



"And blessed is HE, who-  
soever shall not be of-  
fended in me."  
—Luke 7:23.

"I am come a light into  
the world, that whosoever  
believeth on me should not  
abide in darkness."  
—St. John 12:46.

## CHURCH HISTORY

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

(Summary: In previous issues we find Mr. Froehlich went to school in his native city, in Zurich, and in Basel. When he went to Basel, he was still in spiritual darkness. Pastor P. introduced him to a group of young students. In April 1825 a change came over him; Mr. Froehlich found nowhere peace nor rest.)

"Now for the first time my sufferings began. What I had to go through from now on is, in a literal sense, inexpressible. Everything that fire and water, hammer or sword may bring about, is as nothing compared with the unfathomable sea of trouble and misery wherein I thought I must sink. I wept night and day and writhed like a worm in the dust, when it is trodden upon. Had I authority over myself, I would often have taken my life through anguish and despair. But the Lord held me in His hand, in such a way that I could not move. The price that I paid was a higher one than this earthly life. Like Job, I lay in the dust. In no human being, in no friend could I confide, nor could I reveal myself to anyone. All theological or rationalistic lectures became an abomination to me, for I was now in another school.

"All of my letters of that date bear the stamp of my inner condition; my sisters feared that I was losing my mind because the tone of my letters was so radically different from what it had previously been; they consisted

(Continued on page 5)

## The Blessedness of Prayer

By Joe Zimmerman, Roanoke, Illinois.

To all of our brothers and friends who are in the service of the nation—  
Greetings:

(St. Luke 18:1) ". . . men ought always to pray, and not to faint." These words of the Lord are not merely a request, but it is the moral obligation of everyone to pray, and especially in these days that are filled with anguish and anxiety.

### TREASURED VERSES

PSALM 56:1-4

*"Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fight-  
ing daily oppresseth me.*

*"Mine enemies would daily swallow ME up: for THEY BE many that fight  
against me, O thou most High.*

*"What time I am afraid, I will trust  
in thee.*

*"In God I will praise his word, in  
God I have put my trust; I will not  
fear what flesh can do unto me."*

Already in days of old when the first apostles were cast into prison and had to suffer persecution, we find that they looked unto their Lord and Creator as their only source of help and comfort.

At the time when the apostle James was killed with the sword, and seeing that it pleased the Jews, King Herod also took Peter and cast him into prison. We can read how the

church and congregation prayed for his release and how wonderful the angel of the Lord came and awakened him from sleep between two guards and led him past the first and the second ward. They came to the iron gate that leadeth into the city, which opened to them on its own accord, and he was delivered out of the hands of Herod the king.

Also when the apostle Paul and Silas were in prison, and the jailor charged to keep them safely, they prayed and sang praises to the Lord and were delivered by means of an earthquake, and through this power of prayer and God many believed on the Lord and were baptized.

We have the same Lord in Heaven, and it is true as the prophet Isaiah spoke (59:1) ". . . the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear."

So it behooves all of us to pray for one another regardless of where we may be, or in what station of life, for all lines of communication to God are open even from the remotest parts of the earth.

"There's a Garden where Jesus is waiting, And I go with my Burdens and Care, Just to bow, and receive a new Blessing, In the Beautiful Garden of Prayer." How often when we approach His Throne of Grace humbly and sincerely have we experienced His help and nearness. He does not



require many words, only in truth and humbleness of heart and mind.

So let us not forget that prayer is the greatest and best weapon we have to combat the enemy of our souls in all trials and temptations. The Saviour said (St. Matthew 21:22), "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

So faith and prayer go well hand in hand unto every soul that puts their trust and confidence in our Lord and Saviour.

It is indeed a great, glorious privilege to participate in the blessedness of Heaven, and it was purchased for us at a great price, even the Precious Blood of Christ. And when we pause for a moment we do not appreciate enough what the Lord did for us, and the many promises, even eternal life, which will be ours if we remain true and faithful until the end. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise . . ." (II Peter 3:9.)

