



Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, EVEN the sure mercies of David.  
—Isaiah 55:3.

He, that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.—St. Matthew 10:40.

## THE GUILTY CONSCIENCE

By Rev. Philip Gutwein

"And they said one to another, we ARE verily guilty concerning our brother (Joseph) . . . therefore is this distress come upon us . . . behold, also his blood is required." (Gen. 42:21-22).

### The Sin and Its Bitter Root

In Genesis 37 we read: "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children. . . . And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more . . . they HATED HIM. And Joseph dreamed a dream . . . and they HATED HIM YET THE MORE. And he dreamed yet another dream . . . and his brethren ENVIED HIM."

It may have been father Jacob's good right to love one son more than all the others, and give evidence of it openly by making "him a coat of many colors"—he had reasons to—, but it was UNWISE and a natural inclination to do so. It was human love, a "natural affection," and blinded Jacob to the natural reaction on the part of his other children of hating, and hating yet more, and envying the favored son. The love of God operates on a much higher level of grace and seeks in Christ "both the bad and the good" alike.

Satan, the murderer from the beginning, was quick to take advantage of a favourable opportunity to plant a "root of bitterness" in the household of Jacob, which "springing up," ripened hate and envy into proposed murder and troubled them with grief and heartache for years to come, and

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## LET EVERY MAN GIVE

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." II Cor. 9:7.

God, who unselfishly and at infinite cost to Himself first gave to us, is patiently but purposefully stating "Let him give." Upon analyzing the

### TREASURED VERSES

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.—Psalm 19:7-10.

duty and privilege of giving, there appears to be numerous channels by which a Christian may scripturally "give." These may fall into two basic groups: first self, and second, substance.

Romans 12:1 states "present your bodies a living sacrifice." God gave His most prized possession for our

sakes, when He sent His Son from glory to earth. A born-again Christian is told "ye are not your own." "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19, 20. When a man becomes a Christian, his entire being, then, consisting of body, soul, and spirit, is no longer his own, but God's, and if it is God's how then can man continue to acclaim his own selfish interests and to further his own fame and fortune. No, when a man becomes the possession of God, he no longer is to seek his own glory, but to glorify God.

Secondly, after giving himself unreservedly to God, a Christian's substance, like the Christian himself, belongs to God; therefore, the Christian must needs be careful how he handles God's property. A Christian's time, talents, and money may be classified under "substance." First then, his time, whether "work" time or "leisure" time is God's and let him be certain his time is spent to the honor of the giver of time,—God. God hasn't called all men to be missionaries, neither has He called all men to be farmers; He hasn't called them all to be ministers, neither has He called them all to be businessmen. It is evident, however, all are called to consummate the purpose God had in mind when He sent the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for sinful men.—Eph. 4:11, 12, 13.

A Christian's talents occupy a



varied field of activity, as seen in I Cor., Chapter 12. Each talent or gift is given the believer to help edify the remaining members of the body of Christ.

Finally, having thus dealt with himself, his time, and his talents, the Christian is also exhorted to "lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him."—I Cor. 16:2. A Christian is not to store away that he may add to his earthly estate, but he is to *save* that he may *give* as explained in I Cor. 16:3. Let the worldling spend his money for personal niceties here below, but the Christian may make a much loftier and more durable investment. The end of time will disclose the brevity of earthly luxury, but eternity will reveal the duration of money invested God's way to further God's salvation of precious perishing souls. How vainly Christians spend their money (yet not theirs, but God's) in building corruptible mansions and decaying vanities. The Christian is robbing himself of the greatest kind of joy by spending money for himself, for it is written, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Missionary enterprises abroad and at home, Bible societies and distributors everywhere are handicapped for lack of funds and yet—where is God's money? Foreign nations record hundreds of starvations daily, destitute war-torn countries have their homeless and scantily clad thousands, and heathen nations present a total of 600,000,000 people who have never even heard the name of Christ. Why? Is God not able? Yes, God is able, but He isn't getting the co-operation of professed Christianity. Let every man who names the precious name of Christ and who is made a new creature in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:17) and created unto good works (Eph. 2:10) and according as God hath prospered him—*give*.—I Cor. 16:2.

Melvin Huber

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—The Silver Lining Staff.

### THE GUILTY CONSCIENCE

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left the sons of Jacob with a grievous CONSCIENCE from the condemnation of which, it almost seems, they never could fully escape. In the sight of God, they were liars and murderers,—for he that hates his brother is a murderer. One is amazed in a way, that God would continue His purpose to use such *undone human material* as the foundation for a peculiar and glorious people and eventually make them a channel of blessing unto all nations. But then: "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." The election of God is of grace, and not of works. (Rom. 11:5-6).

Blinded by an ever increasing hate and envy, the sons of Jacob drifted into the way and the woe of Cain, and what took root in the heart, bore fruit in the commission of a grievous sin against their brother, against their father, even against themselves, and most of all against God, for He is the "one lawgiver." Sin is ever the transgression of the Law. And while there was no Law written on statute books in those days, nor was the Law of Moses given as yet for them to transgress, yet, like the Gentile of today, and all the sons of Adam from the very beginning, they were "A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES" and shewed "THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, their CONSCIENCE also bearing witness, and their THOUGHTS the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." (Rom. 2:14-15).

#### Conviction and Confession of Sins

From our text above, it is evident that the witnessing of their conscience against them, and the accusation of their thoughts, brought a deep conviction and sense of guilt upon them, especially as they stood in the presence of the *strange* man who "is the lord of all Egypt and who spoke roughly to them." "... by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies" — he would accuse them again and again,—"and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether *there be any truth in you*." To the assurances that they are "true men," this hard man, in whose power they were, would not listen. (Gen. 42:16-19.)

Joseph, whom even Pharaoh recognized as "a man in whom the Spirit of God is,"—a man "so discreet and wise" (Gen. 41:38-39), was most of all interested to find out what sort of men his brethren now are. He led them into severe tests, almost beyond his own endurance, to see if they now "*be true men*" and feared God. He accused them of lying and spying and led them into prison and confronted them with death, until they finally broke down and CONFESSED their sins one to another, and to Joseph without knowing it, saying:

"We are verily GUILTY concerning our brother (Joseph) . . . therefore is this distress come upon us." Many years had passed and yet how vivid stood the scene of their sin before them: the pleading of the child,—the anguish of his soul,—and how awful now the accusation of their thoughts within and the condemnation of a violated conscience.

"And we would not hear," they accused themselves; "AND YE WOULD NOT HEAR," added the voice of Reuben. "Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; therefore, behold, also his blood is required." For they believed Joseph to be dead, and themselves guilty of his innocent blood, and therefore trembled for their own life, and were fearful that the "revenger of blood" may finally have overtaken them.

