



"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." — St. John 16:33.

"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." — Psalms 36:7.

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GRABILL, INDIANA

September 15, 1945

Excerpts From Letters of Elder Emil Schubert

With sincere gratitude we wish to express our thanks to our dear Brother and Elder, Emil Schubert, of Peoria, Ill., for the letter of encouragement, wishing the Silver Lining spiritual guidance and lending a helping hand to get the Gospel out to those in foreign lands as well as those in this country. He also expresses his thanks for receiving the Silver Lining. May God grant him health and strength to continue many days yet to labor on till the close of day.

With unrestricted permission we will endeavor to print in the Silver Lining some of his writing, well deserving space. May many receive a spiritual blessing from these words!

Quote:

Grace be with you and peace from God, our Father in Heaven, in whose loving kindness only the human heart may find inner contentment with true happiness.

Receiving your paper, "Silver Lining," for quite a while, I feel induced for expressing to you appreciation for thus remembering me. Not without a deep interest I am following the various thought expressions of things eternal as well as timely.

What a glory may unfold itself, when the limitations of the human heart and mind no more can obstruct

(Continued on page 3)

The Greatest Thing In the World

By Elder Philip Beyer, Castorland, New York

No doubt, many who read this title will wonder, "What can this thing be?" It is certainly not any of the world's wonders — natural or man-made — nor any discovery of science; nor yet the recent discovery of atomic energy, great as are its possibilities for good or evil—even eventually the destruction of all life on earth. Nor is it the **peace** which

meditation of the Chapter being the basis of this article. Why the translation rendered this word **charity** instead of **love** we cannot tell. Some of the older Bibles have rendered it love; in the American revised Bible it reads of **love**; in the German language it is "die liebe" or **the love** to distinguish it from different expressions of love, all of which are a part of **the love**.

TREASURED VERSES

Psalm 138:6-8

Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

has come after being so long prayed for, and which has cost so many precious lives. Then some may think it must be **faith**, so needful to every soul for the working out of its salvation.

But there is one thing mentioned in the Scriptures that is still greater; and that thing is **charity** or **the love**. Our authority for this is found in the first letter of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians, 13th Chapter; study and

Now as we read this Chapter we find that the Apostle contrasts love with many things which were highly esteemed in his day; first, with the gift of oratory of men and angels; there being at that time a belief prevalent that there was an angelic language which was the key to many mysteries—a language which some had claimed they had learned. But this gift without love would be only as an instrument which has no life in itself.

Then he contrasts love with the much desired gift of prophecy; and with the understanding of mysteries; that is, the unexplored secrets of Nature. He also contrasts it with all knowledge; and with faith — even such faith that could move mountains. Without this love to God and man as the principle and motive of all our conduct, he says we are nothing; nothing in the sight of God; nothing in the church; and good for nothing to mankind. And though we bestow all our goods to feed the poor,

without love it will profit us nothing. Here is proof that charity in one sense of the word is not what the Apostle means; for surely, liberality to the poor, and alms giving (as the dictionary defines the word charity) can go on further than to give all. And even if we should give our bodies to be burned, and have not this love, it will profit us nothing.

So much for the contrast. Now we find that the Apostle goes on to analyze and explain what love is, and how it influences mankind. First, love is long-suffering; that is, patient in adversities and trials, and willing to wait on the Lord. Love is kind; that is tender and compassionate in itself, and kind and obliging to others; submissive to God; and it creates trouble for no one. Love envieth not, is not grieved because another possesses a greater portion of earthly, intellectual or spiritual blessings, but rejoices in the happiness and good fortune of others. Love vaunteth not itself; that is, does not set itself forward, does not wish to be noticed or applauded. Love is not puffed up, is not filled with a sense of its own importance, for it knows it has nothing, but that it has received. Every man whose heart is full of the love of God is full of humility. Love does not behave itself unseemly; never acts out of place; is courteous; observes good manners; respects good form and civilities. Love is not easily provoked or irritated. Alas! how often must we feel that we must learn more and more of what love is. Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but in the truth; not in this doctrine or that, or this ism or that, but in the sacred Word of God which is truth. Love beareth all things; that is, a person under the influence of this love never seeks to set forward the failings and shortcomings of others. We read in I Peter, Chapter 4, verse 8 that charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Love believeth all things; is ever willing to believe the best of every person. Love hopeth all things, and endureth all things.

