



"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11.

"The LORD IS merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy." Psalm 103:8.

Our Ship of Faith

We, or especially those of us who have been abroad while in the service of our country, can indeed compare our ship of faith with a natural ocean-going vessel. Even though it be ever so large and can accommodate thousands of passengers, it can be tossed about by the mighty ocean as though it were nothing.

I can well recall how we used to feel when told that a storm was approaching us. With nothing in sight but sky on water, I am sure that at times many a one who had possibly never prayed before would look to God for something which could not be found inside the ship. I well remember how thankful we were to see land in a distance after our voyage was almost completed. Even though it was a remote place which none of us really cared to see, we were all glad to once again set foot on soil. While on the high seas, one can to the fullest extent realize how you are entirely at God's mercy.

So is it with our spiritual ship of faith. Even though we have been redeemed through Jesus Christ and His atoning blood, our voyage has only begun. According to His Word, only those who finish this voyage in faith will gain entrance to God's kingdom. We are glad to know that we can be a winner, even though we may not be first to breast the tape, because His Word teaches whoever finishes the race set before us in safety will re-

(Continued on page 3)

THE GOOD CONSCIENCE

"And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; . . . And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence."

"And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold

that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us (repay) all the evil which we did unto him.

And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I (father Jacob) pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil; and now, we (his brethren) pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

And his brethren also . . . fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

. . . ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good . . . to save much people alive.

Now therefore fear ye not. . . . And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." (Gen. 50:15-21)

We quote here a considerable portion of Scripture, that in the light of this great TRUTH illuminating eternal Floodlight of God, we may again trace the helpless and hopeless struggle of the "natural" sons of Jacob to erase from their conscience the stain of their transgression and sin, escape its condemnation, and shake off its guilt, and find Peace with assurance of FORGIVENESS, and Security with deliverance from FEAR.

TREASURED VERSES

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every BRANCH that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." John 15:1-4.

me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life . . .

And to save your lives by a great deliverance."

Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him." (Gen. 45:3-15)

"And when Joseph's brethren saw

But in vain, it seems, did they strive during long years of their lives, doing in their own efforts all that they could for themselves to unburden their soul and find enduring rest. And in vain, it seems, did Joseph the Saviour in type, by words and deeds of kindness, and even by tears of love and compassion, seek to *dispel their fear* and give them comfort and assurance of *full forgiveness*. For, when Jacob their father had died, their GUILTY CONSCIENCE revived and witnessed against them with renewed vigor, brushing aside all the assurance of their Joseph, and filling their hearts with FEAR. "Joseph," they said, "will peradventure HATE us and will CERTAINLY REQUITE US all the evil which we did unto him."

They HATED Joseph at one time, and they expected that he would HATE THEM at some time; they did evil to Joseph, and they certainly expected to be repaid and receive the evil which they had done. For the "WORK OF THE LAW written in their heart" had shown them, that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." To think that man can sow EVIL and reap GOOD they knew is contrary to nature and a mockery to the God of nature. And wherever this law operates, be that in the physical nature around us, or in the human nature within us, it is inviolate, and like the law of Moses, which is the essence of the unwritten law within, it is the "Law of sin and death," the "Ministration of condemnation" (II Cor. 3:9). It provides for no mercy and for no FORGIVENESS OF SINS (Heb. 10:28).

With the guilt and condemnation of their sin continuing upon their conscience, they continued to be insecure as to the FORGIVENESS of Joseph, and sought it ever anew. Now through the interceding petition of the words of their departed father: "FORGIVE, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin." Then, through direct appeal: "and now, we pray thee, FORGIVE the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father." Again they seek his favour and forgiveness as they "fell down before his face" and mak-

ing themselves his servants, as though he was "in the place of God." Joseph, the man of faith and faithfulness, gave his brethren renewed assurances of FORGIVENESS, dispelling their FEAR and speaking kindly to them in tears. Did they fully believe his words this time, and trust his forgiving with full assurance of faith in him, his steadfast love and kindness toward them?

And even if they did, did that then remove the guilt from their conscience and the fear from their heart and give them PEACE before God? No! for "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him. (For the redemption of their soul is precious)" (Ps. 49:7-8) And it took the precious Blood of Christ, that we may have redemption and "The FORGIVENESS OF SINS, according to the riches of his GRACE;" (Eph. 1:7) It took the blood of Christ to *sprinkle our hearts from an EVIL CONSCIENCE* (Heb. 10:22) and make it a GOOD CONSCIENCE "void of offence toward God, and toward men." It takes the blood of Christ to "purge our conscience from dead works" to make it a GOOD CONSCIENCE, delivered from all sense of guilt and FEAR of judgment and condemnation. (Heb. 9:14) "Who is he that condemneth? *It is Christ that died* (for all our sins), yea rather, that is risen again (for our justification,—being declared righteous), who is even at the right hand of God (having entered into heaven itself by his own blood, as our great High Priest to atone for our sins), who also maketh intercession for us" (as our Advocate) (Rom. 8:34).

PEACE, within the heart and with God, and in a sense, even with men, is not possible without a GOOD CONSCIENCE; a good conscience is not possible without an unwavering assurance of SINS FORGIVEN and covered up, no more to be remembered. Forgiveness is not possible apart from the BLOOD OF CHRIST, *shed for the remission of sins*. And the cleansing power of the Blood of Christ, to wash our sins away and make them "whiter than snow," cannot be appropriated or made avail-

able, except by the full assurance of FAITH in the WORD OF GOD, the testimony of the Father concerning His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. By that faith God will *purify the heart*. And to such a heart, God bears witness, "GIVING THEM THE HOLY GHOST" (Acts 15:8-9)—not the spirit of bondage again to FEAR; but the Spirit of Sonship, bearing witness with our spirit, that we are the Sons of God (Rom. 8).

CHRIST "having made PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS, by Him to RECONCILE ALL THINGS UNTO Himself . . . and you . . . hath He RECONCILED . . . to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight: If you continue IN THE FAITH. . . ." (Col. 1:20:23).

