



"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."—LUKE 2:10.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."—LUKE 2:11.

### Our Soldiers and Sailors

DAVE FRAUTSCHI writes: "I appreciate you sending me one of the first copies of your paper. The set-up really looks good to me. It helps to take away the monotony, while away from home . . . Each person was allowed three gallons (of water) a day, for drinking, cooking and washing (while on maneuvers). We slept right out on the sand all the time. I heard of snakes being around, but none got me. There were quite a few spiders and tyranchilas. They make a person quite sick, but not serious. . ."

From Arizona, RAYMOND PULFER says: "It gets cold nights, but in the day time you couldn't ask for any better weather. I just looked out the window and you should see how nice it looks to see the grapefruit trees, loaded with large grapefruits. They are getting ripe. You see, we have a grove of fruit trees between each ward . . with these fruit trees (orange, grapefruit, and dates) and nice grass and flowers around it, it sure makes the hospital look nice. . ."

From England, LOUIS GETZ says: ". . . I was glad to receive the first issue of the new Sunday School Paper. I enjoyed it a lot. The articles in it were very good. I think that you have a wonderful project started; keep up the good work. When one is away from home, a little paper like that adds a ray of sunshine to one's life. A person does not realize this until he is away from his home and loved ones. Then when one receives a paper tell-

(Continued on page 3)

### THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

By HENRY BEER

As the year draws to a close, the winter days become shorter, yet there is a cheerful note, for the month of December brings with it the birthday of our dear Savior.

At this season we are mindful that the past year has brought anxiety and sorrow into many homes where loved ones have departed, and where the family ties are, as we hope, only temporarily broken. As the Christ-

many refreshing hours have been spent in fellowship with brethren and friends.

But most of all there is one central Figure whose name and presence crowns the season with blessing and a sacred joy. It is the memory of the birth of Christ, the Lord, which still has power to draw men's hearts and meditations away from earthly tumult and strife. The very thought of the babe of Bethlehem fills our hearts and theirs with love and tenderness. Good will and charity are most prevalent at this time.

Have you ever thought that the child Jesus was the only child of all ages whose birthday was announced to the world by angels from the realms of glory? Truly his birth and holy life upon earth, his death, and glorious resurrection and ascension to heaven comprise the dearest story that will ever be told to mortal man.

Without honor, fame, title, and regardless of race or color, men may look to Him for every temporal and spiritual gift. To know this blessed being, Christ the Lord, is the highest privilege granted unto men. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1. His everlasting arms are extended to shield all who place their trust in Him; His compassionate heart is ready to comfort the sorrowing and His presence may be felt by all who love Him in truth.

(Continued on page 4)

#### TREASURED VERSES

JOHN 3:16-18:

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

mas-tide approaches, some of our boys are in foreign lands, some upon the high seas, others on distant isles some in the arctic wastes, and many in camps of their home land.

Thoughts will turn to their homes and to loved ones. The endearing ties of those we hold dear, are renewed at this blessed time of the year. Thoughts will return to the church and Sunday School where

## SEASON'S CANDLES

The season is here for all people to light up their candles that their light may shine forth and bring joy to lonely hearts. This should be unnecessary for Christians, yet we often feel we must trim ourselves so our light will shine more brightly. This light originated some two thousand years ago with the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are thankful that the Spirit of our Lord is still with us lighting new candles and trimming others for more perfected light. For we are not just as a candle set here on earth that our light may shine forth and bring some of our dear loved ones to the feet of Jesus?

Our thoughts continually turn to our brethren and friends in the service, and we wonder how a light is able to shine with the clouds and noise of battle or preparation for battle all around them. With the hurry and rush of orders to keep moving, often leaving dead and wounded loved ones behind, were it not for the comforting thought that a better day is coming, we believe they could not carry on. We feel that due to the efforts of our young men and the help of God peace will again be ours. We must also realize that this better day may not come for us here on earth. Therefore, our candles must be trimmed and brightly burning to inherit a home above.

This is the season when all the Christian world turns thoughts to God. Spend much time in considering the birth of our Saviour if it be at church, Sunday School, or school plays or programs for our boys in the service all speak praise of our God and Father in Heaven and His Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. All Christians who have felt the love of Christ light up within themselves, extend a hearty invitation with the apostle Paul (as in Hebrews 3:15): ". . . Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, . . ." But accept the Blessed Saviour as your Redeemer.

—A. F.

"A Testament in a boy's pocket is as good a recommendation as he can get."