#### Repentance and the Fruit of It

Soon could Joseph observe, that his brethren had repented of their sin, were sorry for it, and experienced a great change of heart. The former *hate and envy* was no more there; the grief of their dishonored father, was no more a matter of indifference to them, but of great concern. It became evident to Joseph by his testing, that now they would shield their aged father from grief, and their little brother from harm, if need be, with their own lives, and the well-being of their own children as a sacrifice (Gen. 42:36-38, 43:8-9).

#### Forgiveness and Reconciliation

As the angels in heaven do, so did Joseph rejoice over the repentance of his brethren. As he listened to their confession, and looked upon their bewilderment and distress, his love and compassion for them was



kindled in his heart, and time and again, he could barely hold back his tears, and constrain himself from falling on their neck and kissing them, with the kiss of love and peace, dispelling THEIR FEAR. He had FULLY FORGIVEN THEM ALL and EVERYTHING, and was RECONCILED TO THEM, though outwardly he still struggled to appear a stern and hard man. As a man of God, such as he was, he recognized through it all the hand of God graciously overruling for the good of them that "meant it veil." He held no grudge against his brethren, but proceeded to give them the fat of the land.

### The Scarlet Stain upon the Conscience

But, alas! the scarlet stain of sin upon the conscience is indelible in its nature, and nothing that man can do will ever wash it away, and bring back the spotlessness of "white as snow" and the guiltlessness of child-like innocence and purity. The "WORK OF THE LAW" written in the heart, like as the MOSAIC LAW written upon tables of stone, is a "LAW OF SIN AND DEATH," a "ministration of condemnation" (II Cor. 3:9) and knows nothing of mercy for the guilty (Heb. 10:28) nor of FORGIVENESS of sins, and the ministry of RECONCILIATION is foreign to its nature.

The sons of Jacob were under the jurisdiction of this *written within natural law*, which is "not of faith" (Gal. 3:12) but is "of works" and the just demands of it are not satisfied, and the holiness of the "Lawgiver" is not vindicated, until the transgressor has himself received the evil which he has done, and has given a *tooth for a tooth, an eye for an eye, blood for blood and a life for a life, and every transgression and disobedience has received a just recompense of reward.* (Heb. 2:2). The laws of orderly human government have the same basis.

Jacob's sons, to be sure, had acknowledged their sin; they confessed it; they repented for it and brought forth fruit meet of repentance; Joseph found a great change of heart in them for the better; he fully FORGAVE them and was RECONCILED TO THEM. But their con-

science was not reconciled to their own selves; they were *grieved and angry with themselves*; (Gen. 45:5) they had not FORGIVEN THEMSELVES, and instead of PEACE, they had FEAR IN THE HEART, and NO REST FOR THE SOUL, and were TROUBLED (*terrified*) at the presence of Joseph (Gen. 45:3) whom God had sent before them "to preserve life." To meet their Saviour face to face, should have been, and could have been for them "joy unspeakable and full of glory" in the greatest moment of their lives; but

### Hymn for the Month THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Jehovah is the shepherd true,  
Who gives my full salvation.  
This watchman never sleeps or fails,  
His goodness is my portion.  
To verdant pastures does He lead,  
My soul on dew of life shall feed,  
The spirits grace abounding.

Beside the fountain flowing pure  
My soul is ever joyful.  
When courage fails, I go to drink  
Its waters clear and peaceful.  
In righteous paths He leadeth me,  
His guiding hand and care I see,  
He leads me for His name's sake.

Though wandering through this  
gloomy vale  
No evil am I fearing.  
Thy eyes behold my journey here,  
The grace Thou still art sharing,  
Thy rod and staff's consoling power,  
The faithfulness and strength each  
hour.  
Shall lead me safely onward.

Thy table is prepared for me,  
Though enemies surrounding.  
Thou canst dispel my fear and woe,  
With words of cheer abounding.  
My head with oil Thou dost anoint,  
The cup o'erflows. Thou dost appoint  
My longing soul to heaven.

Thy goodness and Thy mercy shall  
Abide with me forever.  
Within my Lord's abode I'll dwell,  
Till death this life shall sever.  
And when my pilgrimage is o'er,  
On wings of fervent love I'll soar  
Up to the Father's mansion.

the GUILTY CONSCIENCE terrified them instead, the loving-kindness and tender mercies of Joseph, their brother, notwithstanding.

"What can wash away my sin?—  
What can make me clean within?  
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!"

Truly, it took then, even as it takes now and as it ever will, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, who through the eternal Spirit (Holy Spirit) offered Himself without spot to God, TO PURGE OUR CONSCIENCE from DEAD WORKS (Heb. 9:14) and the implicit, scriptural FAITH, that that "PRECIOUS BLOOD" WAS SHED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, to purify our heart (Acts 15:9), and effectively and forever remove all sense of guilt and "conscience of sins" (Heb. 10:2), give us PEACE and a GOOD CONSCIENCE, "void of offence toward God, and toward men." (Acts 24:16).

"And without shedding of BLOOD is NO REMISSION." (Heb. 9:22).

We feel confident, that the God of their fathers Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, had later given these sons of Jacob, like as unto their fathers, a revelation of their great kinsman according to the flesh, the suffering Messiah, who was to come to bear their griefs and carry their sorrows. Who was wounded for their transgressions . . . and the chastisement of their peace was upon Him and by whose stripes they could be healed then, even as we now, for *his soul was made an offering for sins* (Isa. 53). In many of the things they lived through, Joseph was A TYPE OF CHRIST, and God preached to them the GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF CHRIST, through facts and experiences of life, rather than words, pointing them to the central truth of salvation, that by the *suffering for sin of the JUST for the UNJUST* (I Pet. 3:18) which is GRACE, sins are forgiven and life is preserved.

Should you meet your Saviour face to face today,—and in a sense He is the Saviour of all men,—would you be "troubled at his presence"? Would you be ashamed, afraid and rather hide? Learn to know Him better, love and trust Him more for all your needs to glorify the grace of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.



# NEWS

## Bluffton, Indiana

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Peter 4:7.

Services on Christmas morning were conducted by Rev. Joseph Hodel from Roanoke, Illinois, who with Mrs. Hodel spent Christmas Day with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dotterer and family. On Sunday, December 26, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dotterer and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dotterer accompanied Rev. and Mrs. Hodel to Latty, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Haab spent Christmas Day with relatives in Milford, Indiana.

Mr. Robert Kaehr from Chicago is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaehr.

