



Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

—John 5:25.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, AND become the firstfruits of them that slept.

—I Cor. 15:20.

"For the Wages of Sin Is Death"

Philip Gutwein, Jr.

(ROMANS 6:23)

A nearby paper recently reported the following news item:

"F. B. . . . and R. B. . . . convicted . . . paid their debt to Society Wednesday morning when they were sent to the electric chair. Both had maintained their innocence . . . and their attorneys had exhausted every avenue of retrial and appeal."

If human Society by its Courts of Justice exacts so relentlessly the payment of a DEBT, created by the transgression of its Laws, how infinitely more must then the "Judge of all the earth" insist that every DEBT created by the transgression of His Laws, must likewise be paid and cancelled out by a just reward of recompence. Any violence against any member of organized Human Society,—which is the State,—is a crime and the concern of the Government; Violence against Life, demands a Life, as the above report shows, to pay the DEBT and balance Society's books of Justice again, and uphold Righteousness under its Laws.

Whether or not the books of God are also balanced after death,—be that death a natural or judicial one,—depends on whether or not a man's sins were judged AT THE CROSS, where in God's reckoning, Christ DIED representatively and substitutionally to pay for man's sins. If in the reckoning of OUR FAITH too, we believe this to be TRUE, we have been judged and DIED TOGETHER

WITH CHRIST at the CROSS, and no second judgment at the Great White Throne is permissible. For "if ONE DIED FOR ALL, then were

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TREASURED VERSES

But now is Christ risen from the dead, AND become the firstfruits of them that slept.

For since by man CAME death, by man CAME also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Then COMETH the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy THAT shall be destroyed IS death. I Cor. 15:20-26. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen ARE temporal; but the things which are not seen ARE eternal. —II Cor. 4:18.

For we know that if our earthly house of THIS tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.—II Cor. 5:1.

RESURRECTION

Fred E. Grimm

Nowhere in Scripture do we find a more important message than that which pertains to the resurrection of our Lord. On this event hinges the fulfillment of our Christian faith. We rejoice at Christmas time when we commemorate the birth of our Lord. We follow with deep interest His walk here on earth, His miracles, His marvelous sermons. It takes little wisdom to agree with His hearers who testified that "Never man spake like this man." His numerous warnings against continuing in a life of sin which would finally send man to an eternal hell, have made many of us think of our own condition. When He was taken by cruel and wicked hands to be crucified we follow Him with pity, and His great love for us becomes real. The blood from His wounded side cries mercy and atonement for us. All these things are of vital importance, but should our Lord have remained in the grave, all our hope would be in vain. But thanks be to God, we have an empty tomb. To all who gathered at the grave in the early morning came this message—"He is not here, for he is risen." And to further prove the fact of His bodily resurrection, He appeared to His followers on many occasions and ate with them. The most doubtful one was permitted to put his fingers into the nail prints of the Lord's hands and his hand into the wound in His side. What else could Thomas say but, "My Lord and my God." This well-known

scripture records the Lord's answer to Thomas in which He reminds us that a blessing awaits all who believe without seeing.

Christ predicted His own death and resurrection when He said to the Pharisees, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40. He also told His disciples beforehand that He would be killed and would arise again. All this has been fulfilled. We find people who refuse to believe that He actually arose from the dead. Some would accept Him only as another great teacher whose doctrine is of value in our earthly life alone. But the apostle Paul states emphatically that, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." If Christ is not risen, our hope is vain and we are still in our sins.

God has provided a wonderful example of resurrection in nature. If our life's span were less than a year, we might doubt the possibility of grass growing and trees budding after having seen the winter's snow and ice evidently put an end to all plant life. How impossible it would seem that such could come back to life if it were not for the fact that most of us have again and again seen the green grass and leaves appear as winter is gone. So it is that when God calls to the dead in the grave, they will arise without a moment's hesitation just as our Lord did. What a joy this is for us who have believed without the slightest doubt this wonderful resurrection story.

Believing the story is not sufficient in itself. What then does it all mean to us poor creatures on this earth? We were all born in sin and were doomed to everlasting destruction. God sent His Son to die for us and to shed His precious blood for the remission of our sins. He was laid in a grave, but arose victorious over death. The holy Word teaches us that we must die with Him, be buried in baptism into His death, and arise with Him to a newness of life. Before this can be accomplished we must realize that we are lost and need a Saviour. Then will follow repentance, a godly sorrow for

sins, a burdened heart desiring to be relieved and forgiven. This can be accomplished by confessing our sins (read Matthew 3:6, Proverbs 28:13, Acts 19:18, 19, 1st Corinthians 14:24, 25, and many others) to man as well as to God, for God already knows, (and) asking God to forgive our sins for Christ's sake. Then is where believing on Christ and His atoning work for us on the cross comes in. How strange it is that so many would leave out of God's plan of salvation all but the believing. (If we have transgressed against anyone, we will surely want to receive their forgiveness and make restitution where necessary.)

Peter tells us plainly that "no prophecy of the scripture if of any private interpretation." II Peter 1:20 We must teach all the counsel of God. Acts 20:27. It is well said that in the plan of salvation repentance, confession, and faith are inseparable, and if we want to really become God's children, we must include what His Word teaches about all three. It is true that merely believing without repenting and confessing our sins makes the plan of salvation much easier. But there is no short cut to heaven. We must follow the Lord's way or finally be lost in spite of the assurance from those who will not teach the whole counsel of God. When we experience the conversion of those who formerly all they were required to do was to believe and confess their faith in Christ, it gives us this definite assurance that this way is the Lord's way. Let us not be tossed about by every wind of doctrine. Let us hold fast to the faith of our forefathers. This we would especially say to (those young in faith) who have been influenced by teachings that are only a part of the way of salvation. Those of us who have experienced a real conversion, let us rejoice in this season when commemorating the resurrection of our Lord. Let us in spirit go to the empty tomb and sing with great joy—"He arose, He arose, Hallelujah Christ arose."

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FOR THE WAGES OF SIN

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ALL DEAD." (II Cor. 5:14). And "he that is dead is FREED FROM SIN." (Rom. 6:7). They, like the unfortunate men above, have paid their DEBT to God and Justice.

Sin strikes at Life itself at its very source, cutting it off from God Himself, and death alone will cancel it out. Created life, like yours and mine, exists only in harmony with inviolate laws, so holy and just and good as to be part of God Himself. And if Human Society finds it so imperative to protect its very existence and life, through the enactment and drastic enforcement of its laws, then how infinitely more must we concede, shall wisdom and faithfulness compel the Creator of Life, the Lover of Righteousness (Heb. 1:9), the "very God of peace" and security, the eternal Judge of all the universe, to uphold His holy law supreme, and permit not *one jot or one tittle in any wise to pass from it, till all be fulfilled*, (Matt. 5:18), even though it will mean that the "heavens and the earth, which are now" must pass away, by the same WORD and LAW, that endureth forever, and keeps them in store, "reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (II Peter 3:7-10).