So we have the analysis. Now the work of our lives is to have these things fitted into our characters. We must strive to learn love. Life is full

Letters to the Editor

“. . . Greetings! I have received several copies of ‘The Silver Lining’ already and long before this I wanted to write to tell you how much I appreciate your good work. Each month I look forward to receiving the next ‘Silver Lining.’ It is always filled with things of interest. If you continue in the present vein then surely God’s blessings will rest upon your work.

Your quotations, sayings, and writings are all very instructive and I also believe your research into the history of the Bible and accounts thereof are important, especially for young folks to, you might say, lay a firm foundation for their faith when they become believers. At least I found such teachings very helpful when my time came to seek God and His righteousness . . .

I’ll close this letter with a prayer to God that you may be able to continue this good work you have started. May God’s blessings rest upon it. . . . **Harold Thomas.**”

“. . . I just received the June issue of opportunities for learning love; and when we think how men become proficient in the various callings of this life, we find that it is through practice; and so the conclusion we reach is that by ceaseless practice we attain this most precious gift.

Now in the conclusion of this Chapter we find love defended, and may be summed up in two words: it lasts. The Apostle again refers to the great things of his day, and disposes of them one by one; shows they are all temporary and fleeting. Tongues shall cease; prophecies shall fail; and knowledge shall vanish away; but now abideth these three: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of these is love, because God is love. And God’s love gave the world a Savior and Redeemer, and all who believe on Him have everlasting life. And we love because He first loved us. Now to secure for ourselves this greatest gift, we must accept its giver; become His disciple; follow His teachings; and with ceaseless practice, love in the manner set forth by the Apostle. Then can we become the possessor of the greatest thing in the world.

of the Silver Lining. I enjoy reading it very much, and find articles of lasting interest, as well as news of friends in the armed forces and friends back home. . . . I wish to thank you for sending me the Silver Lining. I have been in central Africa and now somewhere in India. . . . **Sgt. Pfaffman.**”

“. . . I have just received your July edition of the Silver Lining. I am certainly pleased with your paper. I enjoy the ‘Diary of Trip to Palestine,’ and I suggest that more service men tell of their journeys through historic places. Thanks to all of you who work on the Silver Lining. Some day I hope to meet you personally. Until then, keep up the good work. . . . **Carl Rassi, Jr.**”

“. . . I receive the Silver Lining regularly and wish to express my hearty thanks to you for sending me the paper. I really enjoy reading it. . . . I am in the Western Pacific and have been here over two and one-half years. It has been a long time since I have been to our church, so I find the Silver Lining interesting to pass the long evenings. Again I want to thank the staff one and all for publishing and sending us boys the paper.

“. . . Those of us in the service surely appreciate the paper and always look forward to getting the paper. We can’t thank the ones that publish the paper enough. I felt that I should write to show my appreciation for what you are doing. . . . **Cpl. Harlan D. Stoller.**”

“. . . I have been receiving my copy of the ‘Silver Lining’ regularly now for about six months and I’m really grateful to those who publish this paper and send it to the boys in the Service. Your Sunday School is doing a wonderful job and the paper contains so many helpful and encouraging items. . . .

“My home is in Morton, Ill., and the news you publish about our church always proves very interesting. Your Sunday School should certainly be an inspiration, and through your untiring effort in serving God you can feel reasonably sure that you are helping many, whose country requires them to be away from home. . . . **Bob Strunk.**”

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

(Continued from page 1)

the view of the reality, surrounding God, the immutable and eternal One, our loving Father in the Heavens!

It gives me certain pleasure, acknowledging the receipt of your kind and welcome letter, which I greatly enjoyed. In the spirit of love rendering our service to our fellow men, as such, one is able to observe in your "Silver Lining," indeed is in harmony with Christ's mind which will not remain unrewarded.

It is my heart's sincere wish and prayer that the time soon will be at hand, when the list of our brethren and friends serving our country in war-time will no more exist, being replaced by notes of peace and good will toward men.

It seems the war's end is not so far off any more, and what a blessing it would be, if in the future the futility of war and strife in general would be recognized by man. The need for inner enlightenment and inspiration for the spiritual and noble things in life indeed becomes greater yet and may also widen the field for the Silver Lining.

May I ask you, kindly to accept my heartfelt thanks together with sincere greetings in Christian love, wishing you all God's blessing and a goodly measure of God's love, revealed through Jesus Christ our Lord.

My sincere and hearty greetings extending to you all. My dear wife joins in my greeting. Your least brother in faith, Emil Schubert.

