



And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh. —ST. MATT. 2:11

And thou Bethlehem, IN the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. —ST. MATT. 2:6

Jesus the Light of the World

By Henry Weckerle

As Christmas time is again drawing near, we are reminded of the birth of our Lord and Saviour as foreseen by the holy prophet who said, "Unto us a child is born . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." What great joy it created in the hearts of those who waited for His birth!

We read about Simeon who was a devout man and the Holy Spirit was upon him. When he came into the temple and saw Jesus, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God, saying "Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace — For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." — The shepherds watched their flocks by night when the angel came unto them bringing them good tidings of great joy singing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will towards men." What a message of God that must have been unto the believer in that time and what a holy calling unto us in this day!

We had joy in our hearts when we felt our sins had been forgiven; but to retain this peace in heart we must submit ourselves to the Holy and guiding Spirit of God every day of our lives. We are now called into the vineyard of the Lord to work for Him from morning until evening for each has received from the Lord a pound with which we must labor, seeking to

(Continued on page 3)

Christmas

By J. A. Getz

Thankful should we be that another milestone in God's timetable reminds us of His Great Love. It has been a long time since God created man after

TREASURED VERSES

St. Luke 2, 7-14

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

And this SHALL BE a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

the likeness of His own image and He blew the breath of Life into his nostrils, making man a living soul. But man had nothing to boast of — for through all the ages he had been watched over and cared for — yet Christ's Declaration in His own Words was "that man loved darkness more than he loved light."

God has ever moved in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. He saw we needed this Holy Day for our children and for ourselves that we can pass on the fundamentals and the Eternal truths of our Blessed Faith. No amount of teaching and preaching can bring to bear upon the heart and mind the old, old story of the "Awe of the Manger."

As valuable as the Church is in winning men to Christ so is the value of a Godly home worth considering. The promise given to Zacchaeus and his wife, Elizabeth, and again the message given to Mary — Behold, thou shalt bring forth a son, indicates the type families the Lord remembers with His Blessings.

Christmas is God's Gift of Mercy to fallen man. It was the mission of our Lord Jesus to establish the blood-bought right of every man to a second chance. God had committed himself to grant a new start to every sinner who comes in the Name of Jesus. For it was not the manger in Bethlehem

—but the Blood shed at Calvary that paid the ransom price for our Atonement. During this Holy Season we are reminded of God's LOVE — who loved the world so much He sent His only Begotten Son. God stood by the prophecies of His holy prophets—“Unto us a child is born—unto us a son is given—for already in the Manger—where the cattle fed—lay the Christ Child born of the virgin Mary.

“And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night, and lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shown round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, ‘Fear not behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.’ ” (Luke 2:7-11)

How free from envy the angels were; how free they were from pride; they were not ashamed to come and tell the news to humble shepherds. Mark how well they told the story. It does not relieve the stark barrenness of the scene to recall that out on the Judean hillside the heavenly light bathed the rough homespun robes of the Shepherds as they listened with frightened gaze to the Angel Chorus.

The penalty of sin is still hanging over the heads of the children of men for the decree of God has never been repealed. The wages of sin still is death. But what could God do about it? He could not forget about sin and say, “Mankind made a terrible mistake, but I will forget it.” His Infinite Justice demanded the paying of the penalty for unholy man could not live with a Holy God. Jesus came into the world to seek and to save these sinners.

Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26).

Keeping Christmas

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men. (Luke 2:14). It is not enough, however, to know of these great truths and to think about them or to sing of them—it is not enough to build worship and ceremony around them—they must be known—they must be understood—they must be believed and they must be lived out. To bring this about it requires the Gift of Grace through Faith.

their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand that those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

—HENRY VAN DYKE.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven,
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,—Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell,—
O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Emmanuel.

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

(Continued from page 1)

gain more and to be found as a true and faithful servant living according to the promises we made with God and the church. The longer we are in His service the more is expected of us. What a blessed state it is to labor for the Lord! What we do unto one another we do for Him according to the Lord; so let whatever we do be to the praise and honor of God.