Miss Aldine Bucher from LaCrosse, Indiana, is spending some time in our community with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Aeschliman and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Reineck and family from Toledo, Ohio, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Reineck.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kipfer and daughter, Mary Ann, spent Christmas with Mrs. Kipfer's parents in Cissna Park, Illinois, Rev. and Mrs. Gus Meiss.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Levy and son spent Christmas with her family in Elgin, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gerber held a farewell gathering Sunday evening, December 26, for Donald Gerber, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gerber, who will leave Thursday, December 30, to serve in the armed forces.

Mr. and Mrs. David Gerber and family have left to spend some time visiting in California.

Rev. Otto Norr from Leo, Indiana, conducted evening services here December 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Aeschliman are parents of a son, Dale Hilmer, born December 4. Mrs. Aeschliman is the former Imogene Bucher from LeCrosse, Indiana.

The marriage of Doris Fiechter and

Charles Neuenschwander was solemnized Sunday, December 5, by Elder Sam Aeschliman. A dinner and reception for relatives and friends was held in the evening at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Fiechter.

Several cars of young folks from Morton, Illinois, spent the week-end of December 5 in our community, and were guests Sunday evening of Mr. and Mrs. John Baumgartner and family.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 5, for Mrs. Francis Gerber Steffen, 78 years old, by Elder Sam Aeschliman. Surviving are four children and three step-children from the first marriage to Daniel Gerber, and four step-children from the second marriage to Enoch Steffen. Many attended the funeral from Leo, Indiana, Latty and Junction, Ohio and Goodfield, Illinois.

Two showers were held in honor of Helen Gerber, who will become the bride of Roy Gerber in January. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Honegger entertained at one shower Wednesday evening, December 15, and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Reinhard held the other shower Wednesday evening, January 5.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday afternoon, December 30, for Mrs. Mary Gerber, 70 years old, wife of Joseph Gerber. Surviving beside the husband are seven sons; Lewis, John, Norman, Lawrence, Henry, and Roy, all of Bluffton, and Fred of Latty, Ohio; six brothers; and one sister.

Elder and Mrs. Sam Aeschliman and Mr. and Mrs. Joel Maller spent Saturday and Sunday, January 1 and 2, in Mansfield, Ohio.

Rev. and Mrs. Joel Souder and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schweitzer visited our congregation Sunday, Jan. 2.

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." Colossians 4:5.

"Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Colossians 4:6.

## Bremen, Indiana

"... the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid." 1 Timothy 5:25.

Communion services were held on Sunday, December 12, by Elder Elias Dotterer and Elder Sam Aeschliman.

A Christmas program was presented by the Sunday school, Christmas evening. Rev. and Mrs. Henry Beer and family from Milford and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frey and daughters, Betty and Letty, from Remington attended the program.

A daughter, Sheila, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Haney. Mrs. Haney is the daughter of Mrs. Jephtha Gerber.

## Burlington, Oklahoma

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Schrock of Congerville, Illinois, spent the week end of December 5 with relatives and friends of this vicinity.

Rev. and Mrs. Albert Fisher and family of Chicago, Illinois, visited with us on December 12, while en route to California.

Elder Noah Schrock of Oakville, Iowa, and Elder and Mrs. Joseph Wittmer of Sabetha, Kansas, and Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Strahm of Sabetha, Kansas, visited our community December 12 and 13. We held Holy Communion on December 13.

Mrs. Robert Young of Wichita, Kansas, was a visitor in our community December 12.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lambert and family of Wichita, Kansas, were recent visitors in this vicinity.

Those attending church services at Whichita, Kansas, on Monday evening, December 13, were Mr. and Mrs. John Schrock, Rev. and Mrs. Eli Somerhalder, Rev. Joseph Aberle, Rev. Roy Farney, John Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kircher, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schupbach, and Kathryn and Erma Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Sol Rassi and son, Timmy, of Morton, Illinois, spent the



Christmas holidays with Mrs. Rassi's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Eli Somerhalder.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Weyeneth of Metamora, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Ziggenhorn and family of Peoria, Illinois, are spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roth of Kiowa, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, Sr., are at Excelsior Springs, Missouri, where Mrs. Miller is receiving treatments.

Mr. John Schrock is spending a few days at Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Kircher and Dawn Ella, Mrs. Anna Miller and daughter Dorothy, and Sylvia recently spent a week in Morton, Illinois, where they attended the baptismal service of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Luttrell.

#### Chicago, Illinois

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." 1 John 2:10.

The Milford Young People's Sunday school class was with us Sunday, December 5. Elder David Mangold and Rev. Theo Beer held the services. There were many others here from Roanoke, Fairbury, Peoria, Cissna Park, Leo, and Francesville. A supper was served in the church.

Rev. Al Fisher and family left on a three weeks trip to California.

Rev. Albert Scheitlein held the services on Sunday, December 12. There were others here from Elgin, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grusy and family from Eureka were also among the visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bahr of Gridley, Kansas, spent the week-end of December 12 with their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. George Greiner,

We had our Christmas Sunday school program Sunday, December 19. Rev. Philip Gutwein of Francesville, Indiana, held services.

Peter Weber and Earl Bowald of Roanoke, Illinois, spent the week-end of December 19 here.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Haas and Mr. and Mrs. George Haas of Elgin, Illinois, were with us Sunday, Dec. 26.

A blessed evening was enjoyed on

Thursday, December 30, with Rev. Will Furrer and Rev. Irvin Lehman bringing the message.

Sunday, January 2, Rev. and Mrs. Elias Winzeler and Dorothy, and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Von Tobel were our visitors.

#### Fairbury, Illinois

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:1.

Funeral services were held for Ben Leman, aged 70 years, on Saturday, December 11, with Rev. Henry Souder of Bremen, Indiana, officiating.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Kilgus and Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Kaisner, along with a few others from here, visited the Roanoke congregation and were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Hodel on Sunday, December 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Feldman, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bachtold, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Honegger are vacationing in Florida during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Huber are the parents of a daughter, Angela Ruth, born Thursday, December 30.

#### Fort Scott, Kansas

On December 12 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Frieden and family of Lamar, Missouri, visited our congregation.

"Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." (Romans 15:7) Elder Noah Schrock of Oakville, Iowa, and Rev. Joseph Wittmer of Sabetha, Kansas, conducted evening services December 15. Other visitors were Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Strahm and Mrs. Joseph Wittmer of Sabetha, Kansas, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Bahr of Gridley, Kansas; Rev. and Mrs. Fred Marti, Coleen and Alene, and Rev. and Mrs. Ben Banwart and Marie of Lamar, Missouri.

Mr. Fred Spohr and daughters, Emma and Mary, Mr. John Gull of Morris, Minnesota, Mr. Fred Lanz, and Larry Schlupp of Lamar, Missouri, visited relatives and friends December 16.