## Editorial ◀ ◀ ◀

As it is the purpose of this paper to bring light, cheer and comfort to our dearly beloved ones who in this cruel and perilous time have had to leave home and loved ones to serve their country in far and foreign lands, and likewise also to the home folk who have had the thick clouds of disappointment to obscure their cherished hopes of family ties and fellowship—we can think of no source of such light and comfort than can compare to the One whose birth we are now about to commemorate and celebrate—namely our Redeemer and Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ, whom we all have

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**Hymn for the Month**  
**"SILENT NIGHT"**

Silent night, Holy night!  
 All is calm, all is bright,  
 'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
 Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
 Sleep in heavenly peace,—  
 Sleep in heavenly peace!—

Silent night, Holy night!  
 Shepherds quake at the sight!  
 Glories stream from heaven afar,  
 Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;  
 Christ the Saviour is born,—  
 Christ the Saviour is born!—

Silent night, Holy night!  
 Son of God, loves pure light  
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,—  
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.—

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the privilege of calling unto in prayer. Yes, indeed! this is the source we would recommend to all. To you who have not yet called unto Him for salvation and help, we pray for you and urge you to seek his proffered atonement.

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men"—This song, sung by angelic hosts who heralded the birth of our Saviour could mean just that in these our days if we as individuals and nations had not forgotten our God. We must confess, O God, in Heaven that we have placed too much emphasis

and value on material things, and loved pleasures and the lusts of the eye and flesh more than Thee. Therefore we have forfeited our right to this Peace on earth, and brought about this mighty scourge of war.

But God in His Word has a remedy for all of the ills and blight of our sin-sick souls.

And likewise for all who will seek diligently in its pages, they can find therein promises and blessings which will turn the dark clouds inside out and shew forth the Silver Lining—God's love.

O safe to the Rock that is higher than I,  
 My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly;  
 So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be;  
 Thou blest "Rock of Ages," I'm hiding in Thee.

How oft in the conflict, when press'd by the foe,  
 I have fled to my Refuge and breathed out my woe;  
 How often when trials, like sea billows roll,  
 Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul.

—En. S.

**PRAYER FOR A SON IN SERVICE**

Dear God, wherever he may be to-night  
 Be with my boy: let naught his soul affright.  
 Keep strong within his heart faith's holy light  
 Take not away from him, Thy presence bright.

He was so young, dear God, to go away  
 And learn the ruthless horror of war's way  
 In darkest night, in coldest morning gray,  
 Oh, keep him! Let him not forget to pray.

Whatever hardships he may have to see,  
 If weal or woe his lot should chance to be,  
 If 'tis Thy will, please bring him back to me—  
 But always, ever, keep him safe with Thee.

**Amen.**

## ADDRESSES OF OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE

Cpl. Eugene Bahr  
3516 16th Ord Co.  
Camp Davis, N. C.

Pfc. Joseph Bahr  
A.S.N. 355540894  
69th F. T. Comp. F. Q.  
A.P.O. 4917 c/o P.M.  
New York, N. Y.

Theodore W. Bahr S. 2/c.  
U. S. S. Wolverine  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
Naval Armory  
Chicago, Ill.

Pvt. David Bertsch No. 35894267  
Co. B. 31st. Med Training  
Bn. Platoon  
Camp Grant, Ill.

Lt. Arthur J. Blume  
Co. B. 11th Brn. 3rd Regt. T. R. J. C.  
Fort McClellan, Alabama.

M./Sgt. Donald R. Bollier A.S.N. 15059597  
I. C. W.—A. T. C.  
22nd Transport Group  
77th Transport Sydn. A. P. O. 466  
New York City, N. Y.

Pfc. John J. Bollier 15374503  
1st P. G. Group  
Fighter Section  
Elgin Field, Fla.

A. S. Robert W. Bollier  
(No address at present.)

Sgt. Ted J. Bollier No. 35160227  
Hq. Btry. 256th AAA, AW Bn.  
San Francisco 9, Calif.

Pfc. Louis F. Getz  
A. S. N. No. 35764521  
429 Q. M. Platoon  
7th Photo Rcn Gp. A.P.O. 633  
c/o Postmaster,  
New York City, N. Y.

Pvt. Louis Kaminer  
Hq. & Hq. Sqdn. A. A. F. S. A. T.  
Orlando, Fla.

Cpl. Henry Kipfer No. 35166105  
581st. Q. M. Salvage Repair Bn.  
H. Q. Det.  
Camp Ellis, Ill.