Editor's Note:

The letter was not intended for a regular editorial writing for the Silver Lining, but contained some very spiritual and uplifting thoughts, and since we have received Brother Schubert's letter, peace has been declared and the opportunity is as great or greater than ever to labor in the harvest field and to spread the gospel. We hope that we will soon be favored with an editorial writing for the Silver Lining from Brother Schubert, which we know will be greatly appreciated by every reader.

When people speak evil of you, live so that nobody will believe them.

Peace

The long awaited day of final victory has dawned! It comes as a great calm after a tempestuous storm!

There is a wealth of meaning in the word, "victory"—the stopping of blood-shed, the liberation of prisoners, the return of loved ones, the loosening of a multitude of restrictions, the opening of the sea and air lanes to peaceful travel, and the prospect of normal life once again.

We know that the dislocations, the separations, the congestion, the emotional stresses and strains have an impact upon our entire people, the detrimental extent of which only time will tell.

We join hearts and prayers with all the world in a fervent "God be thanked" that this mighty scourge of war has finally passed away, and

Hymn for the Month:

WONDERFUL PEACE

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight

Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace

Buried deep in the heart of my soul,
So secure that no power can mine it away,
While the years of eternity roll!

I am resting tonight in this wonderful peace,

Resting sweetly in Jesus' control;
For I'm kept from all danger by night and by day,
And His glory is flooding my soul!

And me-thinks when I rise to that city of peace,

Where the Author of peace I shall see,
That one strain of the song which the ransomed will sing
In that heavenly kingdom will be:

Ah, soul! are you here without comfort and rest,

Marching down the rough pathway of time?

Make Jesus your Friend ere the shadows grow dark;

O accept of this peace so sublime!

Chorus:

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above!
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love!

that peace has at last come to the world.

But let us all remember, even though the war has ceased, the greatest victory to be gained is the VICTORY IN CHRIST.

The Silver Lining Staff.

Victory

"Dear Staff of the Silver Lining,

My father was in Texas visiting my brother in camp there when President Truman announced the end of the war. He expressed his feelings in a poem which he wrote and sent to us at home. Thought maybe you'd like to print it in your paper. . . . Mrs. Marion Plattner of La Crosse, Indiana."

While we were out in Texas
The wished for V-day came,
Oh, we were all so happy
Things didn't look the same.

The valley and the mountains
Were beautiful to behold,
We were out to the camp ground,
When officially we were told.

The soldiers came in marching,
You should have seen the boys,
They cried "The war is over"
And they made quite a noise.

I could not keep from crying
It surely was a joy,
To see the happy youngsters
Each one some mother's boy.

Bravely they were going onward
And on their way to war,
Oh, what a joyful sounding
To hear that it was o'er.

So let us thank our Father
Through whom this victory came,
But as for our enemy
They sure must feel ashamed.

Yes, surely we feel thankful
In prayer to God we turn,
But oh, we feel so sorry
For those who won't return.

How many of our loved ones
Who went through sweat and toil
Now peacefully are sleeping,
Beneath some foreign soil.

And for the wounded soldiers
Let's not forget to pray,
That God be merciful to them
And help them on life's way.

Also the loving parents
Who lost their sons in war,
May victory also come to them
To reach the golden shore.

By A. J. Bucher.

NEWS

Miss Mathilda Bertsch and her father, Henry Bertsch entertained Sgt. and Mrs. Henry Kipfer at dinner, August 31. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich Kipfer, Misses Margaret and Esther Louise Kipfer, Joseph Kipfer, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kipfer and son, and Rev. and Mrs. Joel Souder.

Lyle Edward Bertsch was confined to the Lutheran Hospital for an operation July 28. We are glad to announce he is recuperating and expects to be home soon.

Miss Laura Fern Conrad spent a week's vacation in Toledo with her cousins at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frautschi.

Colleen Ann Schlatter is showing marked improvement and we hope she may soon be up.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Clauss announced the arrival of a daughter, Constance Leona, July 15th.

The 75th Young People's Sunday School Meeting was held Sunday evening, July 29th. Guests from Francesville and Remington, Ind., contributed to the program with special songs, an object lesson, and readings. An inspiring talk to the young people was given by Adam Gutwein. Sgt. Lee Blunier whose home is at Roanoke, Ill., gave a very interesting talk on his experience at the battlefield and in German prison camps. He expressed the thought that prayers of those at home were a great help in time of need.

We are glad to take Mrs. Mildred Schlatter off the sick list. She is up and very much improved.

Sgt. Henry Kipfer arrived home July 25th for a 30-day furlough.