The Lord is still seated at the right hand of God upon the Mercy Seat calling and beckoning, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

In conclusion I would like to submit a little poem which I think has much meaning.

#### A Prayer in Trial

When trials come upon me,  
Whatever it may be,  
I look to Thee, Lord Jesus  
And ask Thee, trustingly;  
Lord, give me strength to bear this,  
And faith that does not doubt,  
That crosses have a purpose,  
Which some day I'll find out.

I know Thou wilt not send me  
A test I cannot stand;  
Be with me, O my Saviour,  
Uphold me with Thy hand;  
Send me Thy Holy Spirit,  
That I may not despair;  
Grant me a cheerful spirit  
And freedom from all care.

As long as I am living,  
Be Thou my constant stay;  
Grant Me Thine own sweet comfort  
And peace, Lord, every day;  
Then, when my life is ended,  
My troubles and my care,  
I'll join the Holy Angels,  
To praise Thee ever there.

## Editorial ▲ ▲ ▲

### THE BLESSINGS IN SINGING

As we pause for calm reflection in these troubled times of war, we realize what uplifting spirits can come from singing. We do not need excitement or sensational pleasure, but help and comfort. Those whose pink and purple of life's sunset are meeting and mingling with the golden glow of Eternity's morning, as well as those who know not what tomorrow brings, enjoy the songs of mother, love, home, and Heaven.

A song can lighten our spirits, bring us comfort, or make us forget our troubles. As we all know, many people have entered death's door with a song on their lips. Our soldiers, sailors, and all persons in service are spurred on to their tasks by singing. Many children sing songs of praise and prayer before they know their full meaning. It all brings out the music of the heart.

### Hymn for the Month

Notice, soldiers and sailors and their families: Let **THE SILVER LINING** know if you have a favorite hymn you would like printed.—Editor's Note.

#### I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious  
Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine can peace  
afford.

I need Thee ev'ry hour; Stay Thou  
near by;  
Temptations lose their pow'r, When  
Thou art nigh.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, In joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, Or life is  
vain.

I need Thee ev'ry hour; Teach me  
Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises in me fulfil.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most Holy  
One;  
Oh, make me Thine indeed, Thou  
blessed Son.

Chorus:

I need Thee, oh! I need Thee; Ev'ry  
hour I need Thee;  
O bless me now, my Saviour! I come  
to Thee.

Many beautiful prayers are written in song. Sometimes when difficulties and misfortune beset us it is hard to find the right words for prayer. A song then will help us to restore our faith in the Almighty.

And so as we pass along life's pathway let us remember and sing these beautiful words:

Some build their Castles in Ireland,  
Some build their Castles in Spain  
But I'll build my Castle in Heaven  
Where there's sunshine and no rain;  
Where every one loves each other,  
And lends a helping hand  
I'll build my Castle in Heaven,  
And not of stone and sand.

Chorus—

I'll build my Castle in Heaven  
'Way up there in the blue,  
And the door will always be open,  
To you, my friends, to you;  
Oh, there we'll always be happy,  
No sorrow lingers there,  
There's only a one-way ticket,  
And that's your ticket of prayer.

Earthly treasures I know are wonder-  
ful,  
Beautiful I must confess,  
But when you pass to eternal  
You must have peace and rest;  
So open your heart to Jesus,  
And be a friend to man,  
Build your Castle in Heaven,  
And not of stone and sand.

—Louis W. Gerber,  
Bremen, Ind.

### THE GOLDEN AGE AND ITS BLESSEDNESS

" . . . Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." I Cor. 2:9.

When once the clouds disappear and the silver lining turns into glittering gold, man's inheritance, which was lost in Eden, will be restored and redemption completed. What a glorious day of restitution! The present conditions will be renovated, and the stream of time will have emptied its volume into the boundless ocean of eternity.



