

FEB 20 54

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana

Vol. 8, No. 6

Is Real Happiness Yours?

Two paths lead through this world. One is always chosen at the cost of the other. The radiant path glows with the Saviour's loveliness. The heart that forsakes that which is seen is kept by the sweet quietness of peace. From the first, a fresh, new outlook for good living is sensed. Those who truly seek find an outlook to complete satisfaction. It's an open view, with heaven's loveliness filling the heart with true joy.

The second way leads through the elaborate castles of honor and money love, and roams the range of earthly pleasure. But each moment finds the opportunity for eternal happiness growing more dim.

In heaven the glory of God is beautiful; the brightness appears as a rainbow. When the Saviour came to earth, He laid aside the outward rainbow, but from His life and work glows a divine loveliness, appearing as a rainbow, His glory. To the natural eye, the grays and blacks of the stormy sky give no idea of the picturesque beauty of the colorful rainbow. Likewise, with a different vision, it is true of the Lord's glory. The cares and riches and pleasures of worldly life give no clue to the matchless beauty of eternal life. It is entirely new and completely different.

Crimson and Rose Glory. Redemption is not a fable, but an experience

that brings to the heart the tones of joy unspeakable and full of glory. From the torture of the Cross of Calvary glows the crimson glory of suffering and death. That altar of divine sacrifice added a wondrous hue. Never before had been entered in the meaning of justice such earth-shaking facts. The lines of the ledger were crossed, the just had suffered for the unjust, and now there is divine credit called grace. It is the center of the miracle that is wrought by the tremendous power of God. Here the Creator of new life leads the sinner in repentance, and here a loving Father forgives. Mercy and truth meet together through the Bridge of the Cross. A mysterious change comes and the horizon of pleasure and honor and wealth fades and vanishes. A new life blossoms in a new world in luxuriant rose glory. Its loveliness will never fade away. In the unequalled splendor of the glory of God, His own can rejoice in contented hours that know no end.

Radiant Yellow. From the Saviour's heart shines the glorious gospel. Why is it that one forsakes everything he has to trod the Way of the Cross? The gospel has clearly illuminated the view of everything. Ignoring the facts has not brought pleasant living. The alarm sounds, the sleeper stirs; but will he awaken? Something terrible is not right and there is the

dread night closing in. Most continue to cut all reason off and drive madly through the dark. The shining of the glad tidings can convince that there is no profit in shutting one's eyes to actual conditions. It causes the open-minded to wisely seek counsel and avert certain catastrophe. Then comes the voice of One who cares. He confidently makes plain the Way to health and happiness and certain safety. "And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight."

Quiet Green. There are contented hours in the quietness of the peace of God. Why is it that a person can be so disinterested in that which is a worldly person's life? It is the freedom from the riding accusations and the nagging drive that was the experience of the former unhappy self. It is the tranquil silence that can keep heart and mind; it is the gentle whisperings of divine conversation. As the great mountains are round about a valley, so God keeps His protection from evil about the peaceful heart. Through the night, with every worry cast on God, the gentle flow of His still waters rests the heart through the hours of sleep. There has never been anything like it in human thinking. To those who have trespassed and have indulged in that which brings pain to the heart—to those who feel the dull thud of an aching conscience — to those who are afraid of the future—to you does Jesus call. There has never been anyone, beside the sinless Lamb who was given for you and me, who was in any wise different.

"Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light."

Dreamland Blue and Glowing Sun-

set Orange. There will be a glorious carefree vacation. White sails gliding gracefully towards the Isles of Somewhere. How can it be that one can so willingly leave all the dash and glitter of worldly life? The treasures of yesterday, which were clung to affectionately, are dull and tasteless today. It is the wonderful glory beyond imagination, a soft, heavenly blue from a dream world where there is fulness of joy and pleasures forevermore. All the time invested in hard labor in the way of the Cross will have found its reward. Sell the worthless share of everyday life and secure eternal life in the heavenlies.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Royal Purple. From the King there glows riches that His own are freely given. A person who obeys from the heart the teachings of Christ also will come to know the power of His resurrection. They are free forever from the old life, with its sin and condemnation, and now live a new life. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: . . ."

For those who are afraid and dissatisfied, imagine you really lived in the glorious freedom of the King. Suppose that because of Him you were looking toward a dream world with no burdens, nor wants. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man,

the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." His own will be changed in a twinkling of an eye, and will have a perfect body, in perfect health. Suppose you would find yourself thus, in perfect satisfaction. His word promises that His own shall be satisfied; every moment will be something that we never can experience here on earth.