Pvt. Richard Klopfenstein, No. 15328084  
Q. M. A.P.O. 454  
Camp J. T. Robinson  
Arkansas.

Cpl. Wm. Klopfenstein No. 35161661  
Bn. 9th Armd Div.  
A.P.O. 183 c/o Postmaster  
Los Angeles, Calif.

AV/S. Richard Lantz No. 35556022  
Squadron 108

Bks. T. 6517 Flight G.  
A. A. F. C. C.—S. A. A. C. C.  
San Antonio, Texas.

Sgt. Albert P. Norr  
Hq. & Hq. Battery H. D. L. A.  
Ft. Mac Arthur  
San Pedro, Calif.

Pfc. Raymond Pulfer  
Med. Det. Station Hospital  
Williamsfield  
Chandler, Arizona

Pfc. Harry R. Schwartz 15312959  
1545 S. U.  
314 W. Fowler  
W. Lafayette, Ind.

Pvt. L. D. Smith No. 36421390  
Armory: University of Ill.  
Co. 11—Bar. 44  
Champaign, Ill.

Edward G. Souder, S 2/c  
4th Deck. Bunk 599  
U S N T S—(sk)  
Victoria Hotel  
Boston 16, Mass.

Sgt. Russel R. Stieglitz  
Co. C. 1st Q. M. T. R.  
Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyo.

A/S Gaylord Widner  
Sqdn. 1, Sec. 64  
52nd C. T. D.  
Butler University  
Indianapolis 7, Ind.

**Notice soldier and sailors and their families:** Let *The Silver Lining* know immediately if you have a change in address. It would help us get the paper to you. May we have your help?—**Editor's Note.**

## OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

(Continued from page 1)

ing about all his friends back home, it adds a lot of extra strength to one's soul. I am enjoying very good health. . . ."

*From Louisiana,* LAURIN BERTSCH writes: ". . . Ever since I have been in the Service we have been having meetings of our own on Sundays. There are six brothers of our faith located at this camp. Also a couple friends who have been attending our meetings. We have a captain who is going out with us regularly. He enjoys it and says that we are doing the right thing . . . Our services consist of a few opening hymns after which a prayer is offered. Then we most generally have a sermon to read . . . After that we do some more singing

and close with another prayer. . . ."

AL NORR *says from California:* "Thanks a million for the Sunday School paper. It sure makes a fellow feel swell to know there are people who still remember the boys in service. There isn't anything new I can write about this place after being here so long. Everything is almost the same every day. One of these days maybe it will change. Say hello to everyone and thanks again for the paper."

JACK BOLLIER *says from Florida:* "I did receive your first issue of the 'Silver Lining' and was glad to get it . . . I liked it—enjoyed reading it very much, and liked especially well the news about the folks around home . . . Tell everyone I said hello and to keep the paper coming."

*From Great Lakes* ART FRAUTSCHI writes: "I was very glad to receive the first issue of the Silver Lining and I think you have a splendid idea. It does make one think that he isn't really so far away when you can read of the happenings and thoughts of your dear ones and friends. For as most of us feel here that they will only have to tell us once that our services are not needed. . . ."

*From West Lafayette* HARRY SCHWARTZ *says:* ". . . I received the second copy of *The Silver Lining*. I think it is a great paper and it is serving its purpose very well."

BILLY KLOPFENSTEIN *says:* "As I have just received a box of cookies from the Good Cheer Group and *The Silver Lining* two weeks ago, it's time I should get at a little answering. Your paper. 'The Silver Lining' is very, very good. You all would like to know what else we in the Service would want put in it. Well, to say what more there is to add to it would be very difficult. . . ."

EDDIE SOUDER *writes from Boston:* ". . . We started out at 4:00 Sunday afternoon on a horse-drawn wagon . . . We saw the old South Meeting Hall, the old North Church, Paul Revere's house, his grave, Bunker Hill Monument, Old Ironsides, the sight of Benjamin Franklin's newspaper, and many other things . . . I have talked to this fellow again. His name is . . ."

# N NEWS N

Did you know that at Dunkirk it was a heavy fog that came down and protected the English lads so that they could evacuate safely? It was only the second fog that Dunkirk ever had in a hundred years. And did you know that at one time the Germans had set out in barges to invade England and out of a calm sea came a terrible storm upsetting many barges and drowning thousands of Germans? A chaplain also told this fellow that the Russians had already given up Stalin-grad when like a bolt of thunder they came out on top. Some of these stories may sound a little far-fetched, but you can believe that they are true . . ."

## THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

Have you, my dear friends, called upon Him for divine help? "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 11: 13. How assuring is this promise!

May we at this Christmas tide not only think of His natal day, but also remember Him as the man of Galilee, who was God incarnated, and took the form of mortal man. He was vested with the power to lift men from their fallen estate to become the sons of God.

Oh, may a hunger and thirst arise within our hearts at this season of good will, even though we are living in a war torn world, and help us to resolve as David said in the comforting Psalm: "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple." Psalm 27:4.

Let us assure you, our brethren and friends, who are in the service of our government, that our thoughts are with you at this time, and our hearts are filled with sincere prayers and fond wishes for your welfare. It is our wish that you may welcome the Prince of Peace to set up His abode within your hearts. He is the Friend of friends and His abiding nearness is that abundant life, which is expressed in love, peace, and good will toward all men.

This story sweet,  
I would repeat,

Lend Farney from Wolcott, Indiana, came back to work at Bowser's in Fort Wayne and will be a regular Sunday School member from now on.

Joan Gudeman also from Wolcott is now working at the International Harvester Company and will be one of our Sunday School members.

A former Sunday School member, Edna Meiss, is back with us for a while again. She is working at the Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Co., in Fort Wayne. Edna had gone to her home in Cissna Park, Illinois last spring.

Our Sunday School attendance average was 75, compared with 72.2 for October, a gain of 2.8. On the 7th, 73 were there. Ruth Beery from Rittman, Ohio, visited us. Also present was A/S Gaylord Widner. On the 14th, it was also 73. Mary Aschliman of Fort Wayne and Mildred Isch of Bluffton visited us. Harry Schwartz was present, as was one of his friends Claus Nacke. On the 21st we had one visitor; Patricia Conrad; the attendance was 74. On the 28th, it was 80, Eugene and Ted Bahr were home. A/S Gaylord Widner and A/S Leland R. Yoss were present.

Cradle news: Mr. and Mrs. Lester Pulfer have a baby boy. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gerber have a baby girl. Glennie is quite proud of his new sister. Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Clauss have a baby boy named Kenneth. Mrs. Edith Gerber Leiberenz was in church November 14th with Max Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Amos Reinhart have a baby girl. Mrs. Reinhart was the former Martha Schweitzer.

Cpl. Henry Kipfer and his wife were home for Thanksgiving and Sunday the twenty-eighth.

Henry Groh has suffered a stroke and is still critically ill at this writing. He is making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Drayer.

Dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hall on Sunday, No-

And praise Him with my voice!  
For he who finds,  
Christ's peace of mind,  
He can not but rejoice.

ember 28, was Gaylord, Frank, Gerald, and Delored Widner, Leland R. Yoss, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Klopfenstein, and Henry Souder, Jr. Gaylord and Leland returned to Indianapolis afterwards.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman A. Norr have sold their home in Fort Wayne and moved to Leo.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Weutrich and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Heinold and son, Philip, Mrs. Henry Weutrich and her three daughters, Minerva, Nancy, and Marjorie were all visiting Mr. and Mrs. Otto Norrs. They and others were entertained at Ramas Schlatters, Saturday evening, November 27. Dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Schlatter were Weutrichs, Heinolds, and Mrs. Robert Norr's mother (Mrs. Meiss), her two brothers, and her sisters Edna and Margaret. Other friends came in to spend the evening with the guests.

Enjoyable services were held by Elders Elias Dotterer and Sam Aschliman on Sunday, November 14. Baptismal services were held in the afternoon.

Mrs. Otto Norr and Phil Clausses attended the funeral of Mrs. John Rassi on November 30 at Milford. Services were held by Harry Bucher of La Crosse and Joe Zimmerman from Roanoke.

Mrs. Herman Levy's mother had a stroke, and is very sick. She is at the hospital.

Class two, Dorothea Conrad teacher, has some new chairs. These chairs are a little larger than the ones formerly in use.

Art Clauss of Eureka died during the week before November 21. His funeral was held on Monday, November 22. He was well-known and took an active part in church work.

Frank Widner hurt his back or hip while at work for the General Electric. He is rapidly getting over any ill effects.

The church is being improved. Three window panes were put in our east door by Frank Snyder.

An announcement of an engagement of Ralph Kipfer and Miss Fern

Martin of Peoria, Illinois, was made on November 23. Miss Martin visited friends here Thanksgiving week.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Souder of Bremen, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schweitzer, Mrs. Cornelius Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Souder and sons Henry and Dwight, were out to a Thanksgiving dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Gerber and son and daughter of Laty, Ohio.