## NEWS

Nations rise and fall, but the handiwork of God goes on weaving the great tapestry of the earth, the beauty thereof we admire. It is carpeted with green and flowers, waving with pleasant harvests and shady trees, girded with glorious mountains, gushing with water springs, gladdened with laughing brooks, ribboned with rivers that wind in beauty about the rocky promontories, and girded about with the crystal girdle of the ruffled sea. Also there is youthful springtimes, bursting out with myriad life under all the dewy steps and the sweet melodious songs of the birds in their attire of beauty and color. These are only a few of God's handiworks.

But with all those beauties, it is still the old earth in its soiled and workaday garb, where the miseries of a deep, dark, and universal apostasy from God holds sway.

Out of this will come a changed world no more under the curse, whose soil is never moistened with tears or saturated with human blood, whose sod shall never again be cut with graves of our loved ones or blocked with armed men and young sons going to war, an earth whose hills ever flow with salvation, and whose valleys know only the sweetness of Jehovah's smiles, clothed with the eternal blessedness of A GOLDEN AGE.

Now let us draw back the heavenly curtains and take a glimpse at some of the inexpressible things that the Apostles saw and heard. A magnificent city beyond human imagination, a city of pure gold like unto clear glass, the foundations of the wall are jasper and garnished with all manner of precious stones, the gates are pearl and the streets are of pure gold. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it, and the redeemed shall walk in the light of it, and the angel bands, who greet us with their song, with harps of gold, which in their radiance glisten.

In the garden of God, they saw a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb: A drink of this water and you shall never thirst again. . . . And in the midst of the street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bare twelve

Our Sunday School attendance average for January was 80, a gain of 12.2% from December. On the second, 88 were there. Gaylord Widner was with us, also Joan Horn of Harlan. David and Marie Bertsch were with us the 9th, totaling the attendance at 80. Jan. 16th 75 were present, including Barbara, Marian, John, and Charles J. Souder of Mansfield, Ohio, and Eleanor, Maurice, Verlin and Twila Stoller of Fort Wayne. Pfc. Harry Schwartz was home also. 62 were present on the

manners of fruit, and yielded her fruits every month: And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and the Lamb shall be in it: And they shall see his face.

The curtains are closed, and we return to the duties of life, where we find ourselves in a world polluted with sin and its consequences, where there are joys and sorrows, many homes have vacant chairs, faces missing in Sunday Schools and churches, with loved ones gone. We at home shall endeavor to keep the lamps burning in the windows, and wait for a time when broken families again will reunite and peace will reign over the nations. If God in His infinite love should see otherwise so this reunion will not take place on this side of the river, when you hear your oars slipping into the deep dark waters, may the Great Master steer your boat safely to the beautiful shore of the Golden Age of ETERNITY. Always keep in view Jer. 33:3: "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Lord Jesus, beneath the Silver Lining,  
We light our flickering lamps at  
HOME;

And where bewildering shadows  
throng

Uplift our prayers in heavenly tone;  
Thou dost, with heaven in Thy kin  
Still seek a dwelling place for men,  
Wandering the world in ceaseless  
quest

That wait Thy presence to be blessed.

Elias Souder.

23rd, Pfc. Harry Schwartz was with us again. On the 30th, a record attendance for nearly a year was made when 95 were present. Visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gutwein, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wuethrick, Minerva and Nancy Wuethrick, Dorothy, Margaret, Harold, Willis, and Junior Gutwein from Francesville, and Marion Aschliman of Fort Wayne. Adam Gutwein and Chris Wuethrick were guest teachers.

Rev. Elias Dotterer visited Leo church the Sunday of January 30th.