Sgt. and Mrs. James Beltz visited our congregation Sunday, August 26th. Sgt. Beltz just returned from overseas duty. Mrs. Beltz is the former Mary Ann Kipfer.

Lt Gaylord Widner talked by transatlantic telephone from Rome, Italy to his father, brother and sister Monday evening, August 27th. Lt. Widner is at a rest camp near Rome. He is well and looking forward to the day when he can point his plane westward and home.

Miss Betty Penrod and Mr. Artemus Levy of Cedarville were married August 17th.

Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Fiechter accompanied by their son and daughter visited our congregation and held services August 12th.

Pfc. Raymond Pulfer has received several short leaves since returning to the States.

Miss Marguarite Meiss and Mr. Martin Kipfer have chosen Sunday, September 2nd as their wedding day.

Pfc. and Mrs. Lester Smith and daughter were entertained with dinner at the Joseph Conrad home August 16th. He related many exciting experiences during their visit.

Samuel C. Getz of Ft. Wayne, Ind., died July 30, 1945 at the Lutheran hospital. Funeral services were held at the McComb Funeral Home with Rev. Samuel Aeshliman of Bluffton, Ind., officiating. He is survived by his wife Ida and daughter Joan and son Edward.

Special Services were held at the Leo Apostolic Christian Church praising God for bringing the war to a close.

T-5 David Bertsch and Mrs. Bertsch visited Rev. and Mrs. Otto Norr, relatives, and friends the week of August 5th. He spent a week with his parents at Tremont, Illinois.

Miss Lydia Oberlander and T. L. Steffen have chosen September 16th as their wedding day.

Mrs. Vernon Klopfenstein and daughter, Marciel, spent the week of August 12th visiting Mrs. Klopfenstein's sisters at Gridley, Illinois and Wolcott, Indiana.

BAY CITY

Mr. and Mrs. John Baumgartner and family and several friends visited here over the week end of July 1.

BLUFFTON

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aschliman, east of Bluffton, have received word from their son, Pfc. Millard Aschliman, who is stationed at Weinheim, Germany, stating he recently met Elmer Steffen, son of T. L. Steffen, of Villa North. Pfc. Aschliman is serving with the army of occupation. His ad-

dress is 35325624, 609th Med. Ch. Co. (Sep), APO 758, c-o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

Lt. R. E. Reineck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Reinbeck, arrived home Saturday from Winfield, Kans., to spend a 15-day furlough with his parents. At the end of his furlough he will report to La Junta, Colorado. Reineck is a pilot of a P-47 and has the following address: 0-2070437, A. A. F., La Junta, Colorado.

Apostolic Christian Congregation Soon to Build New Church

A new brick church which will probably cost more than \$100,000 will be built by the Christian Apostolic congregation northwest of here as soon as building materials will become available, it has been announced. The present church is located about a mile northeast of Vera Cruz and the new edifice is to be erected just north of the present structure.

Sam Gerber of Craigville, chairman of the building committee, stated that the new church will be of rather plain architecture, but a very substantial and sturdy structure. A prominent Ft. Wayne architect has been assisting the congregation in preliminary plans that have been made.

An official vote by the congregation last Sunday favored the construction of a new house of worship. Pledges amounting to \$104,000 toward the new building were made by members of the congregation and friends.

Tentative plans call for a building 60 feet wide and 120 feet long, with full basement included in the plans. Many modern conveniences will be embodied in the new building.

The church, one of the largest rural churches in this area, has a membership of approximately 600 and an average Sunday attendance of about 800, which includes the children and young people who have not reached membership age. It is pointed out that after the close of the war there will be more than 100 boys returning from service and their number will swell the attendance above that at present.

The new auditorium is to have a seating capacity of 1,200.

The present building, a frame structure, which exemplifies the

sturdy Swiss community of the sector of Adams and Wells counties, in the midst of which it stands, has been in use for more than 40 years. While the building is still in good condition, it is no longer adequate for the growing congregation.

The old church will remain entirely intact until the new one is completed so that worship services may continue uninterrupted. Thereafter it will, no doubt, be removed from its present site.

BREMEN

Miss Betty Jean Schumacher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Schumacher of Bremen, was married to S-Sgt. Richard Miller on August 7. S-Sgt. Miller returned from overseas duty in June and will report in September to Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Pvt. and Mrs. Walter Beer will leave on August 26th for Miami, Florida. They will remain there for two weeks and during that time Pvt. Beer expects to receive his discharge from the army.

Mrs. Nelson Leman and Miss Mary Kathryn Leman have just returned home after spending two weeks visiting Lt. and Mrs. S. E. Leman and son, Jimmy, in Norfolk, Virginia.