Only with the help and grace of God will it be possible to overcome the many temptations and pitfalls which we as Christians meet along the way. The arch-enemy of the soul seems to have a different method today than in the days of old when our fathers in faith were persecuted and tortured even unto death. Now he comes in sheep's clothing and tries to lull the Christians to a spiritual sleep and offers him the world with its pleasure that the church should unite with him. The spirit of the world invites one to walk this way or that claiming it will do no harm; but the spirit of God and His Word, teaches us not to follow the ways of the world for the spirit of the world will lead us astray. Only he that does the will of God will abide and God will give him grace. The Lord is the Christian's pattern.

Recalling our Saviour's humble birth and that He had no place He could call His home as we have here on earth, it should move us to become more humble in spirit, heart, and mind. God said, "This is my beloved Son: hear him."

It is truly a joy unto every Christian to do the will of God for the Lord said, "Come unto me. . . and I will give you rest. . . for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." What a wonderful teaching in the words of our Saviour! It is a blessing from God to be found lowly and humble in heart. The author of one of our hymns wrote, "Meekness is the noblest virtue." He who exercises it is beloved by everyone. May we all pray for grace to obey the Word of God, thereby honoring and reverencing the name of our Saviour whose birth we are about to celebrate.

Letters

I would like to order the Silver Lining for a friend and would be very much pleased too, if you could send it for Christmas. I know it would please her very much as she always enjoys reading mine. I look forward every month for the paper as it is a most wonderful work. May you all be blessed.—*Mrs. R. Hollinger, Peoria, Illinois.*

* * *

Wilbert and I have both received the Silver Lining for quite some time, and must say we both enjoyed it very much. It was sent to me as a gift through Irsel Funk. Wilbert often mentioned how he enjoyed it over seas, while he was stationed in England. I know there is no end of appreciation among the boys who were in service if they received this little paper, and it certainly could act as a "Silver Lining" to their dark clouds, with its many interesting articles and inspiring poems.—*Wilbert and Violette Funk, Gridley, Ill.*

* * *

I look forward to receiving the "Silver Lining" each month and believe it has been a real blessing for the men in the service as well as for those on the home front. May your paper continue to fulfill the purpose for which you are sending it forth, to help meet the spiritual needs of those who receive it.—*Mr. and Mrs. Dan Emery, Copley, Ohio.*

* * *

Study holiness of life. Your whole usefulness depends on this.

A sermon lasts but an hour or two; your life preaches all the week.

If Satan can make you covetous as a lover of praise, of pleasure, and of good eating, he has ruined you.

Give yourself to prayer and get your thoughts and words from God.

Submitted by

*Simon Bahler,
Altadena, Calif.*

Editors Note: Articles by the Rev. Philip Gutwein will appear again in the January issue.

THOUGHT GEMS

"God bless us everyone!" prayed Tiny Tim,
Crippled and dwarfed of body, yet so tall
Of soul, we tiptoe earth to look on him,
High towering over all.

—*James Whitcomb Riley*

* * *

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

—*Alfred Tennyson*

* * *

For somehow, not only at Christmas,
but all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others is the
joy that comes back to you.

—*Whittier*

* * *

I have always thought of Christmas as a good time; a kind, forgiving, generous, pleasant time; a time when men and women seem to open their hearts freely, and so I say, God bless Christmas!

—*Charles Dickens.*

* * *

Great is the spirit of Christmas that
brings to every heart
Peace, Good Will . . .
toward all mankind.

—*Horace Wilson.*

* * *

Have you any old grudges you would
like to pay,
Any wrongs laid up from a bygone
day?
Gather them now and lay them away
When Christmas comes.

Hard thoughts are heavy to carry, my
friend,
And life is short from beginning to
end;
Be kind to yourself, leave nothing to
mend,
When Christmas comes.

—*William Lytle.*

OUR BEST REWARD

I do not know how soon 'twill be ere
I will cross life's darkest sea,
But when on earth my life shall end
I hope in Heaven to meet a friend
That I did help, by act or word, to
follow Christ, the Risen Lord.