Laurin Bertsch writes: "Greetings: I was happy to receive the Silver Lining today. It was a bit delayed, due to the fact that my address was changed in the meantime. I wish to thank you for the effort you are putting forth to get the Silver Lining to us regardless where we are located. It is really a treat to receive all the news contained in your paper, especially when one is so far away from home. From my present address you will notice that I am somewhere in the Pacific. We have a fairly nice place and are getting plenty to eat. That is about all that I can tell you about our present location, due to censorship. Our journey across wasn't so bad, quite interesting at times. Must close for this time. Wishing to thank you again. May God's richest blessings be upon us, and all who seek to follow righteousness. Sincerely, Sgt. Laurin Bertsch."

On Sunday evening, January 30, 1944, our Young People's meeting was held at Fort Wayne. Our theme of the evening was "Faith and Hope in the New Year," which afforded many beautiful thoughts and songs. The meeting was opened with a song by the group—"My Faith Looks up to Thee." Marjorie Zimmerman gave a welcoming poem, which was followed by the minutes of the last meeting given by Ethelyn Schlatter. Morris Frank gave a reading which was followed by a song from a trio concerning Morris' recitation. "Trust In Him Also" was given by Henry Souder, and "Hope On" was sung by



### ADDRESSES OF OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE

Cpl. Eugene Bahr  
3516th Ordnance  
Camp Davis, N. C.

Pfc. Joseph Bahr  
35540894  
69th Sta. Comp. Sq.  
A.P.O. 638 c/o P.M.  
New York City, 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 1  
Camp Grant, Ill.

Lt. Arthur J. Blume O-408671  
H. Q. 15th Bn. I.R.T.C.  
Ft. McClellan, Alabama

M./Sgt. Donald R. Bollier 15059597  
I. C. W.—A. T. C.  
Station 4, Area  
c/o Postmaster, A. P. O. 466  
New York City, N. Y.

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

Robert W. Bollier S 2/c  
Unit X—X. M. C.  
N. T. S. N. O. B.  
Norfolk, Va.

Sgt. Ted J. Bollier No. 35160227  
Hq. Btry 246th AAA, AWBn.  
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 O. Kipfer No. 35166105  
1672nd S. U.  
Section A.  
Fort Sheridan, Ill.

Pvt. Richard Klopfenstein, No. 15328084  
66th Q. M. A. P. O. 454  
Camp J. T. Robinson  
Arkansas.

Cpl. Wm. Klopfenstein No. 35161661  
Hdqs. Co. 93rd Signal Bn.  
APO 183 c/o Postmaster  
Los Angeles, Calif.

AV/C Richard Lantz No. 35556022  
Gp. G. 881st Tr. Wing  
Sqd. 66

A. A. F. P. S. (P) 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 No. 35325674  
Med. Det. Station Hospital  
Williamsfield  
Chandler, Arizona

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

Pvt. L. D. Smith No. 36421390  
Co. 11—Bar. 44  
Armory; University of Ill.  
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  
Hq. 32nd Q. M. Salvage Depot  
Camp Lee, Va.

A/S Gaylord Widner  
A.S.N. 35558363  
Sqd. 103 Flight J-1  
AAFCC—SAACC  
San Antonio, Texas

**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.**

Erma Joy Steiner and a guest, Pearl Neuhouser. A group sang "Blessed Assurance." Other numbers were given by Elaine Norr and V. K. Schlatter. "Faith is the Victory" was presented by our Sunday School Teachers' Trio and Philipina Levy. We were honored at our meeting by Mr. Adam Gutwein and his family, also the Chris Wuetrich family of Francesville. Mr. Gutwein was our guest speaker of the evening. His son and daughter sang several beautiful songs on faith and hope. Mr. Wuetrich closed the meeting with a prayer. All who were present spent an inspiring evening.

"I think your Sunday School paper is very good. It lets you know that the folks back home are thinking of you. It is little things that are in your paper that we like to know.

Keep up the good work. Gaylord Widner."