Should God condone a single transgression (which is unthinkable) as say, that of Adam's, and *clear the guilty by any means* (Num. 14:18), the leaven of evil would eventually confuse and confound and destroy in chaotic pains of dissolution, the entire created universe. Behold as an example, the past, and the present and the future ruin of our earth, with its unnumbered graves, and tears, and sweat and blood and thorns also and thistles, the symbol of the curse upon it, all because of the ONE Man's ONE transgression, even Adam, who drew upon himself and the entire creation, which he crowned, the sentence of death.

And like in the case of our unfortunate and un-named friends above, some heavenly councils too must have "exhausted every avenue of retrial and appeal," with the same result: the sentence of DEATH stood

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NIGHT SCENES IN THE BIBLE

The Night Feast of Belshazzar

"Bel-shazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.—They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone." Daniel 5:1-4.

Belshazzar was the last of the Babylonian kings. The great feast which he made for a thousand of his lords was on the last night of his reign. He belonged to the proud and profligate race of the Chaldeans, whom the Hebrew prophets describe as tender and delicate, given to pleasures, dwelling carelessly, and trusting in wickedness. They dressed themselves in dyed garments of brilliant colors. They curled their hair, used unguents and perfumes, and wore jewelry. They were fond of splendid carpets, costly furniture, and great suppers. All this can be abundantly shown from the Hebrew prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, and knowing all this concerning the young men of that great and mighty city of ancient time, we are not surprised that Babylon became a desolation.

Belshazzar had everything to flatter his pride and indulge his passions. He was an absolute monarch, holding the life and property of his thousand lords and his countless people entirely at his disposal. His concubines were the daughters of kings. His capital was enriched with the spoils of nations—his provinces cultivated by captive people. He was hasty and violent in temper, yet effeminate and luxurious in his habits of living. He was gracious and indulgent toward his favorites; and yet when their best efforts to please him did not suit his caprice at the moment, he would be cruel as the grave. The great hall of the palace, in which he feasted his thousand lords reclined upon couches, was immense. It was adorned with carvings and sculptures of colossal dimensions, and the lofty walls were emblazoned with the trophies of war and the symbols of idolatrous worship. The profane orgies of royal mirth were adorned with every artistic decoration that the genius of the age could supply. Fine arts are ca-

pable of ministering to high civilization, but thus far they have done little to enlighten the ignorant or to help the world forward in moral improvement. There are several independent statements in regard to the dimensions of Babylon, and although they all seem like immense exaggerations, we shall venture to take them as they stand for the purpose of illustration. The whole structure was surrounded by three walls, so high that it would take thirteen tall men, standing erect one above the other, to reach the top. The outer wall of the palace enclosed more ground than Central Park in New York. The city, in which Belshazzar reigned, was a square fifteen miles on a side, surrounded by walls as wide on the top as a large church and of immense height. There were fifty great wide streets as straight as an arrow, crossing each other at right angles. This mighty city of old was furnished with towers and temples, palaces and pleasure gardens corresponding to its greatness. Belshazzar's so-called father, Nebuchadnezzar, was the most magnificent builder the world ever saw. According to Herodotus, he put into the walls of his capital alone more than five thousand millions of solid feet of masonry. Babylonian bricks a foot square, inscribed with the name of Nebuchadnezzar, have been found in more than a hundred different places in the country about the ruins of the great city; and there are millions of such brick lying just where they were placed by the hand of the workmen. Belshazzar inherited the pride, the glory, the riches, the power, the palaces, and the kingdom of his great father. He was admitted to a share in kingly power at fifteen, and the glory, which was too great for the mighty Nebuchadnezzar, easily turned the head of the giddy youth. And he lifted himself up against the Lord of heaven and despised the kings and armies of the earth.

At the time immediately preceding the great feast which Belshazzar made for his thousand lords, the province of Babylon had been overrun and the capital assailed by a great army from the north. But for some

strange and inexplicable reason, the besieging force had apparently withdrawn. No effort appears to have been made to ascertain what had become of the enemy. It was taken for granted that the siege was abandoned and the war over. The whole city was immediately given up to rejoicing and every form of riotous excess. Belshazzar set the example, and people and princes were only too ready to imitate their king. The guards deserted their post. The gates in the palace walls and the river banks were left open. No attention was given to the strange and startling fact that the water in the river was beginning to fall, and that when the night of the feast began, the bed of the stream was in many places bare. The empty channel left an open pathway for an army to march beneath the walls. There was feasting and dancing everywhere, and the mad revelers thronged the streets throughout the city. The flames of idolatrous sacrifice rose high into heaven from the lofty tower of Belus. The hanging-gardens were hung with lanterns and torches, till they seemed like a mountain of fire at midnight.

Meanwhile, Belshazzar has entered the hall of banquet, and the wine, the delusion, and false enchantment of the dizzy scene take away all reverence from the flushed and crowded revelers. There is now nothing too sacred for them to profane, and Belshazzar himself takes the lead in the riot and blasphemy. Even the mighty and terrible Nebuchadnezzar, who desolated the sanctuary of Jehovah at Jerusalem, would not use his sacred trophies in the worship of false gods. But this weak and wicked successor of the great conqueror, excited with wine and carried away with the delusion that no foe could ever capture his great city, is anxious to make some grand display of defiant and blasphemous desecration. At the very moment when their sacrilegious revelry was at its height, the bodiless and terrible hand came forth and wrote the words of doom upon the wall of the banqueting-room, the armies of Cyrus had turned the Euphrates out of its channel and marched into the unguarded city

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NEWS

Bluffton, Indiana

"When thou passest through the waters, I *will be with thee*; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle thee."—Isaiah 43:2.

An aged beloved brother, John M. Kaehr, 77 years old, passed away suddenly from a heart attack February 28. Funeral services were conducted March 3 by Elder Sam Aeschliman. Surviving besides the widow, Hannah, are one son, Samuel, near Bluffton; seven daughters, Mrs. Joseph Klopfenstein of Gridley, Illinois, Mrs. Henry Stoller and Mrs. Elmer Heyerly both of Bluffton, Mrs. Clifford Anderson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mrs. Ben Schlatter of Toledo, Ohio, Mrs. Thomas Sturgis and Miss Elizabeth Kaehr of Bluffton; five brothers, one sister, 24 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Rev. and Mrs. John Yergler, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Isch, Mr. and Mrs. John Frank and son, Misses Mary Tonner, Alice Fiechter, Irene Frauhiger, Doris Gilliom, Joan Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Meyer, Mrs. Mary Bucher, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moser spent Sunday, March 20, visiting in Latty, Ohio.