"Let all your things be done with charity." 1 Corinthians 16:14.

The Sunday school presented a Christmas program December 19.

Services were held here on Christmas eve.

Visiting here over the Christmas holidays with their folks and other relatives were Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Koehl and family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Messner, Garry and Patsy Ann, of Morris, Minnesota, Miss Ida Sinn of Elgin, Illinois, and Walter Schwind of Peoria, Illinois.

#### Francesville, Indiana

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Heb. 13:8.

The Lord's Supper was commemorated on December 12. Many precious teachings were brought before us as we partook of the Holy Sacrament. Elder George Yergler of LaCrosse was present to assist with the services.

Some of the younger Sunday school classes were entertained by their teachers, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wuethrich, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Huber, and Miss Ida Honegger, by appropriate parties during the Christmas season.

An inspiring Christmas program was presented by the Sunday school teachers and their classes on Dec. 19.

Special services were held the evenings prior to Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Besides regular services for New Year's, a special program was enjoyed by a host of brethren and friends. Visitors from Remington and Bremen were present.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1. Special blessings were experienced in the Lord's house as the Word of God was expounded through the visiting ministering servants of God, Rev. Henry Beer of Milford and Rev. Arthur Gudeman of La Crosse, on December 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Anliker and family of Fairbury were visitors on December 5.

A host of visitors from various places, spending the Christmas holidays with friends and relatives, were with us on December 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gudeman left on December 3 to spend a few weeks visiting points of interest in the Southland. En route they visited the brethren and friends in Alabama who convey their greetings to the folks up north.



Births: To Mr. and Mrs. Howard Waymire, a son, Stephen Howard, born on November 24. Mrs. Waymire was formerly Mildred Hauptli.

To Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Ward, a son, Roger Eric, on December 12. Mrs. Ward was formerly Lena Honeggar.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stewart of Columbus, Ohio, a son, on December 29. Mrs. Stewart was formerly Wilma Wuethrich.

To Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Huber, a daughter, Angela Ruth, on December 30. Mrs. Huber was formerly Katherine Von Tobel.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Getz announce the marriage of their daughter, Mary Ann, to Keith Westphal. They were married on December 4.

Misses Marcella Gutwein, Dorothy Pelsy, and Adeline Novotny are attending business college in Fort Wayne.

#### Lamar, Missouri

December 1 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zaugg, Lilly and Josephine Thomann, and Mrs. Martha Frieden of West Bend, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Banwart, Fort Scott, Kansas, spent the day visiting relatives.

"Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1. December 15 in the afternoon the congregation was blessed with wonderful sermons. Rev. Joseph Strahm, Sabetha, Kansas, and Elder Noah Schrock, Oakville, Iowa, held the services. Other ministers present were Rev. Joseph Wittmer, Sabetha, Kansas, Rev. Henry Bahr, Gridley, Kansas, and Rev. Jacob Pfister, Fort Scott. They were all accompanied by their wives except Elder Schrock.

Mrs. W. N. Schlupp, formerly Minnie Sphor of Morris, Minnesota, underwent a major operation December 17. Her father, her brother John, her sisters Mary and Emma, and her brother-in-law John Gull of Minnesota visited her. Her sister Mary stayed to help.

Mrs. Dean Marti underwent an operation for removal of her appendix on December 20. She and Mrs. Schlupp are both doing fine.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Banwart and Joan visited friends and relatives in

Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. They returned home December 22; they report a fine trip.

Those spending Christmas vacations with parents included Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wagenbach, Mr. and Mrs. John Schrock and Charlen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Frank of Oakville, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Braker and children of La Crosse, Indiana, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Banwart and twins, Pearl Marti, and Emery Cordill of Fort Scott, and Walter Cordill of Kansas City, Missouri. Others visiting friends and relatives, Mrs. Leo Meiss of La Crosse, Indiana, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Banwart, and Clara Marti of Fort Scott.

#### Latty, Ohio

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gerber and daughter, Verona, and son from Rockville visited relatives and friends here December 4 to Dec. 8.

Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Hodel from Roanoke, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dotterer, and Mr. Joseph Dotterer, from Bluffton, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Stoller and family, Gridley, and Mr. Willis Eisenmann, Mr. Thomas Grant, Miss Rose Rager, and Mrs. Sylvia Jewel from Toledo visited here Sunday, December 26.

Our Sunday school Christmas program was held on the evening of December 26.

Jesse Gerber is in the Bluffton Clinic hospital recovering from an operation at this writing.

#### Leo, Indiana

Rev. Harry Bucher of La Crosse, Indiana, officiated at services here December 19.

The Sunday school gave their Christmas program Sunday evening, December 19.

Rev. and Mrs. Victor Stavenik are spending several weeks with their relatives here.

Elders Elias Dotterer and Samuel Aeschliman visited our church the evening of December 26.

Percida Conrad, who has been ill,

is rapidly improving. Mrs. Philip Schlatter was again able to attend church January 2.

Morris Stieglitz, who is at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, spent several days at home at Christmas time.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stoller are the proud parents of a baby boy, born on Christmas Day.

Mrs. George Getz and son, Elmer, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Buetel, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Bertsch, and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bertsche and daughter visited relatives here during the Christmas season.

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Col. 3:13.

#### Lester, Iowa

"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." 1 Thess. 5:8.

The marriage of Miss Pauline Feucht, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Feucht, to John Schick, Jr., of Morton, Illinois, was solemnized at Rock Rapids, Iowa, on December 5. The couple left on a honeymoon to California for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Schmidt and Jerry of West Bend and Mrs. Jacob Gehring, Eunice, Phyllis, and Uriel, Elgin, Iowa, spent Christmas here visiting Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Gehring's aged mother, Mary Mogler.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kellenberger on December 28.

Wilbert Knobloch, who is employed near Princeville, Illinois, spent the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich Knobloch, and other relatives.

Christmas day visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mogler were Mr. and Mrs. Adrain Kellenberger of Elgin, Illinois.

#### Mansfield, Ohio

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them." II Tim. 3:14.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Oesch have returned from a three months' trip to Switzerland.

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Gerber of Bluff-



ton visited relatives and friends over the Christmas season.

Visitors over New Year's were Elder and Mrs. Samuel Aeschliman, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Maller, and William Pfister of Bluffton, Elder Noah Bauman of Rittman, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Oesch of Alto, Michigan, Mr. Henry Manz and Mr. and Mrs. Elias Manz of Paulding, Ohio. Baptismal services were held for Byron Rice by Elder Bauman.

Miss Wilma Hartzler of Akron, Ohio, and Miss Marie Beery of Rittman, Ohio, visited with Robert Hartzler and family.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bocka New Year's morning.

#### Morton, Illinois

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." 1 Timothy 5:17.

Rev. Joseph A. Getz was made elder of our congregation to assist our other elder, Carl Rassi. This was performed December 19.

Bill Witzig, who has been living in Altadena, California, is visiting his parents here in Morton. He plans to leave for California around January 12 or 13.

Richard and Mary Luttrell were baptized December 12. Mrs. Luttrell's parents and sister from Burlington, Oklahoma, were here for the baptismal services, as were Mr. and Mrs. Don Kircher and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Domnick of Kiowa, Kansas.

A number of young folks from La Crosse, Francesville, and Cissna Park were here over the week-end of Jan. 1 and 2.

#### Peoria, Illinois

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15.

Miss Esther Streitmatter of Peoria became the bride of Mr. Joseph Sabo of Mansfield, Ohio, on December 2. After a wedding trip to Florida, they will make their home in Mansfield.

On December 5 the engagement of Miss Dorothy Wiegand, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wiegand, and Alf Bachtold of Forrest, Illinois, was an-

nounced. Their home will be made in Forrest after their wedding on January 9.

Mr. and Mrs. David Hoerr and children, Henry and Eloise, left December 26 for a six weeks trip to Calif.

Our Sunday school presented their Christmas program on December 19. It was enjoyed by all present.

Lee Eisenman of Watseka, Illinois, is now a resident of Peoria, having found employment at Caterpillar Tractor Co.

#### Remington, Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith are the happy parents of a son, Lloyd Lee, born December 4.

Rev. and Mrs. Sam Kilgus and family spent Sunday, December 5, visiting friends at Elgin, Illinois.

On December 14 representatives from thirty-five congregations attended the United Brotherhood Aid meeting held at our new church. The total attendance was over 300 for the day, and many also stayed for evening services conducted by Rev. Albert Wuthrich from Pulaski, Iowa. We enjoyed being host to the meeting and wish to thank all that were present for their cooperation.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zahner and Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Zahner and son, Curtis, from Rockville, Connecticut, have been in our midst visiting relatives. The Mrs. Ed and Emmanuel Zahners were formerly Lora and Clara Beckley respectively, daughters of Conrad Beckley from Remington.

On December 19 we held our annual Christmas program, with many from neighboring congregations attending.

Services were held Christmas morning. The Wolcott congregation gathered with us.

Mrs. George Waibel and Miss Amelia Scharlach, who have recently undergone major operations, are at their homes again and are recovering satisfactorily.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Steffen and twins, Wayne and Elaine, visited Mr. and Mrs. Phil Getz and family on December 26. Mrs. Ray Steffen was the former Lucille Getz.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kaufman of Cissna Park visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Bahler and family, during the Christmas holiday.

"But Jesus called them **unto him**, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." St. Luke 18:16. Susan Woodruff, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Woodruff, died. Little Susan is the granddaughter of Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Nussbaum.

#### Roanoke, Illinois

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10.

Mrs. Sigmund Sorg of Goshen, Indiana, who had been visiting friends and relatives in this community, suffered a heart attack on November 30. She is improving in the hospital and plans to go home.

Visitors from Rockville, Connecticut, on the week-end of December 5 included Edward, Lenny, and Al Lugenbuhl and Carlton Lantz.

The infant daughter who was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Zimmerman on December 5 died December 6.

Mrs. Mike Belsley, who has been confined to her home many years, died December 6. Her funeral was held December 9.

Funeral services were held on December 11 at Fairbury for Ben Leman, who died December 8.

Five young people, James and William Hodel, Lester, Gerald, and David Fischer, were added to the fold December 12. Visitors with us on that day were Elder Kilgus and Rev. Kaisner of Fairbury, Illinois, and Rev. Irvin Stoller, of Latty, Ohio.

The annual Christmas Sunday school program was held on December 19. A blessing was received by all who attended.

A daughter, Sandra Kay, was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Leman on December 29. The mother is the former Helen Hodel.

#### West Bend, Iowa

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be** ready always to **give** an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in



you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bruellman and Elias Bruellman spent Sunday, December 5, at Gridley, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Banwart, Mr. and Mrs. George Bruellman, and Mr. and Mrs. Elias Grimm attended the Brotherhood Aid Meeting at Remington, Indiana, December 14. They also visited at Princeville, Eureka, Gridley, and Elgin, Illinois, and Milford, Francesville, and Wolcott, Indiana.

A son, Leland Lee, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Silas Metzger on Dec. 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Fehr are parents of a son, born December 12. He has been named James Alfred.

Some former residents of West Bend spent Christmas week-end with relatives and friends. They included Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Knobloch, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Knobloch and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kellenberger, and Mr. and Mrs. Elias Metzger of Lester, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Steffen, Clara Banwart, Elizabeth Metzger, and Bertha Sauder of Elgin, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Esslinger of Sabetha, Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. Adrain Kellenberger of Elgin, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Messner, Donnabelle and Marcelle, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Messner of Winthrop, Minnesota.

Mr. and Mrs. George Sauder and Mrs. Bertha Sauder spent several days in Chicago and Elgin, Illinois. Mrs. Bertha Sauder remained in Chicago, where she will reside for a time with her daughter, Mrs. Walter Meyer.

#### Wolcott, Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kraft of Gridley, Kansas, and Mr. and Mrs. John Kyburz and family of Forrest were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kyburz and other relatives on Dec. 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Banwart of West Bend, Iowa, were overnight guests in the Levi Kropf home on December 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Blume, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stoller, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Stoller, and other relatives attended the funeral of Andrew Roche at Cissna Park on December 21.

Rev. John Trachsel and Clara and Mr. and Mrs. Levi Kropf, Gladys and Arles, were in Cissna Park on December 22 to attend funeral services for little Dickie Walder.

"... to do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews 13:16.

A group of our church folks went caroling on Wednesday evening, December 22, and visited the sick and aged. Those visited were Leonard Hofstetter, Mrs. E. J. Gudeman, Mrs. Bertha Abersoll, H. R. Klopfenstein, and Mrs. Lucy Stoller.

Our Christmas program, given on December 26, was well attended, with visitors present from Remington, Francesville, and Danville, Indiana, Latty, Ohio, and Bloomington, Illinois.

Miss Arles Kropf accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Donald Walder and Dale Walder of Cissna Park to Rittman, Ohio, over the holidays. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maibach and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Klopfenstein and Harley spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Nohl and family at Goodfield.

#### Croghan-Naumberg, New York

Rev. and Mrs. Dan Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stoller of Latty, Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. Silas Hodel of Roanoke, Illinois, visited our community December 6.