Eugene Bahr was home on the ninth of January. Pfc. Harry Schwartz was home on furlough. Cpl. and Mrs. Henry Kipfer were in Leo on the 23rd of January. Cpl. Jack Bollier was also home on the 23rd. Mrs. David Bertsch spent nearly two weeks at home this month. Her husband, David, was here the ninth of January, his first visit since he entered the Army. David is now back at Camp Grant in the hospital with a back ailment. Mrs. Russel Stieglitz and her daughter Karen are staying with Russel's parents. Little baby Conrad Getz, son of Pfc. Louis Getz, has his first teeth. Helen Klopfenstein is engaged to Cadet Orangewade Maxfield at Leo. Cadet Maxfield is stationed with the air corps at Craig Field, Alabama.

Lt. A. J. Blume writes: "We get the 'Silver Lining' and it recalls old times when we went to Leo church." Ruth and Russel Stieglitz write: "Just a few lines to express our appreciation of 'The Silver Lining.' We enjoyed reading it very much. Cpl. and Mrs. John Eliasser, from Illinois, who are out here, also enjoyed reading it. They asked us to let them read each copy."

Wedding bells: Mary Ella Laukauf, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Laukauf of Latty, Ohio, will be married to Florian Klopfenstein. Mr. and Mrs. Martin A. Anderson announce the marriage of their daughter, Mary Leslie, to Nelson Gerber of the United States Army Air Corps. The wedding took place on Dec. 27, 1943. Mr. Gerber is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gerber of South Bend. Ralph Kipfer was married on the ninth of January to Fern Martin of Peoria, Ill. A reception was held on the 16th at the home of Ralph's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich Kipfer.

Mrs. Aaron Schwartz and Mrs. Pauline Levy with Mr. and Mrs. Grover Levy of Decatur and Mr. and Mrs. Menas Levy of Ossian were at Indianapolis, Sunday, January 16th to see Ervin Levy, who is a patient at the Robert Long Hospital with a serious heart ailment. Cora Levy is at home again after visiting with her



son, Logan, and his family, in Chicago for a few weeks. Mrs. Victor Stavenik, Sr., of Mansfield, Ohio, is visiting her daughters, Mrs. Mildred Schlatter and Mrs. H. A. Norr. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Klopfenstein, Mr. and Mrs. David Lantz and Lowell, Mr. and Mrs. Al Frautschi, and Mr. and Mrs. Elias Souder and sons Henry and Dwight visited Mr. and Mrs. Walt Gerbers' Sunday evening, December 23.

Billy Klopfenstein writes: "I received the two books 'Wonderful Jesus' and 'Daily Strength for Daily Needs' which I have enjoyed very much. The book 'Wonderful Jesus' is a very good living example of how men could be happier through the power of God, than through his own weak mind. . . . I also received the sewing kit from the 'Good Cheer Group' and appreciate it very much even tho' I'm a very good 'stitcher' they have come in handy. New Year's day I visited Albert Norr for a few minutes at his camp."

Funeral services were held for Henry Groh on the 12th of January. Rev. Joe Klotzle came to honor the passing of a staunch Christian. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Sam Aeschliman for Mrs. Benjamin Speigher at Bluffton church on January 30th.

Wednesday evening the Leo congregation gathered to hear the visiting elders and ministers. Noah Schrock, and daughter Lois, Sam Aeschliman, Joe Klotzle, Henry Beer, and Henry Dotterer were here. A message long to be remembered was heard. Noah Schrock and daughter Lois visited his uncle Paul Gerber and family and enjoyed the Lord's Supper with them. Thursday evening Noah and his daughter were at Latty, Ohio. Sunday, January 16, Noah Schrock was at Bluffton, Ind. A blessed day was had by all. Fourteen souls were added to the flock through baptism. Friends and visitors were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Moser for Sunday dinner.

Rev. Will Fiechter, of Bluffton, conducted the Wednesday evening services at Fort Wayne. Some of the young people from Bluffton also attended.