But why, you ask, is the FORGIVENESS OF SINS, the PURGING OF THE CONSCIENCE, the SPRINKLING OF THE HEART FROM AN EVIL CONSCIENCE, and the MAKING OF PEACE, all bound up IN THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD, even the precious BLOOD OF CHRIST? Why, you ask, is there without the SHEDDING OF BLOOD NO REMISSION? (Heb. 9:22)

If a man repent and in deep contrition confessed his sins, as did the sons of Jacob, and is even *grieved and angry with himself*, and does the *best he can*, is that not sufficient for FULL FORGIVENESS? O yes, with men, failing themselves, but not with an holy and a just and a righteous God. Joseph had truly and from his heart forgiven his brethren, when he *kissed them and wept upon them*. But they were still *grieved and angry with themselves* (Gen. 45) because of their guilty conscience. Temporarily they may have felt better, but their violated conscience was not reconciled and not *purged of the dead works*, the trespass and sin committed many years ago. And upon Jacob's death, their conscience still witnessing against them, they were filled anew with fear because of the evil which they had done, and apparently pleaded more earnestly and more humbly for FORGIVENESS than ever before.

Joseph COULD forgive them and DID forgive them, but it is evident that he could not purge and remove from their stricken conscience their sense of guilt, erase their pain of fear and give them PEACE, though he wept together with them and though they all had seen that the EVIL they thought against Joseph, God meant it unto GOOD and unto the SALVATION of many lives. Yet what they had done was of HATE, and was evil, it defiled and made their CONSCIENCE EVIL, and nothing that man can do for himself or for one another could ever again make it a CLEAN and a GOOD CONSCIENCE, except the BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED AT THE CROSS, as the legal evidence of DEATH, the "wages of sin," wages which we had earned, but which were paid to our great substitute, our Joseph, in order that God, the righteous Judge, may be just and "lawfully" FORGIVE NOW, the "TRESPASS of thy brethren, and their sin" and exercise a *MERCY rejoicing against judgment* upon legal grounds. For GRACE IS THE LAWFUL EXERCISE of MERCY on the part of God. For this Joseph could not be "in the place of God," nor have anyone fall down before his face.

Why the blood? "For the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off." (Lev. 17:14). "Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water." (Deut. 12:23-27) When the blood is poured out, the life is poured out. Justice demands the life of the sinner. Under the law, and foreshadowing the death and the blood of the Cross of Christ, and looking forward to it, an innocent animal sacrifice for sin could be substituted and offered for the remission of sins. But only the Cross of Christ, God's own sacrifice for sin, could make valid and redeem the interim forgiveness of some sins under the law.

In reverence for the blood of Christ, and its exalted place in God's plan of redemption, the Gentile Christian also will in loving remembrance, rather than of legal constraint, observe till this day the Apostolic counsel: to "abstain . . . from blood, and

from things strangled." (Acts 15:29) (Lev. 17:15).

Joseph, truly, was wholly RECONCILED to his brethren and had heartily forgiven them all, but his brethren, being ignorant of GRACE, were reluctant to believe it, and suffered much because of it. Even so now, it is needful, that by FAITH in the Word, we so reckon it to be faithful and true: "that God was in Christ RECONCILING the world unto himself, NOT IMPUTING their trespasses unto them." But RECONCILIATION, to be effective and bring PEACE and JOY, must not remain ONE-SIDED,—it takes TWO, to be at enmity, and TWO to make PEACE. Having then the ministry and the Word of reconciliation committed to us, God beseecheth and we pray you

CALL BACK

"If you have gone a little way ahead of me, call back—

'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track;
And if, perchance, Faith's light is dim,
because the oil is low,
Your call will guide my lagging course as wearily I go.

"Call back, and tell me that He went with you into the storm;
Call back, and say He kept you when the forest's roots were torn;
That, when the heaven's thunder and the earthquake shook the hill,
He bore you up and held you where the very air was still.

"O friend, call back, and tell me for I cannot see your face;
They say it glows with triumph, and your feet bound in the race;
But there are mists between us and my spirit eyes are dim,
And I cannot see the glory, though I long for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you when your prayer was but a cry,
And if you'll say He saw you through the night's sin-darkened sky—
If you have gone a little way ahead,
Oh, friend, call back—
'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track."

in Christ's stead: "BE YE RECONCILED TO GOD."

"Purge me with hyssop (a little shrub to sprinkle blood with), and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whither than snow. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create within me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me." (Ps. 51).

PHILIP GUTWEIN, JR.

OUR SHIP OF FAITH

(Continued from page 1)

ceive the promised prize, eternal life. So it is true that often this ship of faith is tossed to and fro on the stormy voyage which is set before us.

Yes, we are pursued by a relentless enemy who seeks to destroy the entire plan of salvation. So we must always pray to God for grace so we can continue this stormy voyage without suffering shipwreck. Many who have suffered this will admit that it was brought on through lack of prayer. God has promised to be with us even unto the end. So if we are earnest in our calling and put forth all effort, we can through God's help bring our ship of faith to that blessed harbor where it can be anchored forevermore.

It should be understood that we are not to in a selfish manner seek only our own salvation, but as children of God it becomes our responsibility to be influential to others who have not yet responded to His call. If in no other way God at least expects us to be a light along the way.

It can be said that heaven's gates are not highly arched like king's palaces and whoever enters therein must go on their knees.

So in closing I would say our ships of faith would best complete this stormy voyage as a great convoy, bound together with the bond of faith and love, that should one ship suffer shipwreck and sink, others might be near by to rescue its survivors. Only if we go hand in hand, cleaving to God's unchanging hand, can we look forward with a justified feeling of meeting loved ones who have gone on before, where Christ's own pierced hands will wipe away all tears.

Laurin Bertsch.

NEWS

Bluffton, Indiana

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of GOOD COURAGE, and do it; fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, **even** my God, **will be** with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." I Chronicles 28:20.

The sudden passing from life into eternity of J. E. (Bud) Gerber, 53 years old, left a grief-stricken family as well as a host of relatives and friends. Those left to mourn his death besides the widow, Sophia (Isch), are one son, Donald; one daughter, Phyllis; the father, Jeff; seven sisters and brothers, Mrs. John Fiechter, Mrs. Amos Dubach, Sam, Aaron, and Jack Gerber, all of Bluffton, Mrs. Amos Steffen of Milford, and Eli Gerber of Goshen, Indiana. The mother and one brother, Melvin, are deceased. Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon, February 4, by Elder David Mangold, with many attending from various congregations.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Aeschliman and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baumgartner and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Isch and daughters, and Miss Sarah Gerber have returned from a vacation in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Maller, Mrs. Joseph Moser, Mrs. Melvin Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. William Moser, and Mr. and Mrs. William Kipfer, Jr., are vacationing in Florida.