"Thanksgiving for Peace" was the theme of the Sunday School program of September 2nd.

CROGHAN

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Farney of Union City spent the week end of July 27 at Mr. and Mrs. Chester O'Breins, Beaver Falls, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Diggelman and daughter, Mrs. Barbara Diggelman, of Rockville, Conn., Margaret Warner from Fairbury, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graf, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schamback, Elgin, Ill., were visiting friends and relatives here on August 2.

Sgt. David Schamback spent a ten-day furlough with his wife and family at Castorland, New York.

Lt. Wayland Hertzig returned home from overseas duty and is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Urban Hertzig, Naumburg, New York.

Lt. Gladys B. Farney R. N. who has served with the 117 hospital unit in England for two and a half years has

returned to the States and is spending a thirty-day furlough with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erban Farney, Lowville, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Virkler of Ithaca, N. Y., spent a week's vacation with their parents, Rev. and Mrs. William P. Virkler, of New Bremen and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben B. Farney of Croghan, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schneider and daughter Lois, of Rockville, Conn., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Leon Virkler of Croghan, New York.

ELGIN

Cpl. Ray Steffen and Albert Steffen S 2-c, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Theo. E. Steffen, were together at the Rockville, Conn., Church. Albert is leaving for the Pacific. He is now in Okinawa. Ray is stationed in the Post office of the Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington D. C.

EUREKA

Pvt. O. William Leman spend a three-day pass at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Leman. He is stationed at Scott Field, Ill., and attended Cryptography School.

Services of prayer and thanksgiving for the end of the war were held August 15th., at the Roanoke church. Rev. Al Scheitlin and Rev. David Mangold officiated.

Stanley Schumacker A. M. M. 2-c is spending a thirty-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Schumacker of Metamora. He was aboard the U. S. S. Hornet when it was hit by a typhoon.

Lt. Joe Zimmerman is spending a thirty-day furlough with his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zimmerman. He was the navigator on a B-29 over Europe. His brother Richard S 2-c spent a nine-day leave at home last week. Richard has just completed his boot training at Great Lakes, Illinois.

Pvt. Wayne and Lt. Kenneth Sauder, sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Sauder, of Roanoke reported back to camp last week after spending thirty-days at home. They both returned recently from Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schumacher of Eureka had a letter from their son, Joe, saying that he was being moved

from Leghorn, Italy to Derona, Italy.

GRIDLEY

Wilbert Funk is spending a thirty-four-day furlough at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Funk. He had been stationed in England. past 27 months.

Cpl. Edwin Ringger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Ringger, arrived home from overseas duty the 3rd of July. He has been stationed in England. After spending thirty days here he reported to Camp Crowder, Missouri, where he is now stationed.

Sgt. Elmer Witzig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Witzig, spent a thirty-day furlough at the home of his parents, following one year of overseas duty. During this time he was on Continental Europe, located most recently in Germany. Elmer was wounded last December and now holds three battle stars and the Purple Heart. He is now stationed at Shelbyville, Miss.

Announcement was made July 15th of the engagement of Miss Marjorie Gramm, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. George M. Gramm, and Sgt. Elmer Witzig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Witzig. The date for the wedding has not been set.

Mrs. Philip Kiefer has been critically ill, but is somewhat improved now.

MILFORD

Elder Sam Aeschliman and wife, Rev. Theo. Beer and wife, also Miss Minnie and Josephine Gerber visited the Alabama Church over August 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Stoller, Louise Martin of Princeville, Illinois and Solomon Rassi of Morton visited friends and relatives over August 26.

Misses Edith Graf, Ruth Emory, Alice Pamer, Wilma Hartzler, and Martha Laukauf of Akron, Ohio, spent their vacation at a cottage at the Lake during week ending August 26.

Paul Honnegger and family, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Metz and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Plattner of Forrest, Illinois spent Sunday, August 26 with friends and relatives.

Jacob Ebach and family and Eli Leman and family spent a week at Lake Wawasee.

Mrs. Charles Cowan (Author of

Streams in the Desert) spent the evening of August 24 in the Henry Beer home with brethren and friends from Francesville, and Grabill, Indiana.

MORRIS, MINN.

The Silver Lining Staff wishes to express deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lanz of Lamar, Missouri. Their son, Pfc. Wallace N. Lanz, paid the supreme sacrifice at Mindanao Island, May 16th, 1945. Memorial services were held Sunday, July 22 at the Apostolic Christian Church, Lamar, Missouri. Rev. Noah Schrock officiated.