Among those who attended the wedding of Ben Habegger of Bluffton and Arlene Bahler of Remington were Elder and Mrs. Sam Aeschliman, Mr. and Mrs. Obed Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gerber, Howard Habegger, Herman Aeschliman, Sylvan Frauhiger, John Neuenschwander, Glen Baumgartner, Eugene Maller, Leroy and Harold Steffen, Dina Fae Steffen, Margaret and Elizabeth Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Moser and others.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Moser are parents of a son, Stephen Joe, born March 6.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dotterer and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaehr spent the week-end of March 13 visiting in Fairbury, Illinois.

Elder and Mrs. Sam Aeschliman, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Reineck, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Kipfer, Mr. and Mrs. Laurin

Bertsch, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hurt, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fiechter, Misses Wava and Carolyn Steffen, Eugene Maller, Glenn and LeRoy Steffen, and Millard Aeschliman spent Sunday, March 13, in Toledo, Ohio.

A blessed evening was spent in church Tuesday, March 15, with services conducted by Elders Rudolph Graf, Eli Dotterer and Noah Bauman and Rev. Godfrey Schaltter.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Isch are parents of a daughter, Constance Sue, born March 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Aeschliman are parents of a baby girl, Pamela, born February 27.

The engagement of Miss Lucille Tonner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Tonner, and Mr. Alphonse Reinhard, son of Mrs. Katie Reinhard, was announced March 6.

Bremen, Indiana

"The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as silver* tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Psa. 12:6.

The company of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Steffen and twins of Elgin, Illinois, was enjoyed on February 7.

Rev. Harry Bucher and family, Ed Hoerr and family, Orville Bucher and family, and Raymond Heinold and family, from LaCrosse, spent Sunday, March 13, with us.

We heartily welcome to Bremen Mrs. Richard Zeltwanger, formerly Doris Scharlach of Remington.

Mr. and Mrs. David Steffen and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Steffen of Goodfield, Illinois, visited us Sunday, March 20.

Mrs. Mary Wright has returned home from the St. Joseph Hospital in Mishawaka, where she has been confined for several months. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Klopfenstein.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Souder and Rev. and Mrs. Herman Hueni were in Morton, Wednesday, March 23, to attend funeral services for Sam Welk, who passed away suddenly.

Mrs. Joseph Hueberger was admitted to a hospital for an operation. At this writing, she has made some improvement. We wish her a speedy recovery.

A new convert, Doris Clauss, was recently added to our fold. We wish her many rich blessings.

Burlington, Oklahoma

"Let your conversation be without covetousness (Be ye free from the love of money); and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly (with good courage we) say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Hebrews 13:5-6.

Elder and Mrs. Joseph Wittmer, William Hartter, Rev. Menno Steiner, and Mrs. Albert Herman, all of Sabetha, Kansas, spent a blessed day with us, Sunday, March 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roth returned to their home after an extended visit in Arizona and California.

Rev. Roy Farney and his father, Sam Farney, spent a week in Mesa, Arizona, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Farney and daughter.

George Springer passed away Wednesday, March 16, at the Memorial Hospital at Hardtner, Kansas. He was 88 years old. He leaves to mourn a brother, Jeff, and a sister, Lydia, and one son, Claude.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kraft and Mrs. John Ott of Gridley, Kansas, spent Sunday, March 27, in our community.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Domnick and family returned home after spending several weeks in Morton, Illinois.

Mrs. Sam Schrock and son, Bill, spent a few days in Roanoke, Illinois, recently.

Mrs. George Miller Sr., has been on the sick list, but is improving at this writing.

Chicago, Illinois

"For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."—II Corinthians 5:21.

One more soul was added to our fold on Sunday, March 6, who is Ann Schladen. The visitors included Glenn and Eugene Schladen and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hauple of Cissna Park,

Illinois, and a group of young folks from Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fisher and family returned from their trip to Florida on Thursday, March 3.

Edward Imhoff, Ben Imhoff, Joseph Miabach, Bob Ramsier, and John Hartzler of Rittman, Ohio, visited the Klotzle brothers on March 13.

The visitors to our Thursday evening services on March 17 were Rev. George Yergler of LaCrosse, Indiana, and a group of young folks from Cissna Park, Illinois.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Haas and family were with us on Sunday, Mar. 20.

George Haecker of Eureka, Illinois, attended our Thursday evening services on March 24.

We are glad to know that Esther Hay, who recently became ill with pneumonia, is steadily improving.

Martha Heiniger of LaCrosse, Indiana, is again working in Chicago.

Cissna Park, Illinois

"He that believeth on him is not condemned (judged): but he that believeth not is condemned (hath been judged) already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."—St. John 3:18.

On March 19-20, seven more souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. They are Elsie Ehman, Carrie Ehman, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hari, Arlene Kaufman, and Twyla and Myra Farney. Elder George Yergler of La Crosse, Indiana, visited us during this time.

Bro. Eggli of Congerville visited us Sunday, March 27.

The engagement of Dorothy Hoerr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hoerr, to Robert Frank of Morton, Illinois, was announced March 20.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 26, for Mrs. Arnold Martin, aged 84 years. Rev. Joseph Zimmerman of Roanoke held the services.

Burial services were held for Rev. Bauer, Saturday, March 26. He was the son of Mrs. Christina Bauer. His body was returned from French Morocco, where he was killed during the war.

Francis Knapp has been very ill with pneumonia. His mother, Mrs.

Henry Knapp, who has been seriously ill because of a heart ailment, is improving.

Mrs. Sol Farney has improved very much after her second operation.

Rev. Philip Gutwein with a group of men from Francesville, Indiana, attended our weekly Bible Class March 31.

A baby daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Honegger, and a son to Mr. and Mrs. David Kupferschmid.

Croghan and Naumburg, New York

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (condemned).—St. Mark 16:15-16.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Farney visited their son, Allen, at the Naval Base, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Vincent Farney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Farney, has finished his basic training at Camp Pickett, Virginia, and has left for California. From there he will leave for the Far East.

Rev. and Mrs. Harvey Virkler and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Schultz visited relatives and friends at Rockville, Connecticut, on March 20. John Stockburger returned home with them to spend some time with his father, Fred Stockburger, here.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Farney and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Virkler have returned from their vacations in Florida.

Norman Schultz of Cortland University and Glen Karcher of Syracuse spent the week-end of March 27 with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Farney and daughter, La Veda, spent several days with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Farney, at Latham, New York.

Aged Sister Miss Anna Mattis was able to attend morning services on March 27. It is the first she has been able to attend since her fall last June, which caused her to break her hip.

Mrs. Philip Farney had the misfortune of falling while in Watertown. She is confined to her home.

Mrs. Norman Farney has returned

home from the hospital.

Samuel Kieffer is very ill at his home. Miss Margaret Schwartz has also been ill with a heart condition.

Paul Farney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Webster Farney, has finished his course at Ryder College and has accepted a position as an accountant in South America.

Mrs. John Schlieder is a patient at the Lewis County hospital.

Elgin, Illinois

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."—Psalm 119:105.