At Bremen, we learn William Lemans now have five sons in the service. Two left on November 24.

Elders Ernest Graf and Peter Bach are visiting the churches on the west coast, and we wish them God's blessing.

Edward Souder, S 2/c, has been moved recently to Boston, Massachusetts where he is attending storekeepers school at Burdette College.

Joe Bahr has been moved overseas.

Mrs. Joe Conrad was out to visit her two sisters in Archbold, Ohio, in November.

David Bertsch has been in the hospital for several weeks. He is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Winzler visited relatives in Chicago the weekend of November 30.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Getz visited with the Conrads in Portland, Oregon. They went to see their son who is in the Navy, somewhere in the West.

The Sewing Circle plans to meet Tuesday evening, December 8, at the home of Mrs. Henry Schwartz.

Art Schwartz leaves Wednesday, December 8, to be inducted into the Navy.

### CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

By JACOB FRAUTSCHI

Though the world is seething with trouble at this Christmas-time, let us begin this season like this: Open thou mine eyes, Lord, that I may behold the wondrous story of Thy love.

The most beautiful story in all the world is the record of the birth of Jesus, as given in Luke 2:8-20. It was the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, good tidings of the Saviour's coming, the hymn of praise of an immense heavenly choir, and the story of the wise men who followed a star.

Indeed: astronomers still insist that in the year before Jesus was born there was a formation of stars in the sky much like a grand parade of planets. Many of these stars were far, far away from their regular places in the sky. We can but believe that the Almighty God was proclaiming the fulfilment of His promise to send the Messiah! We can agree with the Psalmist, who said, All the Heavens declare the glory of God.

Christmas joys are more than feasting; exchanging of gifts; and family reunions. Christmas joys are of the soul, lasting into time and eternity. The soul rejoices in the coming of Jesus, and rejoices in His Death and Resurrection. Therein is your salvation and mine. We will take with us this joy and praise into that great beyond, and there we will continue the everlasting song of praise and thanks, praising the Lamb that was slain, but now liveth forever. Amen.

### THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

By V. K. SCHLATTER, age 12 years

Over nineteen hundred years ago  
In Bethlehem across the sea,  
Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, was  
born  
To save from sin both you and me.

The day our Lord was born  
Was our first Christmas Day.  
But! He did not come to live here  
long,  
He did not come to stay.

He came to sacrifice His life  
So we could live in peace on high;  
And when our battles here are ended  
We shall meet Him in the sky.

On this Christmas there is a war  
Which endangers the lives of many;  
There may be battles and hardships  
now  
But in heaven there won't be any.

Very soon there will come a day  
When Jesus will call all His loved  
ones home,  
They will live in peace and glory  
And dwell about His joyful throne.

"Only one life, it will soon be past;  
Only what's done for Jesus will last."

### THOUGHT GEMS

As the Shepherds' hearts were gladdened

By the angel's midnight song,  
May your hearts be cheered and strengthened  
And your faith keep ever strong.

Day and night, may God watch o'er you  
Helping you in all you do;  
Day and night may you keep growing—  
Stronger still to carry through.

Though the shadows grow and deepen,  
Though new doubts and fears oppress you,  
Day and night . . . with faith undaunted  
And new courage . . . May God bless you!

Selected.

### CHURCH HISTORY

Life, Conversion and Secession of S. H. Froehlich from the Church of State

(Continued from last month)

Summary: Mr. Froehlich was born in Brugg, Switzerland. From youth on he had one idea made a matter of course: devoting himself to the ministry. He went to school in his native city until seventeen, and then he went to school four years in Zurich. He said when he came home his head was full of fancies. Still in darkness, he went to Basel to study more.

"During my stay in Zurich I also entirely neglected prayer, even the mere mechanical prayer learned from childhood up seemed ridiculous to me. In Basel, 'Witschels Morning and Evening Sacrifice' appealed to my taste, not so much for the sake of prayer, but because it appealed to my idealism and with all my sins I wished to be pious. For that purpose those were the right 'sacrifices' which cost nothing. My benighted spirit had by the way in Basel the opportunity to cultivate and develop itself more. There were namely among the students some who belonged to the Community of Brethren. These were distasteful to me from their very name, without knowing any other cause. It was a blind zeal like that of Saul. I

became a scoffer, slanderer and blasphemer. Already on my transfer to Basel, I was commended by the state rector of my native city to the courtesy of one of his friends in Basel, Pastor P. He received me in a very friendly manner and introduced me at the very beginning, into a society of long standing composed of young students who met every Thursday evening to read and discuss the Greek New Testament. Of these students most were inclined towards the Community of Brethren. For this very reason I felt uncomfortable among them and in everything became an opponent.