NEWS

Croghan, New York

We received great blessings from the Word of God delivered in a message by Rev. Joe Klotzle of Girard, O., on Nov. 10.

Mrs. Reuben B. Farney is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Harold Virkeler, at Ithaca, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Virkeler are the proud parents of a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Farney have moved into their home in Croghan, N. Y.

Mrs. Amanda Virkeler and son, Raymond, are visiting Mrs. Earl Ramsier, in Bay City, Mich.

Elgin, Illinois

Funeral services were held for Mr. Louis Guth on November 16.

Betty Steffen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Steffen, and Willis Wiegand, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wiegand were married Nov. 24. Many attended from Goodfield, Peoria, Princeville, and Bluffton. One hundred twenty relatives and friends attended dinner at the bride's home which was followed by a reception.

Miss Catherine Gerber visited at the home of Jonathan Steffen a few days and attended the wedding of Betty Steffen, Catherine served as bridesmaid.

Joel Gudeman and his daughter and son, Dorothy and Bill, attended the wedding of Lucille Eberhart and Ervin Walter at Cissna Park, Nov. 17.

Clarence Kachelmuss and family and his three sisters, Gertie, Esther and Catherine, visited in Fairbury, Nov. 17.

Eureka, Illinois

Lee Scherer and Emma Martin of Roanoke, Ill., married on Nov. 24, at the Apostolic Christian Church. They are at the present time traveling in Florida.

Funeral services of Edw. Haecker were held at the Waldeck Funeral Home of Eureka, Ill. Burial was in the Roanoke cemetery.

Elder Samuel Aeschliman of Bluffton, Ind., held services at the church on Tuesday evening, Nov. 26.

Chas. Leman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Leman, visited his parents over Thanksgiving. He is attending college at Iowa State.

Fairbury, Illinois

Announcement was made at the Apostolic Christian Church of the engagement of Leona Honegger of Forrest, Ill., and Ben Tanner of Goodfield, Ill., on Nov. 10.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ifft had a dinner in honor of Melvin Huber who is leaving us soon to make his home at Francesville, Ind., after his marriage to Katherine VonToble.

Miss Katharine Huber, Leroy Huber, Perry Zimmerman, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roth, of Fairbury, Ill., and Miss Mildred Steitmatter of Princeville, Ill., attended the wedding of Miss Lucille Eberhart and Ervin Walder at Cissna Park, Ill., on Nov. 17.

Latty, Ohio

The engagement of Esther Buehlar and Loren Stoller has been announced recently.

Brother Sam Stoller passed away after a long illness and the funeral was held November 17.

The engagement of Dorothy Fuhrer of Wolcott and Wayne Stoller has been announced.

A reception was held in honor of Joan Gudeman and Norman Stoller at the home of Jess Stollers in Fort Wayne, November 10.

Betty Steffen of Elgin, Ill., spent the week end of Nov. 10, with Catherine Gerber.

Dan Stoller, Emil Stoller, and Jesse Gerber, and Amos Hartzler from Wayne County, O., left Friday for a week's stay in Alabama to do some repair work on the church basement there.

Willis Eisenman from Cissina Park and Joe Somerhalter from Kansas spent Sunday here.

Mr. and Mrs. Christ Hodel from Roanoke, Ill., spent Monday evening with Jacob Stollers.

Mansfield, Ohio

We were happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gutwein, Mr. and Mrs. Erb, and the Sunday School Choir from Francesville with us on Sunday, Nov. 3.

Two new ministers, Robert Beer and Robert Hartzler, were elected on November 10, when the Elders Sam Aeschliman, David Mangold, and Noah Schrock were here. We wish

our new ministers the help and grace of God in the new capacity for which they have been chosen to serve.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Sauder, daughters Martha and Louise, son, Eugene, and nephew, Walter Sauder, visited in Remington over the week end. They also attended the Sunday School program, Sunday evening at Francesville.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Graf and family of Akron spent Sunday, Nov. 17, with us.