On Sunday, March 13, four converts were added to the fold. They were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Moser, Mrs. Ruth Metzger, and Miss Marlyn Pearson.

Funeral services were conducted here for Mrs. Katie Wietrich, Friday, March 25.

Visiting our congregation on March 20 were Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Kaisner and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Zimmerman of Forrest, Illinois. Mrs. Zimmerman is the former Dorothy Gudeman of here.

Frank Beer, Jr., Arthur Moser, Mary Jane Steffen, Marcella Steffen, Mary Ann Altvater, and Rose Rapp all of Milford, Indiana, were guests of the Theo. Steffen family on the week end of March 27.

Mrs. Luther Steffen and son Billy of Milford, Indiana, spent the week of April 3 to 10 at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theo Steffen.

Fairbury, Illinois

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."—Colossians 3:23-24.

Mr. and Mrs. John V. Fehr returned home from their wedding trip to the west coast Thursday, March 10, after being gone almost five weeks. They visited Maywood, California, and Portland, Oregon, churches.

Miss Arlene Leonhardt and Earl Kilgus were married Thursday evening, March 17. The marriage was solemnized by Rev. Joshua Broquard.

Rev. and Mrs. Elias Winzeler of New Haven, Indiana, and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Tobel of Francesville, Indiana, visited our Fairbury congrega-

tion Sunday, March 20, and attended the wedding reception of Miss Betty Huette of Forrest and Lester Schweigert of Tremont, who were married on that day.

Fort Scott, Kansas

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."—II Timothy 2:1-3.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koehl and children of Morris, Minnesota, enjoyed a two weeks visit with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Pfister, and other relatives. They returned to their home March 15.

Mr. William Massner of Oakville, Iowa, visited his brother, David, and family March 14 and 15.

On Sunday, March 20, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Farney and Jane Farney, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Aberli and Mark of Kansas City, Kans., and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kraft of Gridley, Kansas, spent the day with us. Rev. and Mr. Henry Bahr were evening guests.

Mary Raaf spent the week-end of March 20 visiting her sister, Mrs. Marvin Diel, of Burlington, Oklahoma.

Rev. and Mrs. Gus Sinn and family and Miss Pearl Marti spent the day of March 27 visiting the Lamont, Kansas, congregation and in the evening they visited the Gridley, Kansas, congregation.

Francesville, Indiana

"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*: If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."—II Timothy 2:11-13.

Called Home. David Gudeman passed away on March 17, at the age of 91 years after an illness of about 3 weeks. Preceding him in death were his wife, Lois Weyneth, who died in 1895, two children who died in infancy, and a daughter Ida who died in 1940, and his wife Evodia Weyneth, a sister of his first wife, who passed away in 1930. He leaves four

children, Mrs. Cordelia Leman and Mrs. Lena Gutwein of Francesville, Mrs. Elizabeth Pfister of Roanoke, Illinois and David Gudeman of Wichita, Kansas; also 31 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren one brother, Albert, Sr., and a host of friends and relatives. He became a Christian at the early age of 14 and remained true until death at the age of 91. Isn't that a sermon in itself? He was active even for his old age and continued to look after his farm land interests, and more recently he had been engaged in the operation of a small mill, producing a breakfast cereal which became favorably known over a wide area and much of which was sent abroad for European aid. His granddaughter, Lois Leman, had been keeping house for him. "For we know that if our earthly house of **this** tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1.

Births. Mr. and Mrs. James Gutwein are the parents of a daughter, Janet Arlene, born March 12. Mrs. Gutwein was formerly Miss Mirian Steffen.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Smith are the parents of a daughter, Pamela Ann, born March 18. Mrs. Smith was formerly Miss Clara Honeggar.

Born Again. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. Nola Ward, Arthur Novotny, and Glen Gutwein, three young people, have taken the Lord as their Saviour.

Wedding. Miss Alice Wheeldon became the bride of Richard Gudeman, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gudeman.

25th Wedding Anniversaries. A group of relatives and friends gathered at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. John Anliker and Mr. and Mrs. John Gudeman to observe the 25th anniversaries of the couples.

Visit. Mr. and Mrs. Emil Pelsy and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Novotny visited in Ft. Wayne with Misses Adeline Novotny, Dorothy Pelsy, and Marcella Gutwein, who are attending school there. They also visited with Rev. Stavenik. They attended the Wednesday evening services.

Relief Work Resumed. After a de-

lay of shipping of food and clothing packages to the needy in Europe, the work was again continued on March 30.

Brotherhood Aid. A general meeting of the committee men of the Brotherhood Aid was held here on March 28.

Ill. Miss Barbara Ellen Wuethrich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Wuethrich, has been seriously ill. Wally Getz, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Getz, had scarlet fever.

Gridley, Illinois

Five souls were added to the fold Sunday, March 6. They are Arthur and John Schlipf, Arthur Gramm, Clyde Kuntz, and Harold Gramm. Our Sunday visitors include Elder and Mrs. Joseph Getz, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Grimm, and others from Morton, Peoria, Roanoke, and Fairbury.

A number of Gridley people attended services in Fairbury, Sunday evening, March 13.

Five more souls were baptized Sunday, March 20. They are Herbert Gramm, Virgil Funk, Edward Gramm, John Blunier, and Jane Ellenberger. Elder David Mangold assisted with the provings.

Donald Funk, small son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Funk, broke His hip when he fell from the haymow. While he was at the hospital, he broke out with both measles and chicken pox.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Ringger, Mrs. Rose Schlipf, Joseph Funk, and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Funk attended funeral services for Sam Welk at Morton on Wednesday, March 23.

On Sunday, March 27, three more converts were taken in the church. They are Alvin Ringger and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ringger. We had visitors from various congregations, including Rev. and Mrs. Joshua Broquard and others from Fairbury, Rev. and Mrs. Otto Norr and others from Leo, Indiana, and Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Schrock and family from Congerville; also others from Peoria, Cissna Park, Roanoke, Bluffton, and Francesville.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Witzig are the parents of a girl, born Friday, March 4. She is the first daughter and second child.

Mrs. Rose Schlipf and daughter, Ruth Ann, and sons, Arthur and John, spent Sunday, March 27, in Princeville.

Hancock and Morris, Minnesota

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."—Isaiah 40:31.

We were happy to have Rev. and Mrs. Henry Mogler, and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kellenberger and daughters, Salone and Viola, from Lester, Iowa, with us Sunday, March 13.

Joseph Moser and Mr. and Mrs. Noah Nohl were baptized Sunday, March 13, after giving their testimonies.

Mrs. Dutch Schlupp underwent a major operation March 4, at Rochester, Minnesota. She is getting along quite well at this writing.

Several friends and relatives were to Burlington, Iowa, March 18 to attend the funeral of Mr. John Landis.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Koehl and Jerry, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Koehl and Mr. Adolph Koehl were here week end of March 13th visiting friends and relatives.