Funeral services were conducted for an aged brother, Joel Reinhard, on Monday afternoon, February 7, by Elder Sam Aeschliman.

Albert Heyerly, 61 years old, passed away suddenly from a heart attack on February 9. Surviving are the widow, Aldine; seven daughters, Mrs. Henry Gerber, Mrs. Gaius Gerber, Mrs. Melvin Maller, Mrs. Curtis Toner, Mrs. Floyd Gerber, Misses Dula and Rosella Heyerly; six sons, Raymond, Herman, Clifford, Luster, Homer, and Simon; one brother, Jeff; one step-sister, Mrs. Samuel Kaehr; two step-brothers, David and Amos Dubach, and 26 grandchildren. Fu-

neral services were conducted Friday afternoon, February 11, by Rev. Harry Bucher. A host of relatives and friends shared the deep sorrow with the bereft family.

Pvt. Donald Gerber from Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, spent the week-end of February 13 with his mother, Mrs. J. E. Gerber.

On Sunday, February 13, five converts were added to the fold. They were Miss Emma Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Levy, and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Getz. We had many visitors from various congregations who witnessed the baptismal ceremony, including Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Nussbaum, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Bahler and others from Remington, Rev. and Mrs. Joel Souder and many others from Leo, Indiana, and others from Elgin, Illinois, Bremen, Indiana, and Toledo, Ohio.

Among those visiting our congregation Sunday, February 20, were Elder and Mrs. William Stettner from Elgin, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Reineck and family and Misses Emily and Mary Frautschi from Toledo.

Millard and Herman Aschliman, Glennis and LeRoy Steffen, Howard Habegger, and Eugene Maller spent Sunday, February 20, in Cissna Park, Illinois.

Mrs. Gus Meiss from Cissna Park is spending a few weeks with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kipfer and family.

Elder and Mrs. Sam Aeschliman spent Sunday, February 20, in Mansfield.

New arrivals in our community are Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kipfer's daughter, Ruth Elizabeth, born February 14, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aeschliman's daughter, Gail Lorraine, born February 21.

Baptismal services were conducted Sunday, February 27, by Elder Sam Aeschliman for Christine Dubach and Mrs. Doris (Rauch) Yost.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos Bertsch from Elgin, Illinois, spent the week-end of February 27 visiting in our community.

Mr. and Mrs. Jehu Gerber are vacationing in Florida with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gerber.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bahler and daughter, Arlene, from Remington, Indiana, visited in our community Sunday, February 27.

Burlington, Oklahoma

"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." Hebrews 13:13-14.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Schupbach, Mrs. Doris Cowden, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schupbach and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Noah Domnick left February 3 for Mesa, Arizona, where they plan to spend the winter.

Due to the bad roads and high water, we could not assemble for several Sundays.

Rev. and Mrs. Elias Somerhalder spent several days in Ft. Scott, Kansas, visiting their daughter and family.

Rev. Roy Farney and Rev. Joseph Aberle and their families visited in Wichita recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Domnick left for Morton, Illinois, March 2, where they plan to spend several days.

Misses Leah and Dena Fechter and Mr. Joseph Fechter spent Sunday, February 20, and the week following in our community.

Misses Kathryn and Erma Miller spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Terry and family.

Chicago, Illinois

"Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know **that** my Redeemer liveth, and **that** he shall stand at the latter **day** upon the earth: And **though** after my skin **worms** destroy **this** body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; **though** my reins be consumed within me." Job 19:23-27.

Rev. Phil Sauder of Cissna Park, Illinois, held the services Sunday, January 6, in the absence of Rev. Al Fisher, who was in Remington, Ind.

Three more souls were added to our

fold on Sunday, January 13. They are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lehman and Peter Ernst. Our Sunday visitors included Emma Wenger of Cissna Park, Peter Weber and Earl Bowald from Roanoke, Mr. and Mrs. David Hartman and family and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hartman of Fairbury, Rev. and Mrs. Irvin Leman and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Leman and family of Wolcott, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gruesy of Goodfield, and also many others.

Rev. Fred Grimm of Quincy, Illinois, held the services of our Thursday evening meeting, February 10.

Miss Emily Getz of Morton, and Miss Dorothy Gieger of Peoria visited us Sunday, February 20.

Mrs. Gideon Rinkerberger of Fairbury and Mrs. Ben Rinkenberger and daughter of Strawn, Illinois, have been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hofer. Mrs. Gideon Rinkenberger recently had a minor operation.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Zeltwanger and several others of Latty, Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. John Schmidt of Wolcott, Indiana, attended the services Sunday, February 27.

The engagement of Eldon Schurter and Lucille Hartman was announced Sunday, February 27. No wedding plans have been made. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

Croghan (Naumberg), New York

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." I Corinthians 13:4-7.

Mr. and Mrs. David Schambach are the parents of a son, David Lee, born February 4. Mrs. Schambach was formerly Lois Virkler.

Mrs. John Rauhe and Mr. Arthur Herzog are recovering from operations.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Farney and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Virkler are vacationing in Florida.

Mrs. Anna Thompson and daughters of Rockville, Connecticut, spent a week with her sister and brother-in-

law, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Herzog.

Andrew Virkler, son of Amanda Virkler, has enlisted in the Navy.

Elgin, Illinois

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:9, 10.

February 6 was a day of rejoicing here. Twelve souls were taken into the fold. They were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scheitlin, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Kellenberger, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kellenberger, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Kellenberger, Margaret Haas, Helen Liebig, Nathan Steffen, and Gene Moser. Many members and friends attended the baptisms in the evening.

Rev. and Mrs. Al Fisher and family, Loretta Bittner, and Evelyn Frey of Chicago were guests at the Theo Steffen home for supper and the evening. A singing was held in the evening.

Attending the funeral services of Elsie Griener on February 28 were Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Griener, Mr. Ben Griener, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Griener, Mr. Paul Griener, John and Emil Griener, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Joos, Carol Lou Joos, Martha Schaffer, Doris Zeltwanger, and Mrs. Ralph Mohr of Morris, Minnesota; also Fred Rager, Mr. and Mrs. Zeltwanger, Anna Rager, and Elias Rager of Latty, Ohio.

Fort Scott, Kansas

"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." I Peter 4:19.

