bible and by grounding the faith upon the infallible Word of God brought peace and quiet to doubting souls.

The church of God living in the 20th century, specifically living in the 1940's, has mission opportunities which are unique in history. We write: The year of our Lord 1944, a crucial year in the history of many nations. Let us briefly discuss:

THE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES OF THE CHURCH IN 1944

I.

1944. What conditions prevail in this year! For the second time within the short span of 25 years our beloved country is engulfed in war, a war, the like of which history has not witnessed. It has been called the 2nd World War, a global war, because it is not confined to a few countries. It is spread all over the world. Very few neutral nations remain, which have not been touched by this scourge. From all corners of the world come reports of battles, battles on land, on sea and in the air. Our sons have been called away from their home, their community, their church, to face the foe and seal if necessary with their lives the honor and freedom of our country. Many a battle has been fought, many a young life has been snuffed out, many a brave soldier wounded and many a tear shed over the wounded and slain in battle. Our daughters have been asked to leave their home and are exposed to the horrors of war that they may help in the gigantic task of preserving our freedom. The seas have witnessed the destruction that war brings. Many a battleship has been sunk and its brave crew buried in the waters. Submarines lurking in the dark waters in the path of merchant ships send their deadly explosives against the unsuspecting victim and demolish it in a few minutes, so that oftentimes the crew has no opportunity to be saved. And who can describe the horrors which the aeroplane has spread in this war! Not only on the battlefield, where it plays a major role in the conflict, not only on the sea where it is a constant source of danger to any ship, but above all in the cities where bombings have achieved little more than agonizing and wounding and killing innocent victims. The world has not witnessed such a war!

And just seven days ago our forces crossed the English channel to gain a foothold on the continent of Europe and fight their way to victory. What dangers confront our men! May the Lord of the Church, our Savior Jesus Christ, unto whom all power is given in heaven and on earth, who holds the destinies of nations in the hollow of His hand, hold His protecting hand over our boys and grant them and our nation victory and a speedy, just and lasting peace.

What has brought this catastrophe down upon the world? Friends, let us not look for the cause in individual persons only. God will call them to account and will render to each the due reward of his deeds. No, in this war the whole world feels the punitive rod of the Almighty God, who has been insulted by a world which in general is living without God and whose godless life is crying aloud unto God for vengeance. No one, not even the most callous, or the most self-righteous person, will attempt to deny that this visitation is deserved. For years man has been taught through the theory of evolution, that he has not been created by a God, but that he developed himself into his present state and form, that he is nothing but a higher developed animal, that therefore no God has a claim on his life and can call him to account, but that man is responsible only to himself and to those other higher developed animals with which he lives.

This feeling of not acknowledging and not being respon

what the arch-enemy of God, Satan, wanted--a life without God. On the one hand, man feeling responsible only to himself, followed the dictates of his heart, and "out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, theft, false witness, blasphemies," (Matt. 15, 19.) the Bible says. Our great national vices and crimes are well known and cry aloud to heaven. God said, "Thou shalt not kill." But murder after murder has been committed in our country and the long list of unsolved murders is appalling. God said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery. What God has joined together, let no man put asunder." But men for little or no reason will divorce his wife, break a marriage two, three, four times and this polygamy on the installment plan is brazenly pictured on the screens and readily condoned in the press. God demands man to flee fornication and lead a chaste and decent life. But in our country free love is openly discussed in classrooms. Nudist colonies are sanctioned by the government, and men and women, steeped in filth and vice, defile their bodies and continue their deeply sinful lives. God says, "Thou shalt not steal." But what manner of graft, greed, dishonesty is prevalent! Man considers himself smart if he can cheat his neighbor or even his government. God says, "Be sober, be vigilant." But men and women indulge in intoxicating liquor as never before and are not ashamed to lower themselves to the level of a beast. "Who is the Lord that I shall obey His voice?" (Ex. 5, 2), cried the wicked sinner and the floodtide of sin swept the nation on to this catastrophe. Has this punishment of God brought the sinner to his senses? In some instances, yes, but in general, no. Sin continues unabated and multiplies as sand on the seashore. If anything, sin has claimed an even greater number of votaries and victims who turn away from the divine rule and smile mockingly at the prohibitions of God's holy Law. While their sons are bleeding and dying on the battlefields, men and women live in debauchery and harlotry, steeped in a sinful life, so sinful indeed that their awful guilt is known only to God.

On the other hand, we find people who shun such flagrant transgressions of the law of God, who observe a civil righteousness, who goal is to make this world a decent place to live in. But feeling responsible only to themselves, they have set up a standard and an education which is for this life only, one that leaves God out of the picture. They lead a life without God. "They mind earthly things," as Paul says. (Phil 3, 19). The educator seeks to build up human personality to the fullest capacity of body and mind, but the training of the soul is left out of consideration, in fact in many instances the very existence of an immortal soul is denied. And the result is a life that is vain, empty, fruitless. Wise Solomon describes this life very fittingly in Eccl. 2, 18-23 when he, speaking from the viewpoint of a worldly man who has realized the fruitlessness of all his efforts, says: "Yes, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? Yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity. Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun. For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great

heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity." How true! "Yea, I hated all my labor which I had taken under the sun because I should leave it." Man works and struggles and finally accumulates wealth, but he must leave it. He studies and acquires earthly wisdom and knowledge, but he must leave it. He climbs the ladder of success and achieves honor and glory from his fellowmen, but he must leave it. How empty his life! But he is comforted by the world: "You are accomplishing something for posterity, others can use your wealth, your ideas, your accomplishments. Your efforts are not in vain," they say. Man thinks and soon wonders: "Who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? Yet shall he have rule over all my labor wherein I have labored and wherein I have showed myself wise under the sun." Who knows if posterity will be wise or foolish? What I consider wisdom and upon which I have built my life, the next generation may consider foolishness and discard all my labor and efforts. Again, how true! Our world with its rapid change of ideals is evidence. "All his days are sorrows and his travail grief." A life without God does not answer the problems of sickness, adversity, poverty, death--man's greatest enemy. "Yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night." That is the climax of an empty, fruitless life, a life without God. "Man's heart taketh not rest in the night." Oh, yes, man at work with his chemicals, his dynamos, his bombers, his armies and navies considers himself great, self-sufficient. But man alone with himself in the stillness of the night watches, hearkening unto the voice of his conscience, pondering over the actual result of all of his labors, that man has no rest. He has left God out of his life, sin therefore separates him from God, the source of peace and rest, and no matter what he does there is nothing but unrest, discontent, clash in his soul. The astrologer has achieved such success that he can tell to the minute when an eclipse of the sun will take place. But when that sun begins to scorch his fields and destroys his crops, he is perplexed and baffled. His soul is not at rest--a life without God! The engineer performs the great engineering feat of harnessing the waters of a river and using the waters in the service of man, producing electricity, irrigation, etc. But when suddenly that little stream in his back yard overflows its bank, washes away his property and harms his beloved ones, he cannot understand it and despairs. His soul is not at rest, a life without God. That shows itself especially in these troublesome days of war! Oh, the souls that have no rest at night! Oh, the souls that are constantly living in fear and unrest! Man studied history, noted the mistakes of others, successfully avoided them and now thinks the world is well on its way to being a decent place to live in and suddenly war breaks out, human beings are slaughtered like cattle, innocent victims, women and children, are killed, property is destroyed, and in this so-called enlightened age all people work feverishly to produce weapons of destruction. Man is baffled, perplexed. The house that he had built crashed. And when it strikes his own family, when the draft calls his beloved son away, when anxious days of no news pass so slowly, when finally the message comes: Your son has been killed in action, he wrings his hands in despair and curses life. No rest for the soul! A life without God! And the end? Eternal unrest, eternal separation from God, life in eternity without God, eternal death. Man may seek excuses for the breakdown of all that he has built. But the soul desires something that is more than human, more than earthly; it longs, it yearns, it craves for the living God, its Creator!

It cannot find true satisfaction until it is at peace with its Creator, and knows not how to find this rest.

II.

Friends, what mission opportunities of the church in 1944!

In this world, cursed because of sin, and filled with so much sorrow, grief, and pain, the Lord has established a Holy Christian Church. Small in number, but rich in spiritual blessings it stands as a monument to the work of the Holy Ghost. It is the communion of saints, a gathering of all whom the Spirit of God has sanctified. Yes, in this sin-stricken, curse-laden world there are saints, people who are without sin, people who live in peace with God and enjoy rest for their souls in the greatest upheaval which the world has experienced. Man did not make this possible. Man was a helpless creature, doomed to restlessness, fear and death because of his iniquity. God made this possible. 1944 years ago He sent His only-begotten Son into the world, born a true man of the Virgin Mary. He sent Him with the commission to seek and to save that which was lost by perfect obedience even to the death of the cross. It was a great task which the Son of God was to do, but faithfully He performed His duty. As substitute for sinful man He led the perfect life, obeying the commandments of God in every respect and acquiring a clean dress of righteousness. As substitute for man He suffered the punishment which man was to have carried. His soul was exceedingly sorrowful even unto death. He was captured and bound by His enemies. He was maltreated, scourged, crowned with thorns. He was nailed to the accursed tree, on the cross was forsaken by God and after suffering intense pain and agony He bowed His head in death. But: "It is finished." He had cried out. His task was completed. Forgiveness was acquired, reconciliation between God and man was effected. Peace with God, rest for the soul is there. 1944 years after His birth, when disturbed and despairing souls are languishing in unbelief, man should know that on Golgatha God pronounced judgment over man. St. Paul expresses God's judgment in these words: "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." Yes, God's judgment of the world was pronounced on Calvary's Hill where He who knew of no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. There God's verdict was announced: My Son has carried the curse, has borne the punishment. You are free. Salvation was acquired.

But again it was not possible for man to apply this salvation to himself. He could not of his own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him. The message of the Gospel seemed foolishness unto him. But again God made it possible. He sends His Holy Spirit through the means of grace and He takes man by the hand, leads him to the storehouse of God's grace and through faith appropriates to him the salvation which Christ acquired. Man is sanctified by the Spirit of God, is made a saint, holy, precious in the sight of God. And all whom the Holy Ghost brings to faith, He also gathers and forms that invisible Church of God, the communion of saints.

Small in number, but now rich in spiritual blessings is this Church of God! The blessings which Christ has purchased

for their souls. Having the forgiveness of their sins they live in peace with their God. Since everything is removed that separated them from God, they do not fear God, they do not fear death, they do not fear the judgment. They know: "In Christ I perish not!" Their life becomes Christ-centered. They labor and struggle not to accumulate riches, but to serve their Lord. They are not afraid that posterity will consider their efforts foolishness, for they know that they have precious divine gifts to give to their children. They are prepared for sickness, adversity, poverty, death. Their Lord has given them the divine assurance: All things work together for good to them that love God. They acknowledge Christ as the Ruler and Governor of the world, whose mighty hand guides nations and individuals so that the Holy Christian Church is benefitted. When God permits wars to come, they humble themselves before the mighty hand of God and beg God to forgive them their sins. When the war strikes into their own homes and calls their sons away, they do not despair, but pat their sons on the shoulder and say: Go, in Jesus name, and your God who through Christ has become your best friend will lead you on the path of righteousness for His name's sake. That life is led with Christ in God. What a rich life! What a joyous life, life with God!

That others may partake of this life here in time and hereafter in eternity, Christ has commissioned His church to preach the Gospel to every creature. What the doubting, despairing, doomed world needs today, the Church of God has to offer, we Lutherans especially have to offer. Nothing but the pure Word of God, through which God's Spirit works faith in the heart, can satisfy the longing and the craving of man's soul. Faith in the meritorious redemption of God, trust in the guiding and saving hand of the Father, can bring true rest and satisfaction to the soul. It will not satisfy to say: It makes no difference what you believe, whether you are a Christian or a Jew, a Catholic or a Christian Scientist, as long as you believe in a Divine Being. That is bread that satisfieth not. (Is.55,2). And it is just such indifference over against the true religion shown by so many denominations that adds to the unrest and fear of the soul. The world needs the truth of God's Gospel as revealed in the inspired Word of God. That truth the Church of God possesses. That truth we Lutherans especially possess. In 1944 the command of the Lord of the church rings out more determined than ever before: Preach the message of God's love in Christ Jesus to the world! Make use of the mission opportunities which lie before you, you highly privileged members of God's kingdom!

III.

Let us, friends, not fail our Lord in this crucial period. God is counting on us to work for Him. He has endowed us with faith. We have seen on Calvary the supreme sacrifice of the Son of God, the sacrifice by which we live and through which we daily are enjoying the love and favor of our God. We are members of His kingdom. While it is day, let us work diligently, conscientiously to bring to the world the message of peace for which the soul of man craves. Let us do so as Synod, as congregation, as individuals.

God has joined us together in bonds of brotherly love... to cooperate in doing the Master's work. As Synod it is our

of the Gospel, and then to send them out into the world as messengers of peace. The Church needs young men and young women to instruct the children of the church in the one thing needful, to plant in those young hearts through the Gospel of Christ the saving faith and to foster that spiritual life which the Spirit of God has instilled in them. The Church needs young men who will consecrate themselves to the service of God in the Holy Ministry. How necessary that these men be educated in the saving truth of the Bible that they really are able to go out as ambassadors of God! It is our duty to see to it that they receive the necessary education. We must erect the necessary buildings and above all call consecrated teachers who themselves are filled with the Spirit of God and labor zealously to prepare the students for their work in God's kingdom. Many students are being educated at various seminaries, but so many, when they graduate, have nothing but a social gospel to present to the people, not a message of peace, simply because their instructors did not understand the true work of the ministry. Let us as Synod zealously guard our institutions, that they may remain workshops of the Spirit of God and really educate young men and women to be co-workers of the Lord.

And then Synod must not fail to send out these missionaries into the world. In near and distant fields of mission unnumbered souls are yearning for peace, and we are failing our Lord, we are not making the most of our opportunities if we do not supply the bread of life to the best of our ability. Synod has varied work to do which must be done, but home and foreign missions must always occupy the first place on Synod's calendar. Where too much emphasis is laid on secondary matters and the interest for missions lags, it is a sign of deterioration in Synod and Synod is surely not making the most of the opportunities which these times present.

One phase in which our Synod is doing fine mission work is the work that is being done by the Spiritual Welfare Commission. This war has called many of the Churches' sons and daughters away from home and church. After a strenuous training they are sent out into distant countries to meet the enemy in battle. Under the most trying circumstances they live and work and fight, many never to return, others to be brought back and hospitalized. Their faith is put to a severe test. Satan makes desperate efforts to kill their spiritual life and rob them of the rest for the soul. It is the Church's duty to follow their sons in the armed forces, help them to fight temptation and strengthen their faith. God has signally blessed the mission work which our Spiritual Welfare Commission has been doing in this respect. Their pamphlets which so breathe the air of faith and unswerving trust in the Father's guidance and which have followed our sons all over the world have not come back void. They have accomplished what pleased God and only eternity will reveal what immeasurable blessings have been brought to our sons and daughters by means of the Spiritual Welfare Commission.

Each local congregation should make the most of the opportunities which these times present. These opportunities may vary according to the location and conditions of the various congregations. But one thing is certain: Each congregation, large or small, in the city, village, or country, has a big job to do. Wherever they are situated.

there are souls to be found that are craving for spiritual food, there are souls that must be nurtured and fostered in the true faith. What work the Church can do upon its children! It is so easy in days of indifference and compromise for the children of the Church to get into the spirit of the times, to think as the world thinks and to live as the world lives. It is incumbent upon the Church to do what it can that its children may be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The Church has no better means to do this than the Christian Day School where the children sit at the feet of consecrated men and women who look upon the child as a Jeshiah, God's beloved, and, as Nathan worked upon young Solomon and made a repentant believing child of God out of him, build a true character in it by means of the powerful truth of the Gospel. Where it is impossible to maintain a Christian Day School, the congregation should develop its Sunday School, Saturday School, or instruction periods, so that the most possible knowledge of Scripture may be given to the children and they may learn in early youth that the life in God is the life that is worthwhile.

And then there are the unchurched in the community, not only souls that are steeped in sin, who also are mission material, but also souls that labor under the curse of the law, souls that are wondering, doubting, despairing in these troublesome times because they have no peace with God. What mission opportunities for the congregation! How eager the congregation should be to gather these souls in the fold of God and let them partake of the life in God which is so rich and joyous! It should adopt any method that is feasible under local conditions, to get in contact with the unchurched. Methods after all make little difference to God. He can accomplish as much through one method as through another. Whether every member of the congregation has been appointed a personal committee to watch the unchurched, speak to them, invite them to church, report to the pastor, etc., or whether the community has been divided into districts, a committee appointed for each district whose special duty is to get acquainted with unchurched or newcomers, invite them to attend the services, seek to get the children into the Christian Day School or Sunday School, report to the pastor, meet probably once a month with all representatives and discuss their work, or whether any other method is used, the congregation should make full use of its opportunities to do mission work.

And finally we have the individual member of the Church and it is the work of these thousands of individuals that is so important in mission work. No matter what mission work is done by Synod or the congregation, the individual is not excused from doing this work. God expects it of him. To every Christian God says: "Ye are the chosen generation, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, the peculiar people that ye should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2,9. Every Christian should show forth God's praises. God has performed many wonderful deeds which we can praise. Look at this world. In six days God created everything that is in and on and over the world. And He still governs it. His mighty hand is ruling the universe today so that not a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father, Christ says. He also preserves the world. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle and herb for the service of man, that he may bring forth food out of the earth. Considering these deeds we must exclaim with the psalmist: "O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all, and the earth is full of Thy riches." Ps. 104, 24.