Sunday, March 27, we had the pleasure of having Rev. and Mrs. Noah Gerber of Lester, Iowa, with us.

Mr. and Mrs. David Moser, Sr., returned home March 12, after enjoying a two month vacation. They were to Hot Springs, Arkansas, and visited in Eureka and Peoria, Illinois, and Oakville, Iowa.

Joseph Moser and Mr. and Mrs. Noah Nohl were baptized Sunday, March 13, after giving their testimony. We were happy to have Rev. and Mrs. Henry Mogler, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kellenberger and Salome Viola of Lester, Iowa, with us too.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Fehr are parents of a baby girl born April 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schaefer are spending a few weeks visiting friends and relatives in Peoria and Cissna Park, Illinois.

We are sorry to report that Mrs. Richard Messner is confined to bed since April 1 with rheumatic fever. Mrs. Ben Greiner who also had rheu-

matic fever is able to be up but is yet unable to work.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Koehl, Eunice and Ernest, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nohl, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidgall, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Schmidgall, Mr. Ephram Koehl, and Miss Alice Moser enjoyed Sunday, April 3, in Winthrop, Minnesota.

Lamont, Kansas

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7.

We have again started our semi-monthly singing; we assembled in the Lamont church with many of the Gridley congregation present.

Rev. and Mrs. Gus Sinn and Pearl Marti were our guests on March 27. We enjoyed the messages of Brother Sinn very much.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ott spent a few days in Burlington, Oklahoma.

Rev. and Mrs. Peter Fankhauser spent the week of March 27, visiting their children in western, Kansas.

Mrs. Chas. Gleishman of Harper, Kansas, spent the week end of March 27, visiting her mother, Mary Emch, and other relatives.

We welcome back in our midst Joseph, Leah, and Dena Fechter, who have spent the winter in California.

Much joy has been brought into our congregation by the two dear souls who are seeking the Lord and wish to become his followers.

We had as our guests Sunday April 3, Rev. and Mrs. John Wagenbach, Mr. and Mrs. George Kuntz of Oakville, Iowa, Rev. and Mrs. Eli Somerhalder of Burlington, Oklahoma. Rev. Wagenbach and Rev. Somerhalder conducted the services. The Gridley congregation assembled with us in the afternoon. We enjoyed a blessed day.

Leo, Indiana

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."—Psalm 84:11.

Rev. Victor Stavenik, who has been convalescing at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mildred Schlatter, plans to return to his home at Mansfield, Ohio, for Easter Sunday.

Funeral services were held March 23 for Sarah Schwartz of Toledo, O. Burial was in the Leo Cemetery. Rev. Theo. Beer of Milford, Indiana, officiated.

Mr. and Mrs. Russel Stieglitz are the parents of a baby boy, Mark Leon, born March 15.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Frank, formerly of Leo, now of Louisville, Kentucky, are the parents of a baby girl, Norma Jean, born March 30. Mrs. W. B. Klopfenstein is spending a few weeks with the Franks.

Arthur Schwartz has returned from a twenty-eight day cruise with the Naval Reserve. He visited a number of points in South America and the Caribbean Area on this cruise.

The Leo Sunday-school and church choir has resumed weekly practices. They have met at the homes of the Raymond Winzellers', Henry Schwartzs', and Elias Souders'.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Farney and Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Farney of Wolcott, Indiana, visited with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reuter of Fort Wayne and attended mid-week evening services.

Visitors on March 6, were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frey and daughters, Betty and Letty, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Knochel, Lucille and Allen Knochel, June Bridgewater, Amelia Scharlach, Marvin Nussbaum, Eugene Hageman, Earl Zeltwanger, and Robert Schieler. They were evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reuter and Miss Lena Knochel of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Lester, Iowa

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."—James 1:17.

March 1 we were happy to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Art Leuthold and family from Princeville, Illinois. They plan to make their future home in our community.

The Sunday of March 13, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Metzger, Freida, Karoline, and Jake, Aliva Meyer and Mary Lou, attended baptismal services in Sabetha, Kansas, for Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Metzger.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Mogler, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kellenberger, Salome

and Viola, visited in Morris, Minnesota, the week end of March 13.

Elder and Mrs. Henry Koehl and Mr. and Mrs. Will Feuchtenburger of Morris, Minnesota, Mr. and Mrs. Will Metzger and Darlene, Mrs. Mike Schmidt and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Banwart and daughter all of West Bend, and Mr. John Moser, Sr., and Mrs. John Leuthold of Sabetha, Kansas, spent March 20 with us. Baptismal services were held for Jacob Wulf and Lydiann and Pearline Metzger.

Mansfield, Ohio

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word: That they all may be one; as Thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." St. John 17:20-21.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gutwein, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gutwein, and Mr. Paul VonTobel of Francesville, Ind., visited our congregation Sunday, March 27. Brother Philip had three very inspiring sermons which we enjoyed very much and hope he will soon visit us again.

The engagement of Miss Sarah Bocka and Byron Rice was announced Sunday, March 27. No date has been set for the wedding.

Eugene Shiler, Fred Popp, and Charles and Aaron Sauder of Mansfield and Trefon Sagedenky of Akron visited in Bluffton, Sunday, March 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Steiner and Miss Sylvia and Anna Steiner of Leo, Indiana, visited their brother Sol and family, Sunday, April 3.

Peoria, Illinois

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."—Psalm 100:4.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Sauder have returned from an extended vacation spent in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Koehl and family have moved to Washington, Illinois. We wish them much success and happiness in their new home.

Miss Anna Miller of Oakville, Iowa, has found employment in Peoria. She is making her home with her sister, Mrs. Rose Barth and family.

The body of 2nd Lt. Irvin Hoerr,

son of Mr. and Mrs. David Hoerr, was returned from Italy where he met death in the service of our country. (Besides his parents he leaves six brothers, David, Ralph, Carl, Jim, and Henry; and four sisters, Mildred, Elois, and Florence Hoerr and Mrs. Reuben Huber all of Peoria.) Memorial services were conducted by Rev. Mike Weyeneth on March 5.

Mrs. Lizzie Altorfer arrived home recently after spending several weeks in Arizona.

Rev. and Mrs. Al Fisher and family and Peter Ernest of Chicago and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wiegand and daughters of Oakville, Iowa, were Peoria, visitors on March 20.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weyeneth became the parents of a daughter, born March 2. The little Miss has been named Beth Kay.

Princeville, Illinois

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."—St. Matt. 7:7.

We shared a blessed day March 6 with visitors from various congregations who came to witness the baptisms of Esther Streitmatter, Esther Klumpp, and Vernon and Joseph Stoller. Elder Emil Schubert of Peoria conducted the baptisms while Reverend Koehl of Peoria assisted in the Sunday services. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gudeman and son of Francesville, Indiana, and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Stoller, Eleanor and Carol, of Fort Wayne, Indiana were present besides many others from surrounding congregations.