Guests for several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sabo were the Misses Mary and Katie Steffen of Cropsey, Ill.

A number from our congregation, among whom were Mr. Elmer Gillion and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Sabo, Miss Sarah Dotterer, and Mr. Ben Dotterer, visited relatives in Paulding and also attended the funeral of Mr. Sam Stoller at Latty, Ohio.

The engagement of Miss Freda Kascuba to Mr. Ben Beer was announced Sunday, Nov. 24.

We welcome home another of our boys, Charles J. Sauder, who has been discharged from the army.

Milford, Indiana

We are indebted to the Francesville young people and brethren who visited us November 24 for their contribution to our Thanksgiving program. Kathryn Graff, Eldon Beer, and Mrs. Raymond Levy were in charge of the evening meeting. Supper was served at the church.

Sisters from Milford assisted the Francesville Brethren in relief work on November 13.

Richard Ehman, Paul and Mary Ann Kupferschmidt, Arcelia Kaufman, and Laverne Farney of Cissna Park spent Sunday with us on Nov. 24.

Miss Kathryn Ann Getz, who is a nurses' aid at McDonald hospital, Warsaw, Ind., worships with us at Milford.

Morton, Illinois

We had a very blessed Sunday with many visitors on November 17 from Bluffton, Oakville, Roanoke, Peoria, Tremont, Goodfield, and Congerville. Sunday evening dinner was served at the August Roecker home.

The twelve new Sunday school classrooms were used for the first

time on November 17 for the different classes.

Peoria, Illinois

Elders Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton and Carl Rassi of Morton called on Elder Emil Schubert Monday, Nov. 18.

Saturday, Nov. 23, a group of brothers and friends gathered on the lot that will be the site for our new church and spent the day in clearing it. Lunches were served by the Sunday School class and the Henry Mennold family.

Mrs. Henry Binkele is recovering from her operation.

A group of brothers and sisters spent Sunday, Nov. 24, in Pulaski, Iowa.

Pulaski, Iowa

On Sunday, Nov. 10, we had as visitors: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hodel, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schrock, John, Ada and Lois Schrock, Paul and Ada Wagenback of Oakville. They were entertained in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Albert Wuthrich.

Miss Rebecca Kensinger has returned to the home of her sister, Mrs. Jacob Stevig. She had been visiting relatives and friends in Morton, Ill.

Rev. and Mrs. Albert Wuthrich and family spent Sunday, Nov. 3, visiting in West Bend, Iowa.

Miss Beulah Moser of Oakville and Lois Miller spent Sunday, Nov. 10, in Gridley, Ill.

The engagement of Lois Miller of Pulaski to Daniel Endress of Princeville, Ill., was announced Oct. 20.

Remington, Indiana

On Sunday, Nov. 3, Rev. and Mrs. Joe Klopfenstein, Rev. Guy Miller and family, also others from Gridley, Ill., and Elder and Mrs. Eli Dotterer from Junction, Ohio, spent the day with us.

A large corn crib on the farm owned and operated by Rev. and Mrs. William Fuhrer of near Wolcott was totally destroyed by fire on Monday morning, Nov. 4. The building contained soy beans and corn, which also was a total loss. They have the sympathy of our community.

The engagement of Miss Nina Schieler to Mr. Ralph Beyer of Castorland, N. Y., was announced on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Many relatives and friends attended the funeral of Sam Stoller, Sr., of Latty, O., Sunday, Nov. 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Kloter of Rockville, Connecticut, Mr. and Mrs. Christ Leman, and Mr. and Mrs. Eli Leman of Fairbury were visitors here on Nov. 24.

Toledo, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Robert Reineck are the proud parents of a son, Robert Joseph, born on Nov. 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frautschi and daughter, Janice Kay, and Mrs. Sorg of Goshen, Ind., visited friends and relatives in Toledo the week end of Nov. 10.

The Toledo Sunday School had their annual Thanksgiving program Sunday evening, Nov. 24.

Leo, Indiana

Elias Winseler and family of Chicago, Illinois, visited with Raymond Winseler and family over Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Chris Weuthrich and children spent the week-end of November 24, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Norr.

Dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Al Frautschi on Thanksgiving Day were: Mr. and Mrs. John Leman and children of Eureka, Illinois; Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Stuart and son, E. Carlyle, of Elkhart. Edward G. Getz of Elkhart and Mrs. Samuel Getz and children of Nappanee.

The Young People's Meeting for November was held Sunday evening, November 24. The program was based on Thanksgiving. Samuel Schaldenhaffen of Bluffton, gave a talk on his experience while in the army.

Lula Robatthan is feeling better and was able to attend services at church, Thanksgiving Day.

Donald Zeltwanger of Bremen visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Klopfenstein over the week-end of November 24.

Elder and Mrs. Sam Aschleman and Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dotterer of Bluffton, and Elder Elias Dotterer of Paulding, Ohio, were among those who attended the funeral of Melvin Lee Grueter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grueter, of Garrett. Services were at the Apostolic Christian Church and burial in the Leo cemetery.

The Misses Elenore, Lenore, Imogene and Lavada Stieglitz, and Katharine Norr visited with friends at Goodfield, Illinois.

Bluffton, Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Knecht of Chicago, Illinois, were among those who visited us October 20.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roth and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Leman of Fairbury, Illinois, visited us October 27.

Rev. and Mrs. Will Fiechter, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gerber, Mr. and Eli Reineck, Mr. Samuel Gerber and Margaret, and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Rauch spent the week-end of October 27 visiting in Alabama.

Mr. James Baine passed away October 28 following an extended illness. Funeral services were held on Thursday morning, October 31. His only survivor is his wife, the former Amelia Isch.

P. F. C. Robert Kaehr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaehr is now in Korea. The following is his address:

P.F.C. Robert Kaehr—45039046.

31 Field Artillery M.P.Bn.

A.P.O. 7, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, Calif.

Pvt. Richard E. Fiechter, who is stationed at Camp Stoneman, California, recently enjoyed a twenty-one day furlough at his home. He expects his discharge very soon.

The engagement of Miss Marie Gerber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gerber, and Joel Kipfer was announced November 17. They plan to be married early in January.

Rev. Philip Souder of Cissna Park, Illinois, and Rev. George Sinn of Latty, Ohio, held services here Sunday, November 17. Other visitors were the wives of the ministers, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sinn, and Miss Martha Zeltwanger.

Bremen, Indiana

About fifty members of the Leo Church and Sunday School visited our Bremen Church on November 10. After dinner was served our guests presented a fine program, which was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone. This day of worship and good fellowship ended with the hope that such visits from the Leo Church and other of our churches and Sunday Schools will continue.

Three members of our church have been seriously ill during the past few weeks. Mrs. Matilda Schuch is now in Memorial Hospital in South Bend, and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Sam Schuch, is ill in her home in Bourbon. Mrs. John Laidig has been ill in her home in Bremen.

Over the week-end of November 17, Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Souder and Mr. and Mrs. William Leman visited the churches in Monroe and Wayne Counties, Ohio.

Chicago, Illinois

We extend our sympathy to Rev. and Mrs. Al Fisher due to the recent death of Mrs. Fisher's brother, Ed Haecker, of California.

A number of girls from Goodfield and Fairbury, Illinois, and LaCrosse, Indiana, spent Sunday November 17, with us.

We enjoyed a pleasant visit by Rev. and Mrs. Ezra Feller and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kaufmann on Sunday, November 24

On November 24, several from here attended the wedding reception of Betty Stephen at Elgin, Illinois

Rev. and Mrs. Eli Winzeler visited in Tremont Illinois on November 24.

Francesville, Indiana

Rev. Henry Beer and sons, Victor and Marion, sent several evenings with us. Rev. Beer is doing some landscaping in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Huber are the proud parents of a daughter, born October 20.

Aden Klopfenstein of Silverton, Oregon spent Sunday, November 3, at the home of his sister, Mrs. Albert Boehring.

Our Sunday School program was held Sunday, November 17. "The theme of the program was, The different steps in life, Youth, Middle age and Old Age." The program was well attended. Guests were present from Cissna Park, Morton, Fairbury, Peoria, La Crosse, Remington, Wolcott, and Milford.

Elder Emil Schubert, Sr., of Peoria, conducted baptismal services for Mrs. Philip Albrecht. A very blessed visit was enjoyed by Elder Schubert, his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Farney.

Avalanche of Lies Result of Gossip

Distortion of a Harmless Original Fact Grows with Each Repetition Until the Result is Often Ruinous

By Dr. Louis E. Bisch

Gossip never tells the truth. And the longer gossip runs the greater the number of lies that pile up in its wake. Gossip, carried by word of mouth from one person to another, soon changes and metamorphoses itself so that the original bit of news that started it off develops into something quite alien to its parent.

The beginning is one thing. The end? Nobody knows.

Gossip is like a snowball rolling down a mountainside. Not only does it enlarge and change its shape and character as it proceeds, but it increases in momentum and its possibilities for doing harm as well.

If there is a smash-up that's the end of the snowball—turned avalanche!

Only when gossip has done its maximum amount of harm does it automatically cease. The mischief in gossip is its inherent and salient trait.

That is why tittle-tattle has always been frowned down upon. That is also why gossipers are usually credited with intent to deceive.

One cannot gainsay the fact that chronic gossipers often deliberately set out to distort the truth. They give the essentials of a story of plausible twist which is readily acceptable, yet which is, nevertheless, a lie.

On the other hand, there is a curious psychological principle involved that makes it impossible for gossip even to tell the truth, despite the very best of intentions of those who indulge in it.

What I refer to is the psychological principle called "Retrospective Falsification of Memory."

It is absolutely impossible for an individual to repeat anything that he hears word for word. It is likewise almost impossible for him to remember, with absolute exactitude, the gist or essence of a conversation. The reason is that nobody's memory is perfect. Nobody's recollection is infallible.

Now, when a piece of news is repeated, the conscious mind fills in

the memory the greater the distortion logical story.

The larger the number of items that faded from memory, the greater becomes the ingenuity of the mind in substituting and filling in. The poorer the memory the greater the distortion of original facts.

We try to be logical when we gossip, with the result—a petty story that never was!

Watch your falsification of memory tricks. Often the mind deceives even its owner. We cannot always depend entirely upon what we see and hear.

The mind is not as photographic as we think. Emotion and prejudice enter into everything and this is where the danger lies!

LOVE THYSELF LAST

Love thyself last, look near, behold thy duty,

To those who walk beside thee down life's road;

Make glad their days by little acts of beauty,

And help them bear the burden of earth's load.

Love thyself last, and thou shalt grow in spirit,

Who staggers 'neath his sin and his despair;

Go lend a hand and lead him out of danger

To heights where he may see the world is fair.

Love thyself last; and thou shalt grow in spirit,

To see, to hear, to know and understand

The message of the Lord, lo, thou shalt hear it

And all God's love shall be at thy command.

If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatsoever may be our situation, we have a sure word to guide our footsteps. Whatsoever our perplexities, we have a sure counselor. Whatsoever our sorrow, we have a comforter and sympathizing Friend.

ETERNITY—ETERNITY—ETERNITY

Who can measure the length of the word ETERNITY?

Suppose a bird were given the task of moving every grain of sand, one grain at a time, from this earth to the sun, taking a thousand years to make one trip. The sun is ninety-three million miles from the earth. Try to think how long it would take with this method to move one acre, miles deep; now multiply that by the billions of acres of sand in this world. When this task would be completed, ETERNITY would only have begun.

Where will YOU spend ETERNITY? Tomorrow you may be there. What then? Christ has not left us completely in the dark when it comes to this word. He has spoken of it again and again. Even after He ascended to heaven He sent another stern message warning all humanity of the wrath and also the bliss that will follow this life. He sent this message to John by His angel.