MORTON

Rev. Noah Schrock of Oakville, Iowa held services here Sunday evening, August 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Heiniger of La Crosse, Indiana are moving to Morton.

The B. E. Getz, George Getz, Joe Getz and Henry Grimm families attended a dinner held at the Frank Sauder home in Roanoke, Illinois, honoring the following service men who are home on furloughs: Robert Grimm, Joseph and Richard Zimmerman, Stanley Schumacker, Walter Fehr, and Wayne Sauder.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Sabo of Mansfield, Ohio and Mrs. Joshua Brogard of Fairbury, Illinois visited Mrs. Ben Heiniger who has just returned home from the hospital.

ROANOKE

Rev. Noah Schrock, of Oakville, Iowa spent Sunday, August 19th, in Roanoke. He conducted services in Morton on Sunday evening.

Stanley Hodel, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Hodel, also Harold Hodel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hodel, returned from the European Theatre arriving in New York on Wednesday, August 23rd.

Many who are enjoying furloughs and leaves are Ralph Fehr; Kenneth Sauder, Stanley Schumacher, Joe and Richard Zimmerman, Lee and Lewis Blunier, and Howard Hodel.

Announcement was made on Sunday, August 26 of the approaching marriage of Miss Mardell Blunier, daughter of Mrs. Elmer Blunier to Mr. Richard Bowald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bowald.

Mr. John Wagonbach and Mr. Henry Gerst of Oakville, Iowa spent Sun-

day, August 26, in Roanoke, both returning to their homes on Sunday night.

TAYLOR

Cpl. William Cottrell is spending a 45-day leave with his wife and relatives. He was formerly located on Iwo Jima and Hawaii.

Miss Barbara Hoerr is spending a two-week vacation at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin with Ann and Rachel Hoerr of Peoria.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Butikofer entertained with a delightful supper Sunday evening, August 19, in honor of Cpl. and Mrs. William Cottrell. Those present were Elizabeth, Hazel, Eunice, and Joe Wiegand, Ada and Lois Schrock, Verl, Beulah and Roger Moser, Mavis Grimm, Lois and Mary Miller, and some local friends.

A special Sunday School program was held Sunday, July 29 which included the Oakville, Iowa and Taylor, Mo., Senior classes. This being the last Sunday meeting for both Sunday Schools before vacation.

The Silver Lining received a letter from the mother of Raymond Schrenk who is stationed overseas. She enclosed her son's letter with the suggestion that it might be used in the Silver Lining. His letter follows in part:

This is Saturday afternoon and I am going to write and tell you what I saw and did yesterday, July 20, it being field day in the navy (which means everybody gets ready for the Captain's inspection). I had not been feeling so well and on top of all, we had an operation to remove a cartilage from a knee, which took about an hour and a half. I assisted the doctor who had the operation, after which we went on with our Field Day.

After we finished Field Day, which was about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, we went to the barracks, took a shower, and about 4:00 P. M. went to town. The first place we stopped was the U. S. O. We had a nice large steak, french fried potatoes, corn doughnuts, orange juice, a cheese sandwich, and some chocolate ice cream. From there we went to the P. X. They were closed, so we watched the soldiers stand in line for chow.

We saw a train go by and what a thrill! There were some U. S. box cars and did they ever look good! . . . By this time we decided we were not ready to go to the base so we proceeded back to town . . . Then we went window-shopping, until it got too dark to see. When it was too dark to window-shop, we started down the street to see what we could see. . . . We went into a Chinese restaurant. It wasn't any too clean, so we walked out again. We went on down the street to another one which was some better. . . . Went on and went into a pharmacy. Wish you could have seen it. One thing they had that looked more appetizing than anything else was stuffed crabs.

We went into a hotel to see what it was like. The inside was more like a barn than anything else. . . . We stopped outside a Gospel Temple church, in which about ten colored folks were singing. It sounded quite nice. Proceeding down the street we came to another church called St. John. It was very nice, although you can see the rafters in all of them as well as in the houses.

By now the moon was out and we decided to walk around the park which is about twenty acres; we went past Queen Park Hotel. They were eating out in the wing of the hotel and it reminded me of Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. By now, after four hours of walking we were getting tired. . . . Our bus arrived and we were glad; but surely enjoyed ourselves and hope you will enjoy reading this.

Well, mother, last evening I was reading and ran across something in which I received a lot of comfort, and wonder if you know the song:

We say, "I here, you yonder,
You go and I remain,"
And yet are not asunder,
But links of one great chain.
In tone of deep affection
"Our ways part here," we say,
Yea, go in one direction
And in the self same way.

Song 155, verse 3-Zion's Harp.

Also wish I could hear all of you sing song number 105 again. If they sing it in church again, think of me.

Love and greetings.

Will remain as ever,

Raymond Schrenk.

DIARY OF TRIP TO PALESTINEBy **Walter J. Graf**

(This is the sixth in a series of installments on Palestine. Walter J. Graf is the son of Elder Ernest Graf, Sr.)

From here we went up to the Garden of Gethsemane. Just at the foot of the hill is built a beautiful Russian church, called the Church of Agony, or the Church of All Nations. It is called the latter because of donations by twelve different nations towards its construction. There are 12 separate cupolas in the church, each dedicated to one of the contributing countries. In the center beneath the main altar is preserved the rock, enclosed by a wooden fence, and on this rock the Lord last prayed before His betrayal. It is known as "The Rock of Agony," because of the vivid description in the Bible of the Lord's last prayer. This church is built over the site of a former church constructed in the time of Theodosius in the latter part of the 4th century. At a couple spots in the floor they have mats which can be lifted to reveal the Mosaic floor of this 1600-year-old church. They have followed the floor pattern exactly, and in one corner have even left standing one of the corner stones of the old church, and it forms the corner stone of the new church built in the 20th century.

We then entered the Garden of Gethsemane, of which I had read so much in the Bible. This garden is fixed as the place of the betrayal and arrest. All that remains are eight aged olive trees, known to have been alive in the Crusaders' time and believed to date back to Christ's time. The garden is well kept by the Franciscans, and the old olive trees are propped up by stones to keep them from falling. Upon leaving we were given a leaf from one of these eight trees, as a souvenir.

From the garden there is an excellent view out over the Cedron (or Kidron) Valley and to the western wall of the Old City. Just across the valley from the garden is the Golden Gate, through which the Lord passed when entering the city from the Mount of Olives. The gate has been sealed for at least 400 years, the Turks having sealed it because the Christians believe Christ will come back through this gate, and when He does the Turks figured that Turkish rule in Palestine would be ended. That was taken care of by the British in the last war. The gate was also the main entrance through the walls into the temples of Solomon's and Christ's times. Across the valley, next to the wall of Jerusalem, is the burial ground for wealthy Moslems. On the Mount of Olives side is the burial ground for wealthy Jews. The reason for this is the conflicting theories as to where the final judgment will take place. The Arabs believe it will be on Mt. Zion just inside the walls, and the spot which Mohammed ascended into heaven. So they want their graves on that side to enable them to be

in the front of the line. And controversely, the Jews figure that the final judgment will take place on the Mount of Olives near the Garden, so they have their burial grounds at an advantageous spot. There is also an ancient idea that on the day of judgment subterranean channels will open up, all leading to the Valley of Kidron, and through these channels the souls of the dead will roll or crawl to the scene of judgment.

We next visited the Church of the Assumption, a Franciscan church built over the tomb where Mary was laid to rest. It was here that I first realized that the Catholic religion believes in a resurrection of the Virgin Mary. As they believe, she was placed in the tomb but arose the third day and ascended to heaven. She was not guilty of original sin, and therefore did not have to delay until the final day before entering heaven. As I went around to the various places in Jerusalem this fact was in increasing evidence—that the Catholics venerate the mother almost as much as the Son. To my way of thinking she was merely an instrument which enabled the birth of Christ, but I guess there are millions who disagree.

We then went to the Tomb of the Kings. This was at the beginning of excavation thought to be the burial place for the Kings of Judah, but turned out to be the place of rest for an ancient royal family of more recent times. At the entrance there is a rolling stone, probably the only one in existence. It demonstrates the manner of the sealing of Christ's tomb. It is a huge affair, weighing several tons, and lies in a groove running in front of the entrance. It can be rolled from in front of the door to its present resting place at the side. We tried to move it, but it would take quite a bunch of people to budge it.

We drove on up to the Mount of Olives. Here is built a church known as The Church of the Ascension. It is now controlled by the Moslems, and is open to Christians only through the "courtesy" of the Moslems. It is not over 15 feet in diameter, and built in the ground shape of a mosque. In the center of the church is a rock with an imprint, said to be the imprint of Jesus as he left the earth, heaven-bound. It is laid over the exact spot from which he is supposed to have ascended, at the extreme summit of the Mount. The rock itself is worn smooth from visitors running their hands over the print.