Mr. Fred Weisser of Tremonton, Utah, visited Mr. Fred Stockburger and Elder and Mrs. Philip Beyer several days in December.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Luginbuhl and daughter, Bonnie, of Rockville, Connecticut, spent Christmas vacation with Rev. and Mrs. Harvey Virkler and family. Robert took sick Christmas Eve, and was operated on for appendicitis on Sunday evening. He is getting along fine.

Mr. Ernest Ballasy, Jr., spent two and a half weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ballasy, Sr., of New Jersey during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ramseyer and son, Dale, were home to visit Mrs. Amanda Virkler and family during the holidays.

#### THE NEW YEAR

The years that come, the years that go,  
As volumes written plain,  
Are stored upon the shelf of time  
Where memories remain.

Each year is like a little book  
With leaves and covers bound.  
Our deeds and acts are written there,  
The year's events are found.

The great Librarian keeps the books;  
Our records are all true.  
And from the pages written plain  
Our lives we may review.

To childhood days our thoughts re-  
turn;  
There memories abound.  
The life once free from care and toil  
Within these books are found.

Within these books of youth we find  
That toil and cares increase;  
The doubting heart and wavering  
mind—  
Yea, less of joy and peace.

Our youth is filled with joy and mirth,  
And, lest we would forget,  
The books record our wayward life;  
There's much we do regret.

When manhood days come into view,  
Our strength will scarce suffice  
To give us courage, purpose true  
In trials, toil and strife.

The record of the past events  
Was all removed by grace.  
He then a book with pages fair  
Within our hearts did place.

We trust that He may now record  
Some deeds of truth and light!  
May goodness in our life abound  
To make the pages bright.

He knows the weakness of our frame,  
Our failings all,—no less.  
And for His love and mercy's sake  
Our hearts' book He will bless.

When once the Records all are made  
Though few our deeds may be;  
If to my own these deeds you've done,  
You've done it unto me.

This year will come, the grand New  
Year,  
No bounds shall mark its days.  
Eternal life by merits won,  
We'll join in endless praise.

Henry Beer



## NIGHT SCENES IN THE BIBLE

### David's Night at the Jordan

Our narrative is based on 2nd Samuel 15th and 17th chapters. The Hebrew title of the Third Psalm tells us it was written by David when he fled from his son Absalom. The whole composition breathes forth a spirit of the most serene and sustained trust in God. And yet the author was at the time in the midst of the greatest peril and affliction. It was the first night after his hurried flight from Jerusalem. He had been driven from his throne and from the sanctuary of his God by a most cruel and unnatural rebellion. All the waves of trouble and sorrow had gone over him and the pitiless sword of filial ingratitude had pierced his very soul. He had spent the day in traversing the wilderness of Judah, and the night encampment was on the banks of the Jordan. The bare earth was the bed on which he *laid him down and slept*. The *waking* for which he thanked God, was caused by messengers rushing into the camp at midnight and giving the alarm that the usurper had been advised to pursue with a force of twelve thousand men that night and that all must arise and cross the swift and dangerous Jordan to save their lives before morning. The conduct of David on this occasion supplies a lesson for the imperiled and afflicted at all times. It is well worth the while to study by what means a man of quick and fiery impulses like him could maintain a firm and peaceful trust in God in the midst of so great excitement, weariness, sorrow and peril. With this end in view let us glance at the history of the day preceding that night encampment by the Jordan.

Absalom had been planning a revolt for four years. He used all the blandishments of his personal beauty and winning address to alienate the hearts of the people from the king. He took his stand early in the morning at the gates of the city and at the very entrance of the palace, on purpose to make himself acquainted with all who went and came. If he had used the talent he displayed for mischief, in doing good, his name could have come down to us with

honor; and the saddest chapter in the history of his sainted father would have never been written. His splendid bearing and courteous manners, his false expressions of interest in everything and sympathy for everybody, drew all hearts to him. Added to these personal attentions to individuals, he appeared in public before the mass of the people with more pomp and splendor than the king himself. David, the old warrior monarch, cared little for the parade and trappings of royalty. He moved about among his subjects in Jerusalem on foot and he went out to the top of Olivet to worship without guards or attendants. Absalom rode through the streets and around the city in his chariot attended by horsemen and foot-runners who cleared the way before him with "the shout of a king." The vanity of the multitude was tempted to wish that the brilliant prince were in the place of their praying and psalm-singing sovereign. All this was done under the eyes of the fond old father, who was too much blinded by his affections to suspect treason in his most indulged and fascinating son. When all was ripe for the long plotted rebellion, Absalom disappeared, under some false pretext, from Jerusalem and the next day, at evening, news came to David that his wild and wicked son was already crowned and proclaimed king, twenty miles away at Hebron. "The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom." David, by his own heroism and sagacity, had raised his people to the first rank among the great kingdoms of his time. Now at the first breath of change, his subjects were ready to turn to the treacherous son. There was no time to be lost. The proud and impetuous rival for the throne was not a man to delay or to be trifled with for a moment. A few hours' march would bring him to the gates of Jerusalem; and once there he would not hesitate to add the murder of his own father to the many crimes he had already committed.

Early the next morning the old king gave the order, "*Arise, and let*

*us flee! Make speed to depart, for we shall not else escape from Absalom.*" This is the darkest and most sorrowful day in the eventful life of David—the day that closed with the night encampment and the sacred psalm by the banks of the Jordan. The aged king went forth from his palace upon Mount Zion, and all his people with him. The members of his own household, the servants and officers of the royal court, the military captains and counsellors of state, the heads of tribes and families, the bodyguard of Philistines and the chosen six hundred who had shared in the perils and wanderings of the king before he came to the throne, their wives and children all went forth from the city in a long and mournful procession on that memorable morning. They descended the steep sides of Mount Zion into the valley, crossed over the bare ridge of Moriah on which the temple was subsequently built, and then went down into the deeper valley of the Kidron. They were all on foot and the road which they were to travel was steep and difficult for the strong, much more for the weak and feeble, the aged and little ones. It touched the heart of the aged father deeply when he saw the little band of Philistines filing down the winding path and committing themselves to the fortunes of the fallen monarch, when his own son had conspired against his life. Overcome with his feelings, he besought Ittai, the chief of the band, to go back and take his followers with him and not commit himself and his people unnecessarily to the fortunes of a dethroned and exiled monarch. The generous and chivalric chieftain declared, with a solemn oath upon the name of Jehovah, his unalterable purpose to live or die with his adopted king. They had only just crossed the Kidron when they were overtaken by the priests and Levites bearing the ark of God. David would not suffer them to subject that most sacred depository of the Divine covenant with Israel to the perils and conflicts that awaited him. If he was to be dethroned and exiled, he did not wish to have the constitution of the nation, written upon tables of stone by the finger of God at Sinai,