Another blessed day was enjoyed March 27 when many came for the baptism of Bernice and Raymond Wagenbach, Emily Menold, Evalyn Baurer, and Eleanor and Maxine Asal. We rejoice having so many young people added to the fold. Reverend Frank Woertz of Goodfield assisted Reverend Schubert with the baptisms. Reverend John Wagenbach of Oakville, Iowa, was also present and his brother Reverend Simon Wagenbach of Tremont came for evening services. Many others from Peoria, Mortin, Roanoke, and other congregations were present.

Mrs. Rudolf Dallinger is recovering nicely from an operation performed the first of the month.

Mrs. Samuel Martin and Mrs. Ida Locher are both hospital patients recovering from operations. Both are recovering nicely and expect to return to their homes in a few days.

Willis Ehnle spent a few days with his parents recently. He is being transferred from Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, to Fort Lewis, Washington.

Memorial services for T-5 Floyd Streitmatter, who lost his life during action on Okinawa, April 21, 1945, were held Saturday, March 26 at Bouton Funeral Home, with burial in the Streitmatter Cemetery.

Remington, Indiana

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward."—Hebrews 10:35.

Rev. and Mrs. Sam Kilgus and family visited with the former's father in Fairbury, Illinois, on March 6.

A son, Joe Linn, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schneider on March 17.

Several cars from our congregation visited in Elgin on Sunday, March 13, and were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schambach.

Mr. and Mrs. Gottfried Bahler and children, Kenneth and Kay, and Corbin Bahler of Rockville arrived here from a trip through the west on March 15. Their stay was unexpectedly extended when their daughter, Kay, had an emergency appendectomy. She recovered rapidly, and they left for their home on March 26.

Many relatives and friends attended the wedding of Miss Arlene Leonhardt and Mr. Earl Kilgus at Fairbury on the evening of March 17. The young couple are making their home in Remington. On March 28 a number of friends and neighbors gathered for a surprise housewarming to welcome them to their new home.

Miss Arlene Bahler of Remington and Mr. Ben Habegger of Bluffton were united in marriage on March 20, with Elder Sam Aeschliman officiating. A wedding dinner was served immediately following the ceremony and a reception was held in the eve-

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NIGHT SCENES IN THE BIBLE

(Continued from page 3)

along the bed of the stream beneath the walls. They were already in possession of the palace gates when Belshazzar and his princes were drinking wine from the vessels of Jehovah and praising the gods of gold and silver and stone, and that great feast of boasting and of blasphemy was the last ceremonial of the Chaldean kings.

The reckless and profane not infrequently display the greatest gaiety and thoughtlessness when they are on the very brink of destruction. Death still enters the banquet and the ballroom as well as the bedchamber. The last word of warning and instruction is spoken to many while they are so much absorbed in earthly things that they do not know they have been addressed at all. On any night of the year multitudes are spending the precious hours as they would not wish to do if they knew that to them it would be the last night on earth. Many go to places where they would not wish to be found when the messenger of death comes to change their face and send them away. Many are in the habit of speaking as they would not be willing to do if they were conscious that what they say is to pass from their lips directly to the book of final account. The Bible gives us this one instance of a great king and his princely associates in ancient time suddenly arrested in the midst of their wildest revelry and blasphemy, to teach all readers of the sacred story never to utter words that might not be fitly spoken if they should prove the last. Belshazzar and his thousand lords did not profane the golden vessels of Jehovah until they had drunk wine. Indulgence in the intoxicating cup prepares the way for every excess and profanation. The eye of the Great Judge is upon every scene of profanity and dissipation. The handwriting appeared upon the wall of the banquet-room in Belshazzar's palace in the hour of their wildest mirth, to show that God was there. There is nothing said or done or thought that can escape the Infinite Eye. The bodiless hand that wrote in flaming letters upon the walls of Belshazzar's palace is ever writing upon every

heart: "God is here—God is everywhere!"

Conscience is a mysterious and mighty power in us all. The great and terrible king Belshazzar was completely mastered and unmanned by its secret whisper. His countenance changed and his thoughts troubled him. He trembled like the aspen before he knew the meaning of the writing on the wall. He was afraid because an accusing conscience always makes darkness and mystery terrible to the guilty.

And then we read in the sacred narrative how the king called for his wise men, the astrologers and soothsayers, and promised the man who could read and interpret the writing royal apparel and a high place in the kingdom. "But they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof." And now the queen came to tell of a man in the kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar's time in whom was found the wisdom of the holy gods. She told him of that Daniel whom the king named Belteshazzar and advised that he be sent for. Daniel, filled with the spirit of the Lord God of heaven and earth, set aside as of no value to him the promises and gifts and began to relate to the king how the most high God had given his father, Nebuchadnezzar, a kingdom, majesty, glory, and honor. But when his heart was lifted up and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, his glory taken away and was driven from the sons of men to make his dwelling with the beasts until he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men and appointed over them whom he willed. Daniel, unafraid of king Belshazzar, reminded that knowing all these things he had not humbled himself but instead had lifted himself against the Lord of Heaven, profaning the sacred vessels of His holy house and praising the gods of gold, silver and stone. He had failed to glorify God, in whose hand was his breath and all his ways. Daniel told him plainly that the terrible hand that wrote was from God and then read the writing and gave the interpretation to Belshazzar, who had riches, pleasure, and glory, who was

absolute master in the greatest palace and the greatest city the world had ever seen and who was yet in the height of his power and glory. "MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." This was the sentence meted out by the infinite Judge, the sovereign God, to this king who had so much opportunity to do good; but his character was weighed and found wanting, his days were numbered and over, his power and glory taken from him. "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain." The same sovereign God counts out the days of life to us all. He weighs our character, our conduct, and our motives in the balances of infinite truth. There is no deficit so damaging as that which is charged to one who is found wanting before God. Oh! to be found wanting when God weighs motive, character, life, and soul; to be wanting when judged by the most compassionate, indulgent, and generous Friend; to be wanting in love to Christ, when he died to draw all hearts to him; to be wanting in the fruits and joys of a holy life, when God bestowed ten thousand gifts and instructions to help us gain that great reward; to be wanting in a hope sure and steadfast when God takes away the soul; to be wanting when the book of life is opened and the eye of the final Judge turns to see whose name is written therein,—who would not see to it earnestly and always that no such fatal deficiency shall be found against him when the last account of his life is balanced before God?

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." Isaiah 55:10, 11.

"COUNT IT ALL JOY"

Mrs. Charles E. Cowman,—The Oriental Missionary Society.

(James 1:2)

There are times in the experiences of not a few of God's children when, amidst adverse and baffling providences, the foundations of the world seem out of course. All things appear to be rushing into wreck and darkness. The Divine, everlasting vigil seems to have ceased, and only echo answers to the wild cry of despair "Where is now my God?"

It was at such a time of darkness in our own experience, that we made a fresh discovery and found that "As for God, his way is perfect."