He has called him out of darkness into his marvelous light. He should praise God's tender mercies by means of which he, a lost and condemned sinner, groping around in darkness and ignorance, was brought to the knowledge of the truth, was made a child of God and an heir to His eternal kingdom. He should preach the gospel of God's love in Christ.

What opportunities he has to do so. So many of his friends, neighbors, perhaps even relatives are lying in darkness concerning the salvation of their immortal soul. Remember, only they who have accepted Jesus as their Savior, have come to God's marvelous light. A man may lead a reputable life in this world, he may be a very good citizen, he may have oversubscribed his allotments to the different loans and other war activities, if he does not place his trust and hope solely in the meritorious redemption of Christ Jesus, the Son of God, he is lying in darkness. "Whosoever believeth not, shall be damned." Mk.16,16. Every Christian should take every opportunity that is offered to him to bring these people to the knowledge of the truth, to tell them of the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. That is not only the work of the pastor: no, each and every individual Christian is called by God to do so. It is this personal mission work done by individuals that is so necessary in our times.

Preach the gospel not only in words, but also in deeds. A Christian should live the Gospel. His outward conduct should stand in perfect agreement with the will of God. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven," Jesus says, Mt.5, 16. What a powerful sermon the Christian life of a God-fearing follower of Jesus can preach! What an indelible impression his observance of God's law can make upon the unchurched, just in these trying times! When the worldling lives in graft, greed and dishonesty, the Christian should show that he observes the 7th commandment and be honest in every business that he transacts, large or small. When the world thinks lightly of marriage and breaks it, as it will, the Christian should show that he considers marriage as a holy ordinance of God and not tear it asunder. As the children of this world live in riotous living, drunkenness, unchastity and fornication, a chaste and decent life should be led by all Christians, men and especially women. For it is true, the chastity of a nation depends upon the chastity of the women. Not that God has set a double standard, one for men, another for women. He demands that all of His children lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, because their body is a temple of the Holy Ghost. But we notice from Scripture that God admonishes the women especially to lead a sober and chaste life. Paul writes to Titus (2,4.5.): "That they may teach the young women to be sober.....to be discreet, chaste." To Timothy (2,9): "In like matter also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety." Again to Timothy (5,1-2): "Entreat the elder women as mothers, the younger as sisters, with all purity." And in Chapter 2, 15: "The women shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." The chaste and decent lives of all Christians, especially of women, can wield a great influence upon the world and help to stem the tide of immorality that is sweeping the nation. Live the Gospel which you preach.

And pray! Prayer is the powerful weapon which a child

of God can use so effectively in doing mission work. The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much, God says. What a wonderful promise. Make use of this blessed privilege that only a Christian has. Pray to God that He would give us young men who are willing to sacrifice their lives in bringing the gospel to the world. Pray for our missionaries who are laboring in near and distant fields of mission that God may crown their work with success and through their efforts bring many heathen to the knowledge of the truth. And when you freely and willingly give to the maintenance of this most difficult work, accompany your gift with the fervent prayer to the Lord that He may bless it and use it in the building of His kingdom. Pray to God that He would have mercy upon the world and give unto suffering mankind a speedy, just and lasting peace. Blessed are the peacemakers! The peacemakers in the war will not be found among the high and mighty in this world: they will be found among the children of God who on bended knees implored and besought and fought with God for victory and peace. Pray to God, and pray in Jesus' name. Only a prayer offered in the name of Jesus is pleasing to God. We heard and read many prayers that were spoken on the day of invasion. So many prayers were not spoken in a humble and contrite spirit. So many were not offered in the name of Jesus. Who is the mediator and who is our advocate with the Father? Isn't it Jesus? Unto whom is all power given in heaven and on earth, including the power to end wars and grant victory? Isn't it Jesus? Yes, Jesus is the name at which every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is the Lord to the glory of God the Father. And then the name of Jesus is deliberately omitted in prayers! How can the prayer be granted? The child of God prays in Jesus' name, and that prayer avails much.

What mission opportunities the church has in 1944!
Friends, you have these opportunities. Make the most of them!

Come labor on!
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain,
While all around him waves the golden grain,
And every servant hears the Master say:
Go, work today.

Come, labor on!
Away with gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak, but may do service here;
By feeblest agents can our God fulfill
His righteous will.

Come, labor on!
No time for rest, till glow the western skies,
And the long shadow o'er our pathway lies,
While a glad sound comes with the setting sun:
Servants, well done!

Come, labor on!
The toil is pleasant, the reward is sure,
Blessed are they who to the end endure,
How full their joy! How deep their rest shall be,
O Lord, in Thee.