Visiting our congregation on February 13 were Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hohulin, Mrs. Sol Rassi and Timmy, and Harlan Kaiser of Morton, Illinois, Rev. and Mrs. Eli Somerhalder of Burlington, Oklahoma, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Marti and Charles, Mrs. Elizabeth Cordill, Mrs. Rose Frieden, and Virgil Frieden, of Lamar, Missouri. Those who came later for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Banwart and Joan, Mrs. Ben Banwart, Marie, Pearl, and Lloyd Banwart, Raymond and Berniece Braker, and Marie Marti of Lamar, Missouri.

Mrs. Leo Muehling of Cissna Park, Illinois, was hospitalized three days.

She had the misfortune of being bitten by some dogs when they stopped in town to make a telephone call. Mr. and Mrs. Muehling and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ault had visited in California, Oklahoma, and Wichita, Kansas, and were en route to Lamar, Missouri, to visit Mr. Muehling's sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lehman and family and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Schmidgall and family left for their home in Hancock, Minnesota, February 17, after visiting three weeks with Mrs. Schmidgall's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Pfister and other relatives.

Fairbury, Illinois

"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:8.

Miss Katharine Huber, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Huber, was married February 6 to John Fehr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Fehr of Eureka, Illinois. The marriage was solemnized by Rev. Joshua Broquard. The couple left on an extended trip to California and Oregon.

Rev. and Mrs. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park visited South Fairbury church and were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Lehmann Sunday, January 30.

William Herstein, age 67, of Forrest, Illinois, passed away February 9. His funeral was held February 11 at North Fairbury church.

Francisville, Indiana

Welcome. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hild have moved here from California. Mr. and Mrs. Si Traub and daughters have moved here from Peoria, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bucher and family have moved here from La Crosse, Indiana.

Sunday School. Mary B. Wuethrich entertained the girls of her Sunday school class at her home. The Junior class has been busy making scrapbooks for shut-ins. The Senior class bought an abundant supply of hymn books for the congregation.

Bible School. Rev. Henry Beer of Milford attended Bible School on February 9. Those who attended were challenged when reminded of the Lord's command in publishing the Word to the nations of the earth. The following week it was decided to begin a Bible fund to be used for buying

Bibles for those who are destitute of spiritual food. "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." Mark 13:10.

Visitation. "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them." Hebrews 13:3. A group of young people called at the Pulaski County Farm where they sang for the aged and those who make their home there.

Accidents and Illness. Ellsworth Pelsy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Pelsy, suffered several fractured ribs when struck by a car. Mrs. George Bolliger underwent a minor operation. Ronnie Anliker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Anliker, was released from quarantine for scarlet fever. Mrs. Elmer Anliker had a major operation on February 19; Miss Elizabeth Anliker of Elgin is helping care for the family. Mrs. Ivan Pelsy has been on the sick list too this month. Miss Marjorie Frey of Remington has been staying at her home to help. Mrs. Henry Leman is better after several weeks' illness. Mr. David Gudeman is ill at his home.

Births. To Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Pelsy a daughter on February 1. A premature daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Farris on February 22 did not live. Mrs. Farris was formerly Miss Donna Pfladderer. A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Von Tobel, Jr. on February 26.

Trip. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Von Tobel, Sr. and son, Bob, and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Von Tobel and daughter left February 11 on a two weeks' trip to Florida.

Relief Work. A large group including many workers from other places come every other Wednesday to pack and ship food, clothing, and Bibles for European relief. "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse." Proverbs 28:27.

Good News. Another young person, Nathaniel Gutwein, has given his heart to the Lord.

Gridley, Illinois

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

Paul Hany died suddenly Wednesday,

February 23, of a heart attack. Funeral services were held here Saturday morning. Seven sons survive. His wife preceded him in death several years ago.

Three souls, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hodel and Carlton Klopfenstein, were baptized Sunday, February 27. These were the first of a group of converts.

Visitors Sunday, February 27, were Elder David Mangold and Rev. Joseph Hodel of Roanoke. Other visitors were Carolyn and Lloyd Frey, Elmer, Raymond, and Mabel Bahler and Velda Beckley from Remington, Indiana; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stoller, Robert Kahr, Elizabeth Kahr, Lillian Meyer, and David Neuenschwander of Bluffton, Indiana. They were all supper guests at the home of Mrs. Rose Schlipf.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stevig and son, David, and Mr. and Mrs. William Funk left February 6 for a trip through the western states. They plan to visit Maywood, California, and Portland, Oregon.

A number of people from Gridley attended the funeral of Eli Martin at Princeville, Thursday, February 17. He died suddenly following a stroke.

Hancock and Morris, Minnesota

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:3.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kellenberger, Mr. and Mrs. William Zeltwanger, and Mr. John Schmidgall visited in Elgin, Illinois, over the week end of February 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schaefer are parents of a son born February 7. The son has been named Charles Otto. A baby shower was given for Charles at his home February 25. Mrs. Schaefer was formerly Helen Eisenman of Cissna Park, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koehl and children left March 1 for Ft. Scott, Kansas, where they plan to spend a few weeks with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Pfister.

Two more souls have accepted Christ's invitation. They are Floyd Schmidgall and Reuben Koehl.

Many relatives and friends attended the funeral services for Miss Elsie

Greiner in Elgin, Illinois, Feb. 28.

We are sorry to report Mrs. Ben Greiner is confined to bed with rheumatic fever. Her sister, Katherine Kachelmuss of Elgin, Illinois, is staying with them.

Mr. Frank Miller passed away March 4, with funeral services March 7. He is the son of Mrs. Ricka Miller.

Albert Luthi, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Luthi, was married February 22 to Miss Myrtle Larson of Kensington, Minnesota. They will make their home on a farm.

David, Cal, Wimp, and Marion Moser, Arthur Messner, and Corrine and Alice Moser visited friends and relatives in Roanoke, Illinois, Burlington and Oakville, Iowa, over the week-end of March 6.

Mrs. Lou Stettner was baptized at her home Tuesday, March 8. She is 73 years of age and has been sick in bed since October of 1947. Those witnessing the impressive baptism were members of the family, her brother and sister, Mr. Fred Spohr and Mrs. Ricka Messner; our ministers of our congregation and a few relatives.

Lamar, Missouri

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hohulin and Harlan Kaiser of Morton, Illinois, and Emil Banwart and Clara Marti of Fort Scott, Kansas, were guests of Ben Banwart's February 16. The company spent the remainder of the week visiting relatives and friends.

On Sunday, February 20, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Banwart and sons brought Mrs. Sol Rassi and Timmy down from Ft. Scott, as she had come with the Hohulin's.

