A MODEL CLUB for AGED WOMEN

A CONCEPT of a PROGRAM, FIRST SUGGESTED BY DR. LITTLE, THAT ONLY NOW IS AWAKENING THE COUNTRY to ITS NECESSITY

by Betty Little

"In everything give thanks, for this is the WILL of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1st Thessalonians 5:18. How often we, as Christians, fail to realize the importance of giving thanks in EVERYTHING. We pray "THY WILL BE DONE," yet, at times when our prayers are not answered quickly, or according to our desires, we become discouraged and fail to remember "...that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose," "... for He is faithful that promised." Romans 8:28 and Hebrews 10:23.

We receive letters from friends, near and far, telling of their interest in our work among the aged. I want to thank each one for their words of encouragement and their prayers.

For the benefit of our many, many hundreds of new readers I would like to give a few facts concerning The "51" Club for Women. In October 1951 a group of women suggested that we have a meeting once a week in our building for aged women who were seeking Christian fellowship. At the first meeting there were only seven present. Since that date several hundred have joined this group. Many of the members have since passed on to be with the Lord. Some day we will all meet again in heaven and what a time of rejoicing that will be.

It has been my great joy to minister to these women every Tuesday afternoon. Our meetings are always opened with prayer, the reading of God's Word, and the singing of Gospel hymns and choruses. A short Gospel message was given by Dr. Little when he was in town, and when his busy schedule permitted. This was the only Spiritual food some of these women received. I have often said, and it bears repeating — that the reason for this Club is to reach souls for the Lord, especially women who are near the sunset of life. In the average Church, many older folks are made to feel unwanted, because they can no longer work and give of their money. There are many, many lonely men and women all over the United States who would welcome such a Club in their community. The majority of these dear souls exist on a meager fixed income, such as social security and Old Age Assistance. Many of them live in furnished rooms and must go out for their meals, and find places to keep warm during the daylight hours when their rooms are not heated.

It is true, some have families — but, they are of a different generation. The younger generation does not want to be hampered with 'Old fashioned ideas,' and therefore they pamper the 'old folks' by placing them out of the way in a little room by themselves or by completely ignoring them and letting them shift for themselves. Then, there are a great many older folks who are childless, find themselves very much alone after their lifelong mates have passed on to their reward. Older folks in both cases, either unwanted or completely alone are in great need of genuine Christian fellowship and understanding. If you know of such a person near you — why not make it a habit of stopping long enough to say a kind word to them each day. You will receive a blessing, I know — because I have done it, with a little telephone call, or a cheerful greeting card.

(*Continued on page* 23)

A Model Club for Aged Women

(*Continued from page* 22)

The majority of the members of The "51" Club for Women come from Brooklyn and the other four Boroughs of New York City, as well as Long Island, Westchester County and New Jersey. Once a month we have a Birthday Party, at which time all those born within the current month are remembered by the members who sing "Happy Birthday" and they are presented with a Scriptural greeting card and an inexpensive gift. Friends have also made it possible to present each of the women with a rose as they are leaving the Birthday party — for we believe in giving the flowers while they can still smell the aroma, not loading the caskets after they are gone.

We spend a little time at each meeting reading an appropriate poem or thought from a book, newspaper or magazine. We also encourage the members to bring in such articles which may help the other members. Several of the members write little thoughts which they read at our meetings, and the following was brought in by a little lady who attends our meetings faithfully.

NOTHING TO DO

They tell me who know, and I'm sure it is true,
It is tough to wake up and have nothing to do.

Though rest by the weary is often desired,
One wearies of rest when he's no more required.

The young may look forward to sixty-five and say:
"When that time arrives I'll do nothing but play.

The alarm clock may ring, as on mornings before,
But I'll go back to sleep for an hour or two more."

But that "hour or two more" when the slumber is free
Man finds not as sweet as he thought it would be.

When at last he retires and his labors are o'er
He'd like to wake up to be busy once more.

"Stay busy," they say, "and don't ever retire!"
The hardest of seats is a chair by the fire.

Believe us. We've learned, since they said:
You are through."

It's tough to wake up and have nothing to do."

More than thirty years ago when I first entered this building to attend Sunday School (which is now the A.P.D.L. Headquarters, at that time it was a Dutch Reformed Church), I read a little motto hanging on the wall in the Christian Endeavor room. This 'Motto' still hangs in the same spot today—and has helped me over the years, by the Grace of God, to help others:

"I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something.
What I can do I ought to do,
And by the Grace of God I will do."

WE MAY TRAVEL THE SEA OF LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST — BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LANDING?