Coming back down the hill we stopped at the British war cemetery where about 2,500 British and Dominion troops are buried, all of whom lost their lives in the last war, fighting in Palestine against the Turks. We came back into town and went to the YMCA for lunch before beginning our trip again.

The road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem,

over which we traveled after lunch, has several interesting features. We first stopped at a well, called the Well of the Star. This well is said by legend to have been a resting place for Mary while traveling to Bethlehem before the birth. The well just sprang up out of the rock to quench her thirst. And it was at this well that the Wise Men saw the reflection of the Star pointing toward Bethlehem. Further on is the Tomb of Rachel, the third most important shrine to the Jewish people.

At Bethlehem we made only one stop, and that one at the Church of the Nativity. There are a great many other things to be seen there, as the town has figured pretty much in Biblical history—from the time it is first mentioned in Genesis as the burial place of Rachel, until Christ's birth. We went into the church through the only entrance. The door is just about three feet high at the top, and you have to step over a doorstep which cuts off about six inches from the door's height. In other words, one must stoop low to get into the church. This served a double purpose: it kept out animals and also made people bow down when they entered the holy place. The church was built in the fourth century by the Empress Helen, and although it has been remodeled many times since then, it still retains its original walls, and is thus the oldest Christian church in the world. It was spared only through an accident. When Chosroes, King of Persia, came through Palestine in the seventh century, destroying everything in sight, he was also going to burn the Church of the Nativity, however, upon entering the church prior to its destruction he noticed a painting—the painting of the three Wise Men. As it was believed in those times, the Wise Men came to Palestine from Persia, and therefore the painting was along Persian lines, and the characters resembled Persians. Chosroes got the opinion from the painting that the church was built by a Persian, and left it standing. Otherwise it would have suffered the same fate as practically every other building in Jerusalem and near-by cities.

Outside the church we could see through a window the tower on which are hung the bells of Bethlehem. These bells are rung only on Christmas Eve and are heard through international hook-up by radio in every corner of the world.

From the upper rooms of the church we descended into the Grotto of the Nativity. On the left hand side of this grotto is built the altar of the nativity, over what is believed to be the exact spot of the birth. A marble stone covers this spot, with a vermilion Star of Bethlehem covering it. There are many lamps hung in this grotto, numerically equal for the three different sects. On the right is the Altar of the Manger, built over the spot where the Lord was laid in swaddling clothes. In

(Continued on page 8)

Gone But Not Forgotten

In kind and loving remembrance of our dear husband and father, Brother Enoch Steffen, aged 75, who passed away July 18, 1945.

We're all small links of one great chain,
Though some no more remain—
The Lord has taken some away
To start another chain.

There is a reason why He calls
The ones we love so dear—
He knows we'll strive so much the more
To meet them over there.

He called our loving father home—
A man of peace and love;
His words and deeds go marching on
Though now he lives above.

When troubles, great or small, arose,
With great concern, he said
That he who does not strive for peace
Will ne'er in Heaven tread.

He always put his trust in God
Before he went to rest;
No matter what great trials arose
He said, "The Lord knows best."

While in his last distress and pain—
Expressed his thoughts of heart
That God forgave him all mistakes—
He fears not to depart.

We there beheld his eager face
As 'round his chair we'd throng;
With tears of pity he expressed,
"I wish you'd go along."

E'en though his pains were most severe
They're not to be compared
With blissful joy and peaceful rest
Which Christ with him has shared.

As father crossed the river, "Death,"
The Lord was beckoning, "Come;"
The angels came to welcome him
To that eternal Home.

We now can view the mortal shell—
His spirit no more there;
In Christ's keeping, calmly resting
From every earthly care.

Let's strive for peace and unity
And love that ne'er grows old;
For only thus shall we meet there
With joy that's yet untold.

By Minnie Gerber, Bluffton, Ind.

DIARY OF A TRIP TO PALESTINE

(Continued from page 7)

olden times the actual manger was excavated and sent to the Vatican City where it is at present. They have also built an altar in the spot where the Wise Men knelt and worshipped the Child.

On the way out we were shown the mosaic floor of the original church built in 379, now covered by the present stone floor in all but a few spots kept open for observance. It is still in fine condition, and of excellent workmanship.

ADDRESSES OF OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE

Killed in Action: Eugene F. Bahr.

Pfc. Joseph Bahr
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A.P.O. 551 c/o P.M.
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T-5 David Bertsch No. 35894267
Med. Det. S.C.U. 1915
Madison Gen. Hosp. Sec. 5
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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.**

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