On the other hand, suppose outer darkness was your home and your horizon. What if you lived in the horrible sickness of unceasing remorse. There was no hope for re-
prieve, not even after living through the longest period and succession of periods you can imagine. Your per-

sonality in those never-ending ages would be shrouded in soul-splitting misery, in the sob of utter anguish.

Comparison proves that today is priceless. If the years slip into ageless tragedy, then it is too late. There is a little moment now when you see the Light and consider. But will there be another? There will never be a more choice time. Things happen. The fog settles down again, perhaps never to lift. But what joy and light is found by the one who lays hold of the opportunity. He who finds the way and finishes victoriously makes sure that the never-ending ages will be enjoyed in complete satisfaction.

The Psalm of The Shepherd

Part 1

The tiny tots hear the twenty-third psalm at home. Little ones learn it in Sunday school. To the weak and discouraged, it is a resting place where one may find the well-spring of strength and courage. In moments of distress and sorrow, its tender message can comfort, granting cheer in the midst of sadness. Its beacon shines far out into the night, offering hope to the hopeless.

Around three thousand years ago the Spirit of God inspired David to write the sweet theme song of his life, the twenty-third psalm. Though many centuries have come and gone, yet it is fresh and restful and comforting, as always, a pleasant picture of the secret of peace.

Towering behind this psalm is the twenty-second. The rugged, darkness-shrouded height soars upward, with its sharp peaks of suffering. The first verse has that mysterious cry of the ninth hour, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Over the sharp and thorny pain of Calvary we see our Lord crucified, with a lacerated and torn body. This prophetic psalm ends with the words of

victory, opening the way to the twenty-third psalm, the walk of peace: "They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done *this*."

Immediately following this is the psalm of the Shepherd leading His follower. The green pastures and quiet waters are not of this world, and entrance to the life of peace is found by hearing the voice of the Shepherd. In contentment His own look across to the mountain-top experience of glory revealed. Psalm twenty-four ends in the sunny heights of Mt. Zion—a picture of our glorious King, whom we shall see in his beauty. "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift *them* up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah."

The position of the twenty-third psalm teaches us it is given for the time that is called Today. While the Christian hopes for the better view of glory revealed, the psalm is provided to comfort, help, inspire, and

encourage. Most of the descriptive action of the walk through life is in the present tense. "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. . . ."

We love the psalm that foretells of the Cross; we love the Christ whose bitter suffering won victory for us. We love the psalm that speaks of the future, where hope sees Christ in power as King. However, the psalm of the present is today's experience of our walk with Jesus. He lives in glory, but also dwells in the humble hearts of His followers. His sweet presence enlightens every step of the Way. It would have been a wonderful experience to have been with Jesus in the days of His life in this world. However, Jesus told of that which today is the rich experience of the few: ". . . blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

The LORD's name is in capital letters. Holy and reverend is His name. An Israelite took caution to not set his foot on a piece of parchment, because the LORD's name might be on it. In Genesis 22:14, is recorded the giving of the name "Jehovah-jireh" to a place. It means the LORD will see, or provide, and is the site where a substitute offering was given to Abraham in the stead of his son.

Again, in various places is recorded the movements of the angel of the LORD, who also was God. It was the Word, the visible appearance of God to man. Before the exodus, He told Moses, in answer to what His name was, I AM THAT I AM. That was under the old covenant, but with the giving of the new covenant mystery becomes revealed.

Jesus is one with the Father. With the Word dwelling in flesh, the Shepherd of the psalm meets man's deepest need. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." The place, "Je-

hovah-jireh" in the new meaning is Calvary. As our eyes move from the foreshadow to the real, we see the LORD dwelling in the Word at Calvary and providing the atonement for sin. Now there is brought to man the revelation of salvation. "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." The shepherd of the psalm is our Jesus, who is the very image of the Father and is God.

There is a measureless storehouse of comfort in the thought that actually "The LORD is my shepherd." It is the desire of the shepherd to supply our every need of body, soul, and spirit. God will not withhold the riches of His grace from them who walk in the truth. Every day will find new strength for the weak. He shall indeed guard His own from all ill and see them through to the end and victory.

The Shepherd's actions are keyed to the welfare of His flock. From His elevated position at the Father's right hand He views the whole flock and makes those very moves that meets the need and desire we feel moving in our hearts. He realizes that His sheep are feeble and helpless without divine strength and guidance.

He tenderly cares for us, though weak, and He earnestly seeks the wandering. Do you remember when Jesus told Peter, James, and John to watch and pray? Gethsemane was the golden timing for spiritual victory, but the apostles failed to grasp the opportunity. This lack of prayer was sure to show up, and Peter carