



## THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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### BETTER ACTIVITIES

At one of the evening services held at the First M. E. church of Alliance, during the "Win My Chum-Week" which was recently observed by the Epworth League, Prof. T. R. Crawford, principal of the Alliance High school, gave an address on the subject, "Better Activities." It was so interesting and well received that the following extract from it is published:

This topic has been chosen because it depicts life as it is. Our activities may be classified into three groups, namely, business, social and moral.

Since "Efficiency" has become the watchword of this age, it will be well to attack this subject and these groups from this standpoint. Many books have been written on systems of business efficiency and of social culture. It seems to me that it will be well for us to take only one viewpoint, that of moral efficiency, as a starting point.

I am sure that all clear-minded business men and women appreciate the benefits to be derived from moral efficiency, in the business world. It is an undisputed fact that good character and good morals are prime essentials to business efficiency, whether it be in the office, the shop, on the street forum, or home. It is also well known that business people of the present day refuse to employ and to promote, in general, the persons who do not have these most essential qualities.

Yet there is one thing in the business that is not taken into sufficient account, and it is in this that the business and the social activities are correlated. This is the proper use of leisure time. Men build up extremely efficient systems in their business in order that they may have a better business and to allow them time for other things, and then they do not use this

time for a good purpose.

Both men and women are spending too much time at the club and at various other organizations and functions, and not sufficient time in their homes and in places that tend to build up rather than to destroy. It is a good thing to have amusement and pleasure. It is a splendid thing to have good friends; but it is far more important that our home life be rich and sweet, and that our schools and our churches and our homes become vital object lives.

If we spend all of our leisure time simply enjoying ourselves and gratifying our desires and our appetites, we are lowering ourselves toward the level of the beast.

Some men and women have time only for the pursuit of business and of work. They, too, are neglecting these most important of all activities, those that tend towards the education and upbuilding of humanity.

All of us have obligations towards our home that are unfulfilled. It may be the unspoken, kindly word or pleasant smile; it may be lack of appreciation of our loved ones, or it may be an unwillingness to take God into the home.

Practically all, if not all, of the divorce cases, of scandal and of crime, have come from homes in which there is no means of family worship. It is only the matter of a very few minutes to read a certain amount of Scripture each day, and yet it gives a sense of qualification and a love of true character and of good things that may come in no other way. It is only a little thing to ask God's blessing at meal time and at bed time, yet it avails much.

Most of our great men have come out of homes, not rich in money or in power of mind, but of homes rich in God, where the family altar is set up as a thing much to be desired.

Coupled with this, it behooves us to more fully cultivate a love of good things in literature and in art or music, and we would grow to such an extent that we have not thought ourselves capable of growing.

Our churches should command a greater portion of our time. If all the people who are church members would devote as much time to trying to get more people to live a Christian life and to rid their respective communities of evil influences, as they do to giving themselves up to various questionable amusements, the whole world could be won for Christ in a very short time. If we would apply the same business policies to our church work that we do to other work, we would not read such articles as one that was recently published in one of our leading periodicals, saying that the church does not have sufficient work for its members.

There would be a supervisory committee and a committee to open up new fields of endeavor and map out lines of work for each and every member of that church organization.

People go to church on Sunday and hear the minister preach on remission of sins and various kindred subjects, and go away from the meeting more stupefied and petrified than ever. Preaching the Gospel is O. K., but acting the Gospel and planning the Gospel are a thousand times more important.

Let's all take a stand for better activities in our lives.

### Filling the Stockings



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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