"There was a certain rich man . . . and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus . . ." Luke 16:19, 20. Let every breathing soul study these words, Christ's words, through which he drew back the curtains and gave us a view of life's other side. He showed us both classes: the lost and the saved. It is not definitely stated that this is not a parable, but when Christ wanted His sayings to have meaning as a parable, He usually stated it to be that way. These words are not like Christ's other parables in which spiritual things are represented by similitudes borrowed from worldly things. Examples are The Sower and the Seed and The Prodigal Son. In this particular parable the spiritual things are represented in a narrative or description of the different states of good and bad in this world and also in the next.

We are told that the rich man while here on earth was clothed in purple and fine linen. He fared deliciously and sumptuously every day. His table was furnished with all the varieties and dainties that nature and art could supply. But what harm was there in this? It is no sin to be rich, no sin to wear purple and linen, no

sin to have a plentiful table if a man's estate will afford it. Nor are we told that he got his estate by fraud or that he was a drunkard or made others drunk, but Christ hereby showed (1) that a man may have a great deal of wealth, pomp, and pleasure of this world and yet lie and perish forever under God's wrath and curse, (2) that plenty and pleasure are a very dangerous and, to many, a fatal temptation to luxury, sensuality, and forgetfulness of God and the other world, and (3) that the indulgence of the body is the ruination of many souls.

This terrible scene does not only hold good for the rich man, but there is a terrible wrath and curse pronounced upon every one that rejects Christ; rich and poor alike, the sentence of sin is eternal punishment.

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;" Luke 10:22. Death is the common lot of the rich and poor, godly and ungodly; but as far as their mortal remains go, they shall lie alike in the dust. Death favors neither the rich man for his riches nor the poor man for his poverty. The Saint dies that he may bring his sorrows to an end and that he may enter upon his joys. The sinner dies to go to a bitter end.

The next time the rich man is mentioned in this chapter is after his death and burial. He is in hell and lifts up his eyes in torment. There is a wasted life and a wrecked soul for merely a moment of pleasure in this world. He is in the utmost misery and anguish, begging Father Abraham to send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in a little water and cool his tongue. He does not—cannot—say, "Father Abraham, send for me to come to thy bosom to lie where Lazarus lies." Unsanctified souls cannot truly desire the happiness of heaven.

The former rich man did not receive his request for a drop of water. The damned in hell shall not have any abatement or mitigation of their torment. If we now repent and make restitutions for our wrongs and ac-

cept our Lord and Savior as our Redeemer we may have a full and lasting satisfaction in the streams of mercy; BUT if we now slight the offer, it will be in vain in hell to expect the least drop of mercy. Abraham reminded him of his condition while here on earth: Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things. . . . Luke 16:25. Now sinners are called upon to remember. Oh, what a terrible day will it be on the resurrection morning to see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all of the prophets on the *other* side. Hell will be hell indeed to those who go into the midst of the enjoyment, delights, and pleasures of this life.

Abraham assured the rich man that it was to no avail to ask for Lazarus to come over to him. That can never be in eternity. ". . . between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot;" Luke 16:26. Once they have beheld the face of the Creator, they cannot leave. The most daring sinner in hell cannot force his way out of that prison. The door of mercy is shut; the curtain is drawn forever. There is no getting out on parole or bail. There is even no water to cool the tongue. Why not accept Him and travel upon the King's Highway that leads to the Celestial City of Gold?

The next request was that Abraham send Lazarus to his house. This prayer was too late and was denied. Abraham told him that if they would not hear Moses and the prophets they will not be persuaded through one that rose from the dead. How much better it would have been if he had prayed while on earth!

How wonderful Lazarus must have felt in the bosom of Abraham. He waded the deep river of death and is in glory now. The angels were not ashamed of his poverty and distresses while he laid, dying, at the gates where someone had laid him. They were there hovering over the beggarly habitation, watching the last effort of the spirit to break away from its falling tenement, that at the appointed hour they may convey it in triumph to its heavenly home.