Thursday evening services were held at Ed Schlatters' on the 20th. On the 27th Thursday evening services were held at Joel Souders' home. After the services the Good Cheer Group packed cookies for the soldier boys.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Norr, Mrs. Mildred Schlatter, Mrs. Victor Stavenik, Sr., V. K. Schlatter, and Elaine Norr were in Bluffton on the 30th of January. Mr. and Mrs. Elias Souder and family, Mr. and Mrs. Al Frautschi, and Mr. Ed. Getz were in Bluffton on the 16th of January.

Clarence Klopfenstein of Leo has suffered from several heart attacks.

"Once, during a particularly violent raid, I leaped into a fox-hole, only to find a sergeant already there. We squeezed in together. Presently I found myself praying out loud. The sergeant was praying, too. He prayed almost as loud as I did. When the attack was over, I turned to him and said, 'Sergeant, I noticed you were praying.'

"The sergeant didn't bat an eye. 'Sir,' he said, 'there are no atheists in fox-holes!'"

—An incident related by Col. Warren J. Clear, of the United States Army, shortly after he returned from Corregidor fortress.

## CHURCH HISTORY

(Continued from page 1)

for the most part of Scriptural passages. For a long time I remained in this fiery furnace, until at length faith in Jesus Christ, the Crucified, brought me rest, peace and light had made place within me for a new creation. From then on Jesus Christ was the centre of my whole life and sphere of activity. However, I was kept constantly under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, for not until now did the struggle against my old nature and against the law of sin which dwelt in my very members, become serious. But even with all my new transgressions, the loyalty of the Lord did not forsake me; both of these things, my sin and His grace, humbled me greatly.

"That was my last half year in Basel and the second period of my conversion from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. And so after a stay of two years, I was

obliged to return to my home, principally for economic reasons, in the month of October, 1825.

"Here in my father's house began now a new school or period of my life in which I was to be further trained, developed, strengthened, invigorated and grounded, so that I would not enter as a novice into the important office which preaches atonement.

"Soon after my return to my father's house I applied for the examination as a candidate for the ministry, which was postponed to the following Spring, 1826, because still others were to take it. At the request of my parents, I also preached for the first time in my native city, the Sunday before Christmas, on John 8:31-36 and met with such general approval, that I should have become anxious and afraid if the honor of the Lord had not counted for more with me than all personal vain glory among men. From then on I did not preach any more until Good Friday, 1826 and in the meantime I quietly prepared myself for the impending examination, for only now did I grasp how much was required in preparation for it and how much time I had lost.

"On the Friday in question, I preached again in my native city and that was to prove for me a vertiable Good Friday: instead of expressions of praise, I reaped only ridicule and reproach; I was to experience that too. Instead, it produced an entirely different effect from that of the praises I had received. It was necessary and wholesome for me.

"Now, for two entire years there came over me a fiery tribulation that is beyond description. Only He who knows the heart, knows what I have suffered through it. I preached Christ here, there and everywhere in the country. But in every minister who allowed me to preach, I gained a new opponent. With such preparations and forebodings I approached my examination.

"The work required for the examination began in the month of May, 1826: The first was a Latin dissertation on the theme: 'De Verbo Dei tamquam medio gratiae.'

"The second was the so-called trial sermon on John 7:16-17: 'Jesus an-



swered them and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself.'

"Four principles which I brought to light in these two compositions, made such an unfavorable impression upon the members of the church council, that I failed in the examination and was put back a year. The Lord had resolved upon this also for my further testing and purification.