lost with him. Some great men, when they fall, are ambitious to make the ruin as great as they can. They would have it appear that the world cannot go on without them. Not so David. He said to the priests, "Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again;" "But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, *here am I*, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him." In these words spoke out a great and generous soul that would not have others crushed with the weight of its own sorrow. The ark was carried back to the city and when the people saw that the ark was gone and the king was leading off in the way to the wilderness, they felt that the pledge of God's protection was taken from them, their consecrated king was an outcast, themselves were sharers in his exile and all was lost. They all covered their heads and broke out in loud and piteous lamentation. When the king came to the top of Mount Olivet there had been so many delays that it was already noon and there was much need of haste lest Absalom, who was on the march from Hebron, should arrive and cut off their retreat. But the afflicted monarch could not pass the olive grove, where he had been accustomed to worship God on the summit, without turning aside from the path and stopping to pray for Divine strength and guidance in all his afflictions. He needed the calmness and self-possession which came by prayer to meet the peril and sorrow that awaited him. When he rose up to renew the march, he was able to take a last look at his beloved Zion and turn his face toward the wilderness without a tear. In that day Shimei, a man of the house of Saul came out and cast earth and stones upon the heads of the fugitives and cursed the king. And when the men of war begged to be allowed to take off his head, David only said, *Let him alone, let him curse, for what are his words when my son, my own son, seeketh my life?* At midnight the alarm came that the forces of Absalom were at Jerusalem, that pursuit might be followed up any moment, and the only safety was to be sought

in crossing the Jordan before morning. The dangerous task of crossing the deep and swift river was accomplished by morning. Then David sang the Psalm which we know as the third and here we would recommend everyone to open their Bible and read it. Thus could the dethroned and exiled King David pray and sing praises to God on the morning following the saddest day and the darkest night in his life. Yesterday, an absolute monarch, with millions of subjects to obey his will. Today, a fugitive and exile, with thousands upon his track to hunt him down like an outlaw or a beast of prey. And this crushing weight of sorrow and suffering was laid upon David when the white hairs of age had silvered his brow and the fiery vigor of his young manhood had left him forever. He was a youthful shepherd with a step as light as the wild roe of the mountains when he had fled from the face of the demon-haunted Saul. He could glory in danger, and he heard the battle-cry of Israel with fierce delight when he went forth to meet the giant in the valley of Elah. He was a man to attack the lion with a shepherd's staff and to break a bow of steel with his hands when he exposed himself among the lords of the Philistines at the court of the King of Gath. But it was a very different matter for a gray-headed old king to be driven from his throne by his own son. We have read his words and they are full of trust and peace. In the very climax of his great grief he exhibits a serene and cheerful confidence in God. He can bear the loss of all that belonged to him as a monarch if he can still have that which he most needs as a man and that is the favor of God. This is the lesson which David learned with the loss of his crown—a lesson worth more to us than the crown of all the earth. We have seen David's calm and assured trust in God in the midst of all his troubles. We must see how completely the heart of the father was bound up with misguided affection for his wayward and wicked son.

David was now in exile at Mahanaim, a city on the east of the Jordan among the mountains of Gilead. The last decisive day had come, when he

was to lose his son and regain his crown. He stood in the gate of the city, burdened with age and broken with grief while the thousands of his faithful troops filed before him, as they went out in the glorious light of an Eastern dawn, to fight against Absalom. Beside him stood the iron-hearted warrior Joab and all the chiefs of the army. He knew the fate of his kingdom and his own life also depended upon the defeat of the rebellious host. And yet, with the fondness of an indulgent father, he thought only of his wayward but still beloved son. That son had grown up to be an ambitious and wicked man, the worst man in the kingdom. But the fond old father thought only of the fair-haired boy who had played before him in the innocence of childhood. In the hearing of the soldiers, as they passed David kept charging the chiefs saying *Gently, gently for my sake, with the boy Absalom*. To those stern and loyal chieftains Absalom was nothing but an utterly bad man, the most dangerous man. But to the father, carried away from his better judgment by his parental affection, Absalom was the same dear boy that his fond eyes doted upon in former years, when his glorious beauty was the wonder and praise of all Jerusalem. Joab, the chief captain, was impatient to mount and spur across the plain and head the host that was already far on the march and David's last word to him was still the same, *Gently, gently for my sake, with the boy Absalom*. And now the day was far spent. The conflict was over. The trumpet of recall had been blown through all the ranks of the victorious host. Many thousands who went forth with the morn to the fight were lying cold and dead on the bloody field. King David still sat in the gate of Mahanaim, anxious most of all for the safety of the unnatural son who had lifted up his hand against his father's life. At length when the sun was almost set, a man was seen in the distant woods and running with great speed toward the city. The panting messenger came and with one gasping breath cried, peace. The monarch had no inquiry to make for his army or his people, only the anxious question, "Is the



## What Price Ignorance

The kind of ignorance about which I am going to speak is ignorance in the matter of Christ's Gospel. What happens after death with people who unfortunately do not have an intelligent knowledge of salvation? Can they live and die in immorality, superstition, and idolatry and be saved because of their ignorance? How does God free Himself from the responsibility in these cases? Doubtlessly, these questions are old and familiar to you. With me, they have been a pressing problem for many years. I sought an answer to them to know God's righteousness in them. It seemed that I was never able to meet the person or find the source to shed light upon the subject, and get a concrete and satisfying answer. I reasoned, therefore, that a trip to some remote corner of the earth where such unfortunates live would be all revealing; hence, I secretly harbored a deep desire and strong hope to do just that, although the likelihood of its taking place seemed as remote as the people in question. Foreign service, however, in Hawaii, New Guinea, and the Philippines during the recent conflict presented the opportunity to make this observation. To be sure, it

young man Absalom safe?" When the second messenger came and indicated indirectly what he durst not say, the king was too agitated to restrain himself any longer. He groaned and shook as if a barbed arrow had pierced his aged heart. And then he went up slowly and tremblingly into the little chamber in the tower over the gate, covered his face with his robe and as he walked to and fro poured forth that bitterest cry of parental anguish which the world has heard in the three thousand years: "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" And this mighty man of war, this hero-king, the greatest of all that sat on the throne of Israel, was greatest and mightiest in making his faith in God triumph at last over his vehement and passionate love for his unworthy and wicked son. In David, the man was greater than the monarch, both in faith and affection.

was not a very encouraging environment in which to do research; nevertheless, opportunity could not be lost.