My dear readers, you are either SAVED, and, therefore, waiting for

that moment which shall usher you into a state of eternal blessedness, or you are one of those who is fast hurrying towards being DAMNED. Why not pause and think seriously on that important future? The end may be near. But, near or remote, what can be more certain, more solemn, more your immediate concern than your own eternity? Where will you spend it? . . . in the dark miseries of hell? . . . amidst the bright glories of heaven? . . . with the devil, his angels, and all the wicked of every age where all hope has fled and dark despair shall complete its awful work? . . . or in thy Father's house at thy Saviour's side and with all of the saved ones from all ages, many that you dearly love!?

Every twenty-four hours there are over a hundred thousand souls passing into eternity. Many times among these are those you know. Surely, and maybe sooner than you think, you will be among these.

If you are not a lover of the dear Savior, the door of repentance and salvation is still open. Will you not turn to your loving Jesus now while He may be found? Stop a moment in your search after pleasure, wisdom, or riches. Ask yourself this one Great question: If I die as I am, how will I meet God? Oh, Death! so soon to come; oh, Eternity! so long. Where will you spend eternity? It will either be in joy or sorrow. You cannot escape; you must face the issue. You may try to forget what you just read, but the time *will* come when your heart will cease to beat, your brain will cease to function, and your eyes will be closed to scenes below. Prepare to go into the presence of your God now, for tomorrow may be eternally too late. Allow Jesus to live and reign supremely in your heart now, for then you shall live and reign with Him in heaven and throughout all eternity.

Join with David and say as he did in his famous twenty-third Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. . . . Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me. . . . Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my

Behold the Star

Behold! the star that shineth,
In the heaven's blue,
Holy! Holy! Holy!
Promise ever true.

As the wise men hastened!
Nothing their hope could mar;
Onward ever onward,
Guided by the star.

Gifts and precious jewels,
Did the wise men bring;
To a lowly manger,
For the new born King.

Not a royal palace,
Not a castle tall,
Not a great reception,
For the Lord of all.

Yet what a great example!
In His humble life.
For in our Lord and Savior,
There was found no strife.

Then open wide the portals,
Hear the echo's ring!
Glory! Glory! Glory!
How the angels sing.

Lo! how our Lord and Savior,
Suffered on the cross,
To bring to us redemption,
From pain and bitter dross.

Then when through-out life's
journey
Though there trouble be,
Remember then the promise;
Salvation still is free.
Composed by:

*Miss Lillian E. Walters,
Sardis, Ohio.*

life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Dear friend, whoever you are, what greater Christmas gift can you offer than to give your whole life to your Savior and Creator, in whose hands rests the destiny of your undying soul? When you lie down to rest tonight, let your last thought be: Shall I ever see the break of another day? If not, where will I be tomorrow?

—ELIAS SOUDER

WHY SOME PASTORS FAIL

Commenting on the Scripture, "Many pastors have spoiled my vineyard" (Jer. 12:10), The Religious Telescope offers the following pen portraits of some pastors who fail in their solemn trust as keepers of the Lord's vineyard:

1. The Professional Pastor, who wouldn't make a call except when solicited.

2. The Indolent Pastor, who didn't do any more than he had to. His ambition was to "get by."

3. The Officious Pastor, who thought he could drive people instead of leading them.

4. The Egotistical Pastor, whose faith and high opinion of himself led his people to have a low opinion of him.

5. The Selfish Pastor, who thought more of his own personal interests and social standing than he did of the souls of men.

6. The Worldly-minded Pastor, who let his people starve for want of the Bread of Life while he participated in the follies of that day.

7. The Ultra-intellectual Pastor, who was wise above "what was written" and undermined his people's faith by proclaiming his doubts and vagaries instead of the Word of God.

The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor.

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THE SILVER LINING

Published by
The Apostolic Christian Church
and Sunday School
Grabill, Indiana