"In the course of this year, oppression and misery often rose to the extreme, both outwardly and inwardly. After a sermon which I was compelled to preach in September, 1826, in the church belonging to a member of the Church Council, among other things, he wrote to my parents, who were already troubled and dissatisfied because of my set-back, even without this added cause: 'It is bad and dangerous (and this impressed the whole church council at the trial sermon) that your son is not on the right road with regard to his doctrine and teaching, and in all sincerity he should be advised to enter upon a better course, if he wished to be accepted into the ministry and is to make the proper success of his future calling. On this point I gave him my opinion in a friendly and earnest way; now it depends upon whether he will give ear to good counsel. In any case he will do well if he will soon present to the church council, new sermons composed in a different spirit.' That was the occasion that also in my case the saying should be fulfilled: 'A man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

"From this quarter too, they now began to vehemently urge upon me the fact that I should preach in a different manner and indeed like others, so that I be not excluded forever from the ministry. I, however, could not say a word in answer to this. In the midst of the blows and storms, I had to keep still like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, like a sheep which is mute before its shear-er and does not open its mouth.

"The Lord, however, amidst all these attacks of the foe, still gave me patience and courage to endure every-thing. Yea, even death, rather than

abandon the recognized and experienced truth. With it all, however, I had to go through fire, as it is prophesied unto those whom the Lord would prepare as Levites for the spiritual house and altar.

"Moreover during this whole time I was so bound in spirit and depressed by such a feeling of incapability that I was hardly able, in a whole month, to put one sermon on paper.

"With all this my body was not spared. In that very month of September, 1826, I had a sudden attack of sharp pain in the chest, so violent that I could hardly draw a breath and for many days seemed near death. This was followed, for an entire year, by cramps in the chest and a most difficult respiration. But never did I experience more vividly in my heart the unspeakable friendliness of the Lord Jesus than just at this time, toward the end of the year 1826. Without doubt it was to strengthen and prepare me for the ensuing darkness and the storms of opposition.

"Finally in May 1827, I was called upon again for the oral examination and was accepted through no fault of mine and ordained to the ministry. But for a while there was still no thought of a position and my suffering continued another year inwardly and outwardly, until Easter, 1828. Then unexpectedly the Lord opened up an opportunity for me beyond my native land, when I received the call and appointment as a tutor in a family by the name of G— in F—, near Schaffhausen. Here too, I was still under the yoke of affliction, the after effect, as it were, of my one and a half years of suffering at Brugg, although I had the comfort and joy of coming into closer acquaintance with many loving and devout Christians in Schaffhausen. It was not until my transfer to the Vicariate of the Probstei Wagenhausen in Thurgau in August 1828 that an essential change in me took place. There my spirit became a thing of life; there I felt really in my element. With much joy and as I hope to God, not without a lasting blessing. I could testify to Jesus Christ, although not more than four months were granted me for work in this place; for in November my superior died and on the very day of his

death I received a call from the consistory of Aargau to go as vicar to the Congregation of Leutweil, a call which I was obliged to accept without delay. This occurred in the beginning of Dec. 1828. Although in general very little piety and still less true Christianity is found in Aargau (in witness of which is the law according to which every so-called Conventicle, where but two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, is forbidden with 200 Francs fine), yet the members of my new congregation in general had the reputation before all men, of being an ungodly and a degraded people.

"I was substituted for the former pastor, (who, however, was allowed to remain in the parsonage) because he had been convicted of open deeds of shame. Accordingly I could not resolve to make my appearance there as the voice of one in the wilderness. The hand of the Lord was with me. He gave such strength unto His Word that the testimony of the crucified Christ cut like a two-edged sword through their hearts and overthrew one proud fortress of Satan after the other.

(To be continued)

#### THOUGHT GEMS

God's will

Nothing more

Nothing less

Nothing else.

\* \* \*

Skies may be dark with storm  
While fierce the north wind blows,  
Yet earth at heart is warm,  
And the snowdrift hides the rose.

\* \* \*

To err is human, to forgive divine.

\* \* \*

"No cross, no crown."

\* \* \*

They are never alone, who are accompanied by noble thoughts.

\* \* \*

The shadow of sin covers the light  
of too many who should bear testi-  
mony for Christ.

#### THE SILVER LINING

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