The first six months of 1944, I was stationed in Hawaii. The war had progressed to a stage at that time to give me reasonable assurance of going to some islands in the Pacific south of the equator. With this in mind, I set out to learn in advance as much as possible about the Pacific Islanders in order to make greater progress in findings wherever I might be sent. Shortly before leaving Hawaii, a response to an inquiry directed me to the Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

The Bishop Museum, a three story, gray, stone structure, covers an area about as large as half a city block. Into this building are brought exhibits of all the natural life of the area and of all the cultural knowledge of the Pacific Islanders. Most of the exhibits are made in glass enclosures about seven feet high, seven feet wide, and ten feet long. These enclosures extend lengthwise from the walls, and are spaced about four feet apart. It seemed I was projected into a world in which, as I pleased, I could turn to examine natural wonders and the life and habits of plants and of animals and of people from thousands of years back down to the present of any given area or island of the Pacific.

Briefly, I was impressed with some outstanding characteristic in each of the mentioned creations. For example, I was impressed with the instinctive knowledge sea gulls have of distances. Some fly out to sea only a short distance. Others, according to their kind, may travel out to sea for a distance of five, ten, fifty, or hundreds of miles. So accurate are these birds in keeping their distance that sailors both native and professional use them as mile posts.

Equally impressive was the life and thinking of the natives as it was depicted in the models true to life and in the description of their practices. Although most of them followed a pattern of life as most people do—working, eating, sleeping—there were interwoven practices of shocking superstitions, some of which are still in use today in modified forms. These practices left deep scars and

permanent injuries in the lives and souls of the people. For example, in some tribes at the end of the year in order to appease the wrathful evil or one of their influential men. Perhaps this idol was chosen many centuries ago, shrouded in a mythical story, and handed down from generation to generation. Sometimes the story is carved out in symbols on a long log known as a totem pole—I could not otherwise than feel sorry for these people. Seemingly, they were being deceived as a man looking into the wrong end of a telescope, seeing a distorted picture.

This great panorama which was before me became somewhat of a telescope for me to look down through hundreds of generations of Pacific Islanders. The adjustments were my spirits they would cast one of their youthful maidens into a roaring volcano. Of course, the supernatural thing which represented the evil spirits or gods was indicated by the thing which intrigued a tribal chief perceptions by which fragmentary bits of information were made to stand out boldly. With you and me, things extraordinary may be only a fancy which is treated with casual admiration. With these natives, things extraordinary may be a fantasy which is treated with lasting adoration. They were awed and inspired by the unusual, and ascribed it to the supernatural. Thus gods and idols were originated for them. Why should this be the trend of thinking? I concluded, regardless of how far removed he may be from civilization and education and information, man has an inherent desire, and is motivated by it, to worship something.

While in New Guinea in the latter months of 1944, I resumed my observations, but with difficulty because of military restrictions. By this time I was wondering why people ever went to the far ends of the earth, especially New Guinea. I was hopefully and pleasantly surprised to know that other persons were interested, too, in the same problems. I was engaged in a discussion by Captain Kenneth W. Wright, a doctor who frequently attended the Sunday meetings with the Apostolic Chris-



tians in the Division. Whether or not he arrived at satisfactory answers later, I do not know.

At the dock at Oro Bay, New Guinea, I came face to face with a native who was in a beachcombing group—incidentally, some persons do not regard the Negro as a human but as a kind of brute beast. In giving him a hand with an abandoned steel drum of kerosene, I was working with another human being. Although he was small of stature, and except for his short, crinkly hair and the hard, strained, agonized look on his face because of the rigors of jungle living, he very much resembled the American Negro. Neither did he seem to differ from other people in his likes and dislikes. In spite of the language barrier, he got the idea across to me that he wanted food, pencils, or any of my paraphernalia. This all seemed regular to me. Yes, here he was accepting me, when only slightly less than a year previously, he with others fled with fear and frenzy for protection as though the Americans were a kind of brute beast storming ashore. Really, the only difference which I could see that God considers between that man and me is the distance between us. He and all the natives have the almost incorrigible nature of humans, for the missionaries had more success in teaching them to put on a loin cloth than to put on Christ.

Observations in the Philippines added nothing new to the questions on hand, other than strengthening the fact that the color of people's skin has nothing to do with their nature and with salvation.

After I returned from the service, the ultimate conclusion was attained as it might be with you pondering over a deep riddle until finally the answer came to mind, suddenly, quietly, and serenely. Some of the above might be challenged as matters of opinion or presumption, but of the following—you may judge for yourself.

First, the story of the Garden of Eden was verified by Adam down to Lamech. Lamech told it to his son, Noah; Noah told it to his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. It is the purpose of God-fearing men, and it is the tenor of the Bible's text, to tell

about the fall of man and of his Saviour. It is more than a purpose; it is a responsibility.

Secondly, after the flood, the whole earth was re-peopled by Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 9:19). How did so many people get so far from the first homeland? Families and groups struck out for different parts of the earth either by force, or for an advantage, or to protect a principle.

Thirdly, evidently, some of the responsible leaders who made a permanent separation by going long distances failed to keep alive the faith in God, and they became a law unto themselves. Succeeding generations sunk into the quagmire of total ignorance concerning the one and only God. The inborn yearning, however, in man's heart after the highest lives on and on. By reason of Adam's fall those people's souls are condemned; "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Idols can't change anything; "... for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.) Ignorance can't change anything; for "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14). Responsibility can't be shifted to God; for He has said, "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; ... if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." (Ezekiel 33:7, 8). As a consequence, the price of ignorance in true salvation is eternal separation from God.

Not just in far away places, but right in everyone's backyard there are people who are equally far from salvation and in need of hearing a Gospel messenger's glad tidings. Many people have let their children grow like weeds without a foundation in Christian principles. The vacuum is filled with perverse thoughts and principles in nearly every case. Then there are persons who do have sufficient knowledge in

salvation, but they do not bother to take it seriously because no one stirs them to take thought.

Christians are Christ's mouth pieces, and are commissioned to occupy until He comes (Luke 19:12-26). He has shifted the watchman's responsibility to Christian parents and to the Church in this dispensation of the Gospel.

Sam Schladenhauffen

#### TREASURE IN HEAVEN

Out of this life I shall never take  
Things of silver and gold I made.  
All that I cherish and hoard away  
After I leave, on this earth must stay.

Though I have toiled for a painting  
rare

To hang on the wall, I must leave it  
there.

Though I call it mine, and boast its  
worth

I must give it up when I leave this  
earth.

All that I gather, and all that I keep  
I must leave behind when I fall asleep.  
And I often wonder what I shall own  
In that other life, when I pass alone.

What shall they find, and what  
Shall they see, in the soul that  
Answers the call for me.  
Shall the Great Judge say  
When my task is through,  
That my spirit has gathered some  
riches, too?

Or shall at last it be mine to find  
That all I'd worked for I'd left be-  
hind?

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