For twenty-five years it had been my privilege to have been at the side of my beloved companion in his journeyings oft and "labours . . . abundant," on the mission field. Like Zinzendorf, Charles Cowman had but one passion and that was "He." To him nothing mattered but God. He was crucified unto the world, and the world unto him. To this wholly-abandoned, God-possessed missionary of the Cross was given a vision—that of the evangelization of the world in our generation. The commission was given in the midst of toil. At that time our field of labor lay in Japan, and that little "land of the rising sun," with its population of 68,000,000 persons, became the Jerusalem for the "beginning" of the fulfillment. The vision meant action, not merely sentiment. Within five years every one of the 10,320,000 homes in the Mikado's empire had been visited, a portion of God's Word having been placed in each. A missionary statesman described it "the greatest piece of intensive missionary work since Pentecost."

At the close of this gigantic undertaking its leader was suddenly stricken with a heart affliction, and we were hurried away to the homeland, hoping that a complete change of climate and weeks of rest might bring healing. All over the world were companies of earnest Christians praying for his restoration to health, in order that he might carry into other heathen nations a similar evangelistic campaign. The thought uppermost in

all minds was, that since God had given him his commission would He not heal him and send him out to every nation? Was not he the chosen of God to say to missionary leaders in every nation, "It can be done, for it has been done"?

"Who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?" Everywhere we put natural causes—wind, rain, lightning, armies—the Hebrew always put God, over-leaping all secondary causes and going back to the first great cause: "stormy wind fulfilling his word." (Psa. 148:8)

Luther was once in earnest prayer over some matter of great moment, desiring to know the mind of the Lord, and it seemed as though the Lord said to him: "I am not to be traced." If God is not to be traced, He is to be trusted.

After the strenuous years our minds were almost too weary to boldly grasp a promise. Indeed, we scarcely knew how to pray, or for what to pray. The one daily prayer was: "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me." Often were we tempted to misinterpret the Divine leadings. He who had led so marvelously throughout the years was leading now in paths unknown hitherto. With no explanation as to our failure He would give us such promises as these: "I will make darkness light before them." "I will do a new thing."

The Word of the Lord was precious and we were upheld.

We Followed Him

"At other times in sunshine. Summer days
And moonlight nights He led us over paths
Bordered with pleasant flowers: but when His steps
Were on the mighty waters—when we went
With trembling hearts through nights of pain and loss—
His smile was sweeter and His love more dear;
And only HEAVEN is better than to walk
With Christ at midnight over moonless seas."

(To be continued)

FOR THE WAGES OF SIN

(Continued from page 2)

and could not be reversed. For in the long run and in their eternal aspect, justice and righteousness as a sceptre of government, is more basic and enduring than the exercise of mercy, even though,—bless the Lord,—in the present dispensation of the grace of God, "Mercy rejoiceth against judgment" (Jas. 2:13).

Yet mercy is selective, while justice and judgment are universal. As it is written: "Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth." (Romans 9:18). This means that God, in the exercise of His SOVEREIGN WILL, may choose to be or not to be merciful, and who is he that can reply against God? But never shall it be said, not in a single case, anytime or anywhere, that almighty God, in the exercise of His sovereign will and omnipotent power, was unjust to one of the humblest and least of His creatures, including them that are lost, such as Judas. For "justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne." (Ps. 89:14, Isa. 9:7). And again: "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." (Heb. 1:8).

Thus justice knows no mercy nor forgiveness,—though God greatly delights in it, (mercy) (Matt. 9:13)—and the sinner must surely die,—though "As I live, saith the LORD God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." (Eze. 33:11). And for our salvation we solely depend on divine mercy and forgiveness of grace (Eph. 2:8) even as God promised under a new covenant or testament, to be merciful to sins. (Heb. 8:12-13). But even this new and better covenant could not become operative until the DEATH of the Testator, as legally evidenced by His shed blood,—the Blood of the New Covenant,—had first taken place. Only then did its terms: Mercy and Forgiveness receive strength and became effective. (Heb. 9:15-18).

Our unfortunate friends referred to above, in exhausting every avenue of retrial and appeal, hoped to establish their innocence before their judges and appealed to JUSTICE and JUDG-

MENT to save their lives. But they lost out. Had they appealed to "MERCY" instead of JUSTICE, their lives may have been saved. But by "maintaining their innocence" and not admitting their guilt, they automatically disqualified themselves and barred the way for an appeal to "MERCY." And when it comes to the matter of establishing the facts of *innocence or guilt*, once we have come into Judgment and are before the bars of Justice, the final decision rests solely with the Judge and not with the accused.

Unnumbered multitudes, blinded by a hidden pride of heart, have *esteemed themselves to be righteous and despised others*, in a pharisaic attitude of mind, will NOT BE justified (declared righteous) in Judgment, while the self-confessed sinner, humbly pleading for "MERCY" is ever successful in his appeal because of the advocacy of Jesus Christ, the Righteous: for He is the propitiation for our sins. Trusting in their "innocence," our friends appealed to justice, and justice they got and DIED. Let us remember the Word of Truth: "There is none righteous, no, not one" and "ALL have sinned." And ALL MUST SURELY DIE, either for and by themselves, or "together with Christ" on the Cross in the reckoning of FAITH. But DIE WE MUST, to be "DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN" (Rom. 6:2, 11) and to be "FREED FROM SIN" (verse 7). DIE WE MUST, "THROUGH THE LAW and TO THE LAW" (Gal. 2:19), for SIN IS THE STING OF DEATH and so is the LAW THE STRENGTH OF SIN. (I Cor. 15:56)

DIE WE MUST before Justice has been done and the "Law of sin and death" is vindicated in its authority and holiness. Only "he that IS DEAD is FREED FROM SIN" and removed from the jurisdiction and further competence and power of the "Law of sin and death" and in the realm of spiritual truth and eternal justice, the *crucified believer* IS FREED from that law, by the "Law of the Spirit of life" IN CHRIST JESUS. And "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are IN CHRIST JESUS." (Rom. 8:1-2). His sins have been judged at the CROSS and being

condemned, he was there crucified and died together with Christ, in the reckoning of FAITH. And having been "planted together in the likeness of His DEATH, we shall be also *in the likeness of His RESURRECTION.*" (Rom. 6:5).

Only after two competent doctor witnesses pronounced the unfortunate men of our news report DEAD (by the law), were they also DEAD UNTO THE LAW, and only then had the law, which had condemned them, lost its grip on them, the DEBT TO SOCIETY was paid, justice was satisfied and righteousness was upheld, under, and according to the standard as set forth in the laws and statutes of such society.