"When they finally decided to begin and close the hour with song and prayer, I became angry and stayed away and also made others desert them, so that gradually the class almost disbanded, until after my conversion it was again brought to renewed life and blessing. Nevertheless, the true God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ was not alone in His exceeding patience and long suffering in bearing with me in this time of my blindness, for the dear Pastor P. was tireless in his endurance with me. As often as I visited him (which was not very frequently) he greeted me with the question: 'Well, how are things going in the most important matter of all?' What he meant by this and what the most important matter of all was—I could not imagine. Every time I became embarrassed and still did not wish to let him notice it. Once, however, when he asked me again as to the most important matter of all, I could not help but ask him the counter-question, what he meant by this. The dear pastor almost laughed at this question, but he composed himself, grasped the opportunity and began to preach to me of penance to God, knowledge of one's self, faith in Christ, etc. But he preached to deaf ears. I understood not a word of all he said.—His sermon seemed in part foolish to me, in part vexatious; nevertheless I was honest enough to write down at home in my diary the main thought which had stayed with me and as it still stands there under the date of April 6, 1824, namely: "Through the knowledge of God, man comes to the knowledge of

self: that is the truth which Christ taught us and to which we arrive only through penance." But that was all and besides I do not know whether I wrote it correctly for the sinner does not attain self knowledge through knowledge of God, but much more the reverse: "Through the knowledge of self, one comes to the knowledge of God." (John 16:8.)

"From that day on, however, a whole year passed before I felt the slightest trace of this knowledge of self and from the above it is clear that if the grace of God wished to make something of me to His glory, it certainly had in me the greatest of all sinners, a fit object in whom to manifest, even in me, the great riches of the patience and pity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that I in turn should have pity towards my brethren in the flesh who still wander in error along the course of this world and after the prince of darkness. Finally it pleased God well to waken me from the sleep of death. He passed by me and saw me lying in my blood. He said to me as I thus lay in my blood: "Thou shalt live!" (Ezekiel 16:6.)

"It was in the month of April 1825 when I was spending my Easter vacation in Brugg.—All the circumstances are as fresh in my mind today as if it had happened yesterday. I cannot even recall that there were many previous preparations or any special circumstances to work towards it. A very soft voice, which was neither terrifying nor depressing, but nevertheless very convincing and penetrating, spoke in the depth of my soul: 'It cannot remain thus with thee. Thou must change!'—And at the same time it drew me irresistibly onward.—I knelt for the first before the hidden God and with uplifted hands solemnly swore the oath of fidelity, that from now on it must be different with me. True, I did not as yet grasp and understand correctly what I said.—Indeed, I also did not as yet know the Lord Jesus Christ and the necessity of His atonement and redemption; for it was not yet the burden of my load of sin which had driven me to the Saviour of sinners, but merely the conviction: "Thou must change. Otherwise thou can'st not become a

minister.' From now on, with all earnestness and might I wished to shun the sin which I now recognized as sin and knew not that it did not lie within my power to overcome a mastery which had for so long bound me with chains of darkness. But it was as if the Lord, to whom I had made my vow, had taken me by my word, although it was really He who had taken me by the hand and drawn me to Him with all His goodness.

"Beginning with this day the whole scene changed. He left me no more. I found nowhere peace nor rest. My own body, indeed the whole world, became too narrow for me. I sought for something which should fill the endless emptiness which had now arisen in my soul and I did not find it. I went out into mountain and forest, knelt and prayed and cried out in lonesome places. My whole being was longing, sorrowfulness and anxiety. I sought the Lord Jesus Christ with ardent fervor and many tears. That was the first period of my awakening and in this condition I returned to Basel at the end of April. The first piece of literature that fell into my hands was a 'Fenelon's Religious Works,' translated by Claudius. In it I found for the first time a name for my spiritual condition, for up to this time I had been to myself an inexplicable riddle and I did not know what was to become of me. Therefore, it was in a measure a consolation to see that others had experienced similar things. Especially did I believe to recognize myself in the 14th Chapter of the first part, which bears the superscription: 'Concerning the inner working of God, to bring man back to the true end for which He created us.' As yet I was far from seeking to be represented therein. It was another who did lead me and He led me into an extraordinarily difficult and dark path.

(To be continued)

"A lonely heart that leans on God  
Is happy anywhere!"

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