Other visitors for the weekend

were Mr. and Mrs. John Strahm and Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Stoller of Sabetha, Kansas, and Emil Banwart, Pearl Marti and Ruth and Irene Banwart of Ft. Scott.

Latty, Ohio

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel." Joel 3:14-16.

Funeral services were held February 4 for Harvey Stoller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Stoller. Elder Sam Aeschliman and Rev. Theo. Beer officiated.

Rev. and Mrs. William Fiechter from Bluffton spent Sunday, February 6, here.

On February 20, Rev. and Mrs. Joel Souder from Grabill, Indiana, were with us for the day; also Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bauman from Sterling, Ohio.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Laukhuf on January 29.

The engagements of Josephine Schlatter to Donald Wenninger and Mildred Wenninger to Howard Wieland were announced.

Mr. and Mrs. David Stoller from Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Ester Kipfer from Leo were here Sunday, February 27.

Leo, Indiana

"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." I Samuel 16:7.

Rev. Victor Stavenik has been critically ill at the St. Joseph hospital of Ft. Wayne. He was taken there on February 11. His condition remains about the same at this writing.

Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Frautschi and Mrs. Arthur Frautschi visited with Mrs. Frautschi's sister, Percida Conrad, who is improving nicely.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry J. Souder of

Bremen, Indiana, were Grabill visitors March 4.

Katherine Schott is on our sick list and is making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Philip Schott of Ft. Wayne at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwartz and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Clauss have returned home after an enjoyable visit to various points on the west coast.

Mr. George Knochel of Gary, Indiana, visited several days this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reuter and Mr. Knochel's sister, Miss Lena Knochel, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Lester, Iowa

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." I Samuel 15:22.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Feucht left February 1 for a month's visit in Maywood, California. They are attending the wedding of their son Sam on February 27.

Mr. Fred Metzger is recovering after a week in the hospital.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Mogler spent the week-end of February 6 in Elgin, Illinois. They attended the baptismal services of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Kellenberger.

Mrs. Dietrick Knoblock also attended baptismal services at Princeville, Illinois, for her son Wilbert on Feb. 6.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Banwart, Lela, Bobby, and Bernice Banwart, all of West Bend, visited the week-end of February 27 with Mr. and Mrs. Eli Metzger and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wulf and family attended the wedding of their son Leonard to Violet Luthi at Morris, Minnesota, on February 3.

Mansfield, Ohio

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Beer are the parents of a daughter, Deane Kay. Mrs. Beer is the former Miss Freda Kaschuba.

On Sunday, February 6, we were visited by Elders Sam Aeschliman,

David Mangold, Noah Schrock, Noah Bauman, and Rudolph Graf. Many from Rittman, Akron, and Girard attended evening services. The church was well filled.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fuhrer, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dotterer, and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bocka attended services in Rittman on Sunday, February 13, when a number of converts were added to the fold. Mr. and Mrs. Dotterer's son, Edwin, and wife, Anna, and also Mrs. Bocka's sister and brother were among those baptized.

Sister Theresa Kremer passed from this life very suddenly on Saturday evening, February 19. She was 80 years old.

Elders Sam Aeschliman and Noah Bauman held services here. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Pfister were baptized.

We are very glad and thankful for each and every soul that turns to the Lord. For our Lord and Saviour said that one soul is of more value than all the treasures of this world. And also the angels in heaven rejoice over the sinner who repents.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Stier visited in Rittman on Sunday, February 27.

Miss Louise Sauder spent the week-end of February 27 visiting her cousin, Mrs. Amos Pulfer, and family of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartzler are the parents of a baby boy, born February 24.

Oakville, Iowa

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kaiser and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Plattner of Morton, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Endress from Princeville, Illinois, were visitors February 20.

Elder Noah Schrock left on February 21 for a trip to the West Coast. He will stop at various places on the way.

On February 27, Elmer Sauder of Mansfield, Ohio, and Melvin Beery of Rittman, Ohio, were supper and evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Orel Steiner. There was an enjoyable evening spent.

Peoria, Illinois

Mr. Fred Schafer suffered a stroke recently, but we are happy to report that he is getting along nicely.

We welcomed three new members to the fold of Christ in the past month. They were Melvin Unsicker, August Vierling, and Mrs. Henry Blunier.

Mrs. Sophia Knepp, widow of the late Rev. Daniel Knepp, passed away February 22 after a short illness. She leaves to mourn her passing four children, Walter, Daniel, and Mrs. Florence Frank of Peoria and Mrs. Marie Bell of Chicago. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Emil Schubert.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wiegand are moving on a farm near Fairbury. We wish them much success and happiness in their new home.

Princeville, Illinois

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all **men** in all **things**, not seeking mine own profit, but the **profit** of many, that they may be saved." I Corinthians 10:31, 33.

Cecil Dallinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Dallinger, has been inducted into the army and is stationed at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. He spent a few days at home recently.

The Reverends Emil Schubert and Roy Sauder of Peoria visited our congregation February 6. In the afternoon baptismal services were held for Walter Feucht, Charles Hemmer, Raymond Klumpp, and Wilbert Knoblock.

Lawrence Wagenbach, son of Rev. and Mrs. George Wagenbach, is confined to his bed. He has rheumatic fever and must stay in bed for two months or more. He was afflicted with the same thing last year and was in bed several months.

The entire community was deeply shocked at the sudden passing of one of our dear young brothers, Eli Martin. He was sick only two hours and passed away at his home February 14, following a cerebral hemorrhage. Funeral services were held February 17, with the Reverends Joseph A.

Getz of Morton, David Mangold of Roanoke, and Emil Schubert of Peoria officiating. He leaves to mourn his wife, the former Edith Streitmatter, two sons, Gregory, five and Richard, four, his aged mother Mrs. Marie Martin, two brothers, four sisters, besides numerous other relatives and friends.

Four more young souls were added to the fold February 20. They were Eugene and Noah Herrmann and Vernon and Jeff Streitmatter. The Reverends Emil Schubert and Michael Weyeneth conducted the services.

Remington, Indiana

"Rebuke not an elder, but intreat **him** as a father; **and** the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity." I Timothy 5:1, 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Getz and son, Ronnie, have returned home after spending several weeks at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The wedding ceremony of Doris Scharlach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Scharlach, and Richard Zeltwanger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zeltwanger, was solemnized Sunday, February 6, with Rev. Herman Hueni officiating. Letty Frey and Earl Zeltwanger were the attendants. A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, with many friends and relatives present. The young couple plan to make their home on a farm near Bremen, Indiana.

Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Nussbaum, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Bahler and son, Raymond, and Lloyd Frey spent Sunday, February 13, visiting in Bluffton, Indiana.

On Sunday, February 13, Clara, Martha, Lorene, George, Bill, and Ronnie Schambach of Elgin, Illinois, visited with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schambach of Remington, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Buck and son David Alan of Mishawaka, Indiana, visited with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frey February 20.

Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Nussbaum, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Beer, Donald Schlatter, Walter Bahler, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frey left to spend the week-end of February 27 with our congregation in Alabama.

Miss Evelyn Frey of Chicago spent the week-end of February 6 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Frey and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kaufman of Cissna Park are the happy parents of a baby daughter, Joan Ellen, born February 24. Mrs. Kaufman is the former Edith Bahler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Bahler of Remington.

West Bend, Iowa

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:6-7.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bruellman and Melvin and Elaine of this place and Pvt. Donald Bruellman of Ft. Riley, Kansas, spent the week-end of February 6 at Sabetha, Kansas. They also visited Victor Banwart at Ft. Riley. Both boys expect to be sent overseas soon.

Services were held at the Charles Anliker home on Saturday, February 12, for the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Anliker.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Grimm and Lavonne and Dean and Mr. and Mrs. Silas Banwart, Archie, Betty, Arnold, and Estelyn Banwart, and Bernard Metzger spent a few days visiting relatives at Lester, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schafer, Sr. observed their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday, February 19. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Anliker and Elma Lou of Burlington, Iowa, were among the many guests present for the occasion.

NOTICE

Offerings will be accepted and forwarded for Bibles for the world. Forward your offering to the Silver Lining or write for further information.

—The Silver Lining Staff.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5, 6.

"What do you understand by the charge of our Lord, that the gospel should be preached unto all creatures?"

I believe that if we would consider this simple saying of the Lord just as it is, without any artifice, its meaning and content must apply above all to the apostles and first proclaimers of the gospel: That the heathen as well as the Jews were co-heirs of the promise and the salvation in Christ. Hence to the heathen also, the unsearchable riches of this secret should be preached. For we know how difficult it was at first for the apostles themselves to become familiar with this thought, (Acts 10:11) until the Lord, in a vision from heaven, showed the apostle Peter that he should not consider common what He himself had sanctified. We know how timidly, even after the persecution, a few began to preach salvation to the Greeks, and how Luke commemorates the first blessed attempt in this field with the remarkable words: "And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord" (Acts 11:21). Inasmuch as this question is laid before me, I can only reply according to my most sincere conviction (if I understand the question and the purpose of it correctly) that it is the will of God that Christ be preached to all mankind upon the whole face of the earth, because God is not the God of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles, (Rom. 3:29) and as "there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all." (I Tim. 2:5-6) It is from this that Paul derives his apostleship among the Gentiles and the need of intercession in behalf of all men, and the fact that this intercession is pleasing in the sight of God because God wills: That all should be saved.

—From the Legacy of S. H. Fröhlich.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12.

An oft-quoted saying of Charles Cowman's was, "Either do not attempt things at all or go through with them," and the Tibetan proverb, "The foot of the ladder is a poor place to sit down." When he was convinced that God was in the lead, nothing in the way of trial or delay was ever able to shake his faith, and he marched on trusting. He began to plan for the erection of a large Bible Training Institute, through the Lord's command, "Arise and build," and at once he committed himself to the project and built an institution that is leaving its impress upon the entire Orient.

He related the following incident to a very close friend some months later. It gives the reader a glimpse of a trial and its outcome when the buildings were being erected. "The third payment of the building, \$2000.00, was due in three days and there was but \$72.00 in the Mission treasury. This was barely sufficient to cover the cost of the food supply needed for our large family of workers and students. The day before the payment was due, a steamer arrived from America. The foreign post usually brought a number of letters containing gifts, but this time only one letter was received and in it was a \$5.00 bill.

"The workmen were busy erecting the building, while the missionaries and native workers were closeted with God. We were at our 'wits' end' but thank God not at 'faith's end,' for faith generally begins just at such tight corners. Our last hope of receiving help from America seemed to be gone, but as we continued in prayer, the burden upon our hearts made a hasty exit, as the promises of God rolled in until our mouths were literally filled with laughter. It seemed that God had enabled us to lay hold of His promises. In the course of prayer one of those present was led to remind the Lord that on one occasion He had met the need of one of His own by means of a coin in a fish's mouth. We continued to pray, 'Lord Jesus, Thou hast still fish at Thy disposal. Thou canst supply our need in this way just now, for Thou art still the same.'

"Another quoted Mark 11:23, 'and shall not doubt in his heart he shall have whatsoever he saith.' Thus for several hours, one after another mounted up in faith until at the end of two hours there was a perfect blend, and prayer ended in praising. All watched, waited, and wondered how God was going to get to us the \$2000 before noon on the following day. Faith burned brightly in every heart. A definite request had been registered in heaven. Faith claimed the great gift from God, and what was the result? Faith honors God and God honors faith. The clinging hand of His child makes a desperate situation a delight to Him.

"The next morning dawned bright and clear and the army of native workers were on hand early, singing as they worked, for this was their pay day. Nine o'clock came, then ten, still no answer. The noon hour arrived and the simple dinner was served. One quoted the Word in Exodus 6:1, 'Now shalt thou see what I will do.' Each one present quoted some encouraging promise, and faith held fast. At five o'clock, just about the time for the workmen to quit their work, a messenger boy strolled up the walk shouting out, 'Dempo, dempo,' — 'Cablegram, cablegram.' What did the little band of missionaries do? They stopped their work to listen to the message, which read as follows: 'Two thousand dollars at cable office.' The donor was quite unknown to us.

"'And Jesus himself drew near.' Tears were mingled with shouts of victory. God had not forgotten to be gracious. The little company fell upon their knees praising Him from the depths of their hearts for not permitting them to become a reproach among the heathen."

Paul says to the Romans in Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

NIGHT SCENES IN THE BIBLE

Jonah's Night at Nineveh

"So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city—And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, **It is far better for me to die, than to live.**" Jonah 4:5, 8.

The prophet Jonah lived in the time of Jeroboam the second, about 850 years before Christ. The book which bears his name in the Bible was doubtless written by the man himself. It sets the faults of his character before us in the most glaring light, and takes no pains to explain or excuse his conduct. Such a record could have come only from one who was honest enough to confess his own errors, and sincere enough to desire that others might profit by his mistakes.

The one prophecy of his which has been preserved twenty-seven centuries for our instruction is embraced in the single sentence: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." He was commanded to arise and go on a perilous and weary journey of five hundred miles over rugged mountains, across burning deserts, on foot, defenseless and alone to deliver that awful message in the name of Jehovah, the God of Israel, in the very streets of the doomed and idolatrous city itself. And when all the toils and dangers of the long journey are escaped, he must show himself with his **one rough garment of haircloth** and the strange accents of a foreign tongue within the walls of that vast Eastern capital which the prophet Nahum describes as a great and bloody city, full of lies and robbery; in the streets of which the chariots rage like flaming torches, and run like the lightnings; that great city, within whose walls the speechless babes that know not the right hand from the left count a hundred and twenty thousand; that rich and proud city whose merchants are multiplied above the stars, that violent

and cruel city, by whose myriad population the strange prophet from Palestine may be trodden down in the streets and his body cast to the jackals. In the midst of that proud and conquering people, whose wickedness has come up before Jehovah, must this lonely messenger appear without fiery sword or attending angels; and he must declare without the least reserve, that within forty days the imperial city shall be overthrown. In so short a time shall the glory of the kingdoms, the tyrant and the terror of vanquished millions, be made a mockery; her princes and nobles brought down to the dust; her people scattered upon the mountains or buried in her ruins. **Alas! that this awful word of the Lord should come to me! Let him send by whom he will send. I cannot bear the message.** And so, for once in all the sacred record, we have a recreant prophet, fleeing from the call of duty, as Jonah rises up to go to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He hurries from his home in distant Galilee, a journey of seventy miles, to Joppa, that he may there take ship and call to his aid the wings of the wind and hide himself at the utmost extremity of the Great Sea from Him, from whose face the beams of the morning cannot fly, whose presence would still be with him though he should make his bed in hades. Alas! unhappy man though a prophet of the Most High, he has yet to learn that the universe has not a hiding place for the concealment of the fugitive from duty and from God. It will take the terrors of the sea and the thunders of the storm to teach him that lesson. He must go down to the bottoms of the mountains, and for three days and nights lie buried alive in the belly of hell, with all the billows of the great deep rolling over him, before he will be satisfied that the claim of duty is omnipresent like God, and that to flee from its voice is to rush upon destruction. We justly blame the disobedient prophet for the moral cowardice which made him encounter worse dangers in fleeing from duty than he would have met in fac-

ing its demands. And so unhappy Jonah found it, while yet the desired refuge of Tarshish was yet a great way off, and was never to be reached. He did indeed find a strong ship and he paid the fare for the long voyage in advance. He frankly told the shipmen why he was going. And then he went down and hid himself in the hold, and there wearied with his journey and stupefied with trouble, he soon fell asleep. But no sooner is the ship started upon its voyage than the word of the Lord, which first disturbed the peace of Jonah's mind, is cast upon the wind, and there is a mighty tempest upon the sea. He sleeps while the elements of wrath and terror are all awake around him; and he is already beset by greater dangers than any he sought to escape by his guilty flight. Here is the fugitive Jonah, dreaming of a sure escape from an unwelcome duty, and already hungry death is gaping upon him with a thousand mouths and he knows it not. No ship can fly faster than God's ministers of vengeance travel over land and sea in pursuit of the guilty. It is all in vain that the affrighted mariners cast out the rich cargo into the sea. The angry deep will not be satisfied with such an offering. The disobedient prophet is a heavier weight on the wings of the ship than all the wares in the hold. The pagan seamen call upon their gods; but there is none to answer, or to deliver them from the wrath of Him who holds the sea in the hollow of His hand. So the shipmaster comes at last, in terror and despair, to this strange passenger, whom he finds fast asleep down in the hold of the ship and all unconscious of the uproar around him. He alone is the cause of all the peril; and yet he knows it not till awakened by the cry of the captain; "What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not." Desperate as was the condition of all, the pagan seamen seemed to think at last it was better with Jonah than with them, for he had a threatening and a chastising God, who might perhaps show pity and save, but they had no god at all. And now they begin to eye each other with

dreadful suspicions that some one of their company may be a fugitive from justice, whom the angry elements will not suffer to escape. The restless eye and haggard face of the awakened prophet now remind the fearful mariners of what they already knew, but of which they thought nothing till the terrors of death encompassed them on every hand. For Jonah had frankly told them, when he came on board, that he fled from the presence of the Lord. Then they counted it no concern of theirs who he was, or where he was going, or why he went, provided he paid in advance. He might settle with his God in his own way. But they soon found it would not pay to help men in their disobedience to God. Now they beseech this moody and melancholy man to pray unto his God that they perish not. It was only necessary for the danger to become imminent and terrible for Jonah to show that he was not altogether a coward. Good men sometimes shrink from trifling burdens or yield to petty temptations when the greater trial calls their faith into exercise and gives them victory. This fugitive prophet of the Lord is more ready to offer himself a sacrifice to appease the raging deep than the seamen are to obey his word: "Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea." He can now look these hard-featured men in the face and say "I fear—the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land" and declares himself ready for the sacrifice. The composure and resignation of the offered victim deprives them of all power to lay hands upon him. It was only after more vigorous and vain effort to bring the ship to land, and not until they saw the storm grow more and more violent, that they took up Jonah, with many prayers to Jonah's God to be forgiven in what they were doing, and "cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging." The astonished mariners are saved and they offer a sacrifice unto the Lord and make vows.

The recreant prophet, who had fled from the presence of the Lord to avoid a troublesome duty—where now is

he? Down beneath the billow mountains of the sea, the waters have compassed him about to the very soul. We read in the sacred narrative "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah." But even there in the bowels of leviathan, in the living belly of hell, the word of the Lord finds him out. The call of duty is still louder than all the voices of the sea. The waves cannot drown him; the open jaws of destruction cannot devour him till his duty is done. The monster of the deep will vomit him up on shore that he may learn henceforth to believe that neither land nor sea will afford rest from duty and from God. We need not pause to ask how the life of a man could be preserved for three days and nights in the body of a sea monster beneath the surface of the deep. If we believe that the veritable word of the Lord came to Jonah at his quiet home, if we doubt not that the same word sent forth a mighty tempest to overtake the fugitive prophet on the sea, we shall not find it any more irrational to believe that the same Divine power could preserve him alive in his living grave and cast him forth again by a mysterious and miraculous resurrection upon the dry land. We must not busy ourselves so much with the mystery of the story as to forget the one grand lesson which the story teaches. And this is the lesson—all the elements of terror and of power in the whole creation are less to be feared than disobedience to Him whose word of love and of law speaks in the secret place of every soul. Now the Divine message comes again the second time to this man who has been brought up from the abyss of death that he may the better teach others how dreadful a thing it is to disregard the word of the Lord: "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." Jonah finds it easy to obey that word confirmed as it is now, in its repetition to him, by all the terrors of the sea, and by the remembrance of his three days' burial in the belly of hell. The long journey of five hundred miles and the hostile faces of the myriad multitude in the streets of the great city are nothing to him compar-

ed with the displeasure of God. "So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD." He approaches the open gate and passes in among the throng. No one suspects that he brings with him from his distant home a word that shall smite the heart of the great city with terror and despair. He begins and he travels on, a whole day's journey within the circuit of its walls. On every hand he passes parks and pleasure gardens and palaces; magnificent temples, colossal images of winged bulls and lions with human faces, all the most elaborate symbols of idolatrous worship, chariots and horses running swiftly, soldiers marching, and the multitude flowing, a living tide, through all the streets and squares. Where the crowd gathers the thickest and the uproar of business, toil and pleasure is loudest, moves this one lonely man, uttering his one cry of woe "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." The strange messenger arrests attention. The awful earnestness of his tone, the fire of God's inspiration in his eye stops the mouth of the reviler and divides the multitude before him, wherever he chooses to go. His solitary cry is taken up and repeated by other voices till it has pierced every habitation and sounded in every ear. Gradually the loud laugh is hushed, the roar of business and pleasure dies away, the crowd in the streets, pale and panting with terror, glide silently to their homes. The cry of the prophet goes down into the lowest depths of the prisonhouse; it ascends through the marble gates of the palace, and the king on the throne hears it with as much consternation as the slave in the slime pit and the criminal in his cell. This one man has conquered the great city by one day of prophecy. At the going down of the sun, the whole living population, from the monarch and nobles down to the slaves and beasts in their stall are covered with sackcloth and ashes, and every human voice is crying mightily unto God if peradventure He will turn from His fierce anger and the city perish not. So much can one man do with nothing but the word of the Lord in his mouth

and courage to do God's will in his heart.

But, alas! how fickle and passionate is poor human nature, even when honored by the message of Jehovah and speaking by the spirit of Divine inspiration. The extraordinary success of this one day of preaching was too much for Jonah's intractable spirit to bear. Humble and obedient as he had been made by the terrors of the sea and storm, all his old pride of heart was restored by safety and success. Forgetting that the very object of declaring the Divine threatening was that Nineveh might have opportunity to repent and be saved, he begins to fear that his word will not be fulfilled. In his angry desperation he would rather die himself than outlive the forty days and see the threatened city still standing. He would rather see fire come down from heaven and consume or the earth open and swallow up a half million human beings alive, than that they should repent and be saved. He has no word of hope for the fastidious Ninevites, although he well knew that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness—forgiving iniquity and repenting of the evil threatened upon them that repent. He does not wish to have them repent lest they shall be saved. He was once afraid of them, and now that they tremble at his word he spurns and despises them in their misery. Their cries unto the Lord madden him, for he is afraid that they will be heard, and if they are to live he would rather die himself. At first he would flee from the presence of the Lord, and now he cannot bear the presence of those who repent and humble themselves at the word of the Lord. As the sun goes down and darkness comes on, he makes his way out of the city to a hill on the east, bends a few branches together as a covert from the dews of night and the sun by day, and there he sits alone, as miserable as a proud and angry man can be, waiting for the threatened vengeance to fall and impatient because it delays its coming. There he sits all night long, hearing the wail of the great city, waiting for the avenging thunders to crash from the skies or

cataracts of fire to flame up from the abyss to fulfill his prophecy. Having delivered his message he might go home in peace. But no; he must stay and see those proud towers leveled with the dust and hear the last bitter cry of agony and death go up from the overthrown city; and then he will be sure no one will taunt him with having uttered a vain prophecy. The night passes and the morning comes, and the burning sun of noon pours its beams with maddening fervor through the boughs of the hastily constructed booth, and there sits Jonah angry with himself and with Providence, still waiting to see what will become of the city. And now the Lord causes a new and strange plant to spring up and spread its broad leaves and thick branches over him to deliver him from his grief. The petulant prophet, who thought he would rather die than not see the destruction of a city with a half million inhabitants, is made exceeding glad by the shade of a few green leaves. But the friendly plant died the next day. When the parching wind of the east began to blow, and the sun beat down upon the head of Jonah, he grew faint; and again, out of all patience with himself and with everything about him, he wished himself dead. He could murmur and be angry for the gourd which grew in a night and perished in a night, for that took away a little of his own personal comfort. He could look with satisfaction upon the utter destruction of a half million human beings in the plain below him, for that would gratify his pride of character as a prophet and his natural prejudice as a Hebrew: "And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death." Then we read in the concluding verses of Jonah chapter 4 how the Lord reasoned and set before him a comparison of the pity which he had for the gourd for which he had not labored, neither made to grow, which came in a night and perished in a night, and the pity of the Almighty for the inhabitants of that great city in which were six score thousand innocent children who knew not their

right hand from the left, and even many beasts.

The sacred record, with its sublime indifference to the gratification of mere curiosity when once the essential truth is told, says no more of Jonah. As we close the brief narrative, it seems as if this angry imprecation were his last words and he had his wicked wish in death. Nevertheless the book which bears his name could hardly have been written by any other hand than his, and that, too, after his restless spirit ceased from his anger and found peace in full acquiescence with God's better will. The brief story of this strange prophet teaches, what all need to learn, that there is no escaping from the presence of the Lord. Every step upon the path which God forbids is a step toward destruction. The voice of duty is the voice of God in our souls. Obedience to its claims brings us into living and personal agreement with the highest law in the universe. It lends greatness to the humblest occupation, crowns the lowliest position in life with glory and honor, brings man into alliance with God, associates him with plans and purposes that have existed in the infinite Mind from eternity, and which run on toward their appointed completion through all the coming ages.

Christians need to be reminded of the privileges that are theirs because of their position in Christ Jesus.

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