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ACTIVE RELIGION

THE CHURCH FOR MAN.

THE good of man is the objective of the authoritative Church. The principles of truth, comprised by true religion, are for the benefit and guidance of man in his daily acts. The Church, itself, is organized so that the members and all humanity may profit from the gift of the Gospel in their daily and various walks through life. Man is the most important thing on earth. All institutions of real worth are for the welfare of humanity. The greatest possible service to God, by church or individual, is to help perfect man—oneself and all others.

The Church, therefore, must find ways and means for helping its members in all the labours of their lives, in developing their latent powers, and in supplying their natural and proper wants.

THE KEY OF ACTIVITY.

Love and service, full life, are begotten by activity in a cause. The Church therefore offers full activity programmes, adapted to the needs of the members of varying ages and desires. The doctrine of a self-governing Church makes such help particularly possible. It is an accepted principle of the Church that every member in it should be given a task to do, a place to fill, a service to render. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been very successful in keeping its members active, and much of its remarkable strength has resulted, therefrom.

PRIESTHOOD ORGANIZATIONS.

All male members of the Church, of righteous life and sufficient age, have the Priesthood conferred upon them. The absence of a Priesthood class places the government of the Church in the hands of the members. The Priesthood is organized according to its grades into groups, known as quorums. These meet weekly to study important subjects in sacred or profane fields, and to

consider one another's welfare, as well as the needs of the Church. Educational and social, indoor and outdoor activities characterize the Priesthood programmes of the Church. By these means, the spirit of brotherhood, with mutual helpfulness, is developed—the great need of the world to-day. Thus, also, are the men of the Church qualified for their service in the Church.

The opportunity of officiating regularly in the meetings and ordinances of the Church, and the vast missionary system, voluntary and unpaid, develop men who know the Gospel and how to administer it.

THE RELIEF SOCIETY.

This organization for the mature women of the Church furnishes much wholesome activity, through study, work and social intercourse. The lesson subjects inform the women of Gospel principles and keep them abreast with world movements. The members conduct bazaars, excursions, social evenings, and a variety of other activities for the advancement of women. The sick and the poor are looked after by this organization. It is moved upon by the spirit of charity and progress.

The Relief Society is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, existing women's society in the world. It has a splendid record of outstanding service.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

This is an organization for all members of the Church. It meets every Sunday for a period of about one and one-half hours. It is essentially a school, a theological school, in which Gospel principles are taught to the whole membership of the Church. Carefully prepared courses of study, adapted to the increasing intelligence of children, or to the riper experience of adults, rotating progressively from year to year, train all Church members in the principles of the plan of salvation and their application to everyday affairs.

THE MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

This association is intended primarily for the young men and women of the Church, although provision is made for persons from fourteen years to old age. It is essentially a school of applied religion. It has in charge the recreational activities of the Church, as especially befitting youth. It also conducts study courses of high interest, and various divisions of it furnish acceptable activities to those of various ages. Like the other organizations, it meets weekly, with frequent special excursions, social evenings or enlightening and enjoyable programmes.

The M.I.A., as it is commonly called, is divided into the Young Men's and the Young Ladies' M.I.A. Each division frequently meets separately to conduct fitting programmes.

The Y.M.M.I.A. provides separate divisions for those of various ages: Boy Scouts, up to 15 years; Cubs, 15-17 years; M-Men, 17-23 years; and the joint adult class for the older people.

The Y.L.M.I.A. provides corresponding divisions: Beehive Girls, up to 15 years; Junior Girls, 15-17 years; Gleaner Girls, 17-23 years; and the joint adult class for older people.

The detailed activities in these various divisions are intensely interesting to the groups in question. Membership in the M.I.A. is a fascinating adventure.

THE PRIMARY ORGANIZATION.

This organization is intended for week-day instruction and play of children under 14 years of age. Small groups of children meet weekly in the Church or a home, where under the loving leadership of a teacher, also a volunteer member of the Church, the fourfold themes of the Primary exercises are engaged in: The Spiritual Theme; the Ethical Theme; the Health Theme; and the Play Theme. There are suitable divisions for children of various ages.

The Primary work has a fine uplifting effect upon children. The lessons learned remain with them throughout life.

GENEALOGICAL CLASS.

Adults who are interested in the gathering of their genealogies are provided help and inspiration for their work by this class. The interest in genealogy is derived from the doctrine of the Church pertaining to the salvation for the dead. If the ordinances of the Gospel are to be performed for the dead, the names and vital data of the dead must be known. Since each member is partly responsible for the dead of his own family, everyone becomes to some degree interested in his family genealogy. The Genealogical class furnishes an attractive activity to many Church members.

OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION.

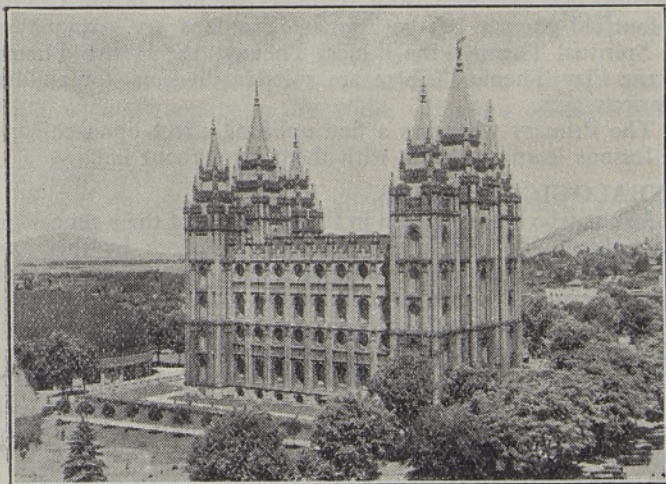
These many organizations, and others maintained by the Church, require a small army of official members. The Church is divided into small units known as wards or branches. In each of these all the foregoing organizations exist, as far as possible. Each organization has a presiding officer with two counsellors; a secretary with an assistant, and a corps of teachers and other helpers. These official families are drawn from the rank and

file of the membership. There is in such service an activity of peculiar merit, for it develops the power of initiative and leadership and gives practice in teaching and public speaking. The majority of the members of the Church, in addition to belonging to one or more, are officers of some of those organizations. The widespread benefits of this system are inestimable.

OPEN TO ALL.

Membership in the Church is not necessary for membership in the so-called auxiliary organizations. All are invited to join; and all who enter into the work with spirit, derive much benefit therefrom.

You are invited to meet these organizations and to become a member.



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