Likewise, the sinner who DIED WITH CHRIST, has ended with a clean slate his OLD and ruined relationship "IN ADAM," is no more under the jurisdiction of the law which condemned him, but UNDER GRACE. RISEN TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, the believer is a "NEW CREATION IN CHRIST," in a newness of life, with "old things" having passed away. "Behold, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW." (II Cor. 5:17). "If ye then be RISEN WITH CHRIST, seek those THINGS which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on THINGS above, not on THINGS on the earth. For ye are DEAD, and your life is hid WITH CHRIST in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear WITH HIM in glory."

"Mortify therefore, your members which are upon the earth . . ." (Col. 3:1-5). "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body . . . neither YIELD ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin . . . but . . . unto God, as those that are ALIVE FROM THE DEAD." (Rom. 6).

Thou my everlasting portion,
More than friend and life to me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
Saviour let me WALK WITH
THEE.

Thou didst take the cup of suffering,
Praying in Gethsemane,
In the judgment of thine hour,
Saviour let me PRAY WITH THEE.

Thou didst bear to Calv'rys mountain,
Thy cruel cross and thorns for me,
All along that fateful journey,
Saviour let me BEAR WITH THEE.

Thou didst drink in full obedience,
Tasting death on Calvary,
Sharing there Thy crucifixion,
Saviour let me DIE WITH THEE.

Dead to sin, Thou now art buried,
From its curse forever free,
Buried with Thee in baptism,
Saviour let me REST WITH THEE.

Planted with Thee in Thy dying,
Risen like Thee I shall be,
By the Father's might and glory,
Saviour let me RISE WITH THEE.

Dead to sin and its dominion,
Under grace I live by Thee,
In the newness of Thy own life,
Saviour let me WALK WITH
THEE.

Things above I now am seeking,
Life in God is hid with Thee,
In the heav'nlies with the blessed,
Saviour let me SIT WITH THEE.

Blessed hope, I 'wait Thy coming,
And my change in twinkling see,
Should I sooner end my journey,
Saviour let me SLEEP IN THEE.

Brought with Thee in resurrection,
Raised to meet Thee in the air,
Immortality's perfection,
Saviour let me WITH THEE
SHARE.

NEWS

(Continued from page 8)

ning at the home of the bride's parents. The young couple left for a short trip and will make their home in Bluffton. On Sunday, March 27, many from here attended a reception held in their honor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Obed Gerber's at Bluffton.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Getz spent the Sunday of March 27 visiting in Milford, Indiana. We have had an epidemic of mumps, measles, and chicken pox in our community, and many have been confined to their homes.

Taylor, Missouri

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time (no prophecy ever came) by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."—II Peter 19:21.

The engagement of Miss Mildred Friederich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Friederich of Quincy, and Paul Butikofer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa, was announced. The wedding date has been set for May 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Butikofer, Mr. and Mrs. George Schupbach, and Paul Butikofer, all of Elgin, Iowa, visited us the week-end of March 27.

Two blessed days March 26 and 27 were enjoyed when nine new converts gave their testimonies and were baptized. They were Alvin Neukomm, Mr. and Mrs. William Heimer, Jr., Joyce, Gerald, and James Sutter, Robert Hoerr, Marjorie Wennecker, and Roy Grimm. Elders Noah Schrock and David Mangold were in charge of the services. More than one hundred visitors from neighboring churches were present.

Toledo, Ohio

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."—Galatians 3:26-28.

On March 13th, Elder and Mrs. Sam Aeschliman and Mr. and Mrs. Eli Reineck and a number of other folks from Bluffton, Indiana, visited in Toledo.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Troxel and family of Bluffton, Indiana, visited their family and friends in Toledo the week-end of March 13th.

Recently Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Frautschi of Goshen, Indiana, visited their family and friends in Toledo.

On the week end of March 20, Miss

Laura Conrad of Grabill, Indiana and Miss Emma Jean Anliker of Fort Wayne, Indiana, visited in Toledo and Detroit.

On March 20, Sarah Schwartz died at the age of 79. Services were held here in Toledo on March 22, and then the body was taken to Grabill, Indiana, where services were held and burial was in the Leo Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bowers (Thelma Stevens) have a daughter, Marcia Arlene, born March 29.

The engagement was announced on April 3 of Tom Grant of Toledo and Delores Laukhau of Latty, Ohio.

Rev. and Mrs. Philip Wingeier and their daughter Vivian of Alto, Mich. visited in Toledo recently.

West Bend, Iowa

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."—II Timothy 3:12.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Banwart and Leona, Lela, and Bobby and Joel and Berniece Banwart were Lester, Iowa, visitors Sunday, February 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zaugg are parents of a son born March 1. He has been named Billy Joe.

Frederick Metzger, Violet and Benjamin Knobloch, Franklin Moser, and Marilyn Wulf of Lester, Iowa, spent March 5 visiting relatives here. Miss Elgeva Kellenberger of Lester spent several weeks with her sisters, Mrs. Silas Metzger and Mrs. Arnold Metzger.

Miss Louisa Mogler and Philip Mogler visited relatives here, March 13.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Banwart and Jeannie and Sidney and Alvin Banwart and Harley Bruellman spent several days at the Metzger homes in Sabetha, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. William Metzger and Darlene, Mrs. Mike Schmidt, Sam Mogler, and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Banwart and Charlotte spent Sunday, March 20, with relatives at Lester, Iowa.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Banwart and Edwin, Leona and Lela and Glen, Florence, Gladys, Floyd, Doris, Lucille, and Mary Jo Banwart visited relatives and friends at Winthrop, Minnesota, March 20.

John Gerber has returned to his home in Algona, Iowa, after spending

several days in a Fort Dodge hospital, where he submitted to a major operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Gerber and three children spent Sunday, March 27, at Hancock, Minnesota.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Banwart's son, Victor, is now stationed at Yokohama, Japan.

Wolcott, Indiana

"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled."—I Peter 3:15.

Misses Alice and Barbara Nohl of Goodfield spent a few days here with their sister, Mrs. Levi Klopfenstein. On March 27, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Fehr and children of Goodfield visited the Klopfensteins.

Rev. and Mrs. Irvin Lehman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Datweiler and son, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kyburz and children, and Miss Arles Kropf were Fairbury visitors on March 27, and were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hartman.

Mrs. Levi Kropf attended the funeral of her cousin, Sam Welk, at Morton on March 23.

We wish to welcome to our community, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reuter, who have moved here from Fort Wayne.

Rev. John Trachsel and Clara spent a week with relatives in Elgin, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Furrer and Jack spent a few days recently with relatives at Sabetha, Kans.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

"FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH"
(Rom. 6:23)

Philip Gutwein, Pastor
Francesville, Indiana

RESURRECTION
Fred Grimm, Pastor
Quincy, Illinois

THE NIGHT FEAST OF BELSHAZZAR
Philip Beyer, Pastor and Elder
From the book NIGHT SCENES IN THE
BIBLE with added thoughts.
Castorland, New York

COUNT IT ALL JOY
Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, Oriental Missionary Society

THE SILVER LINING

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and Sunday School
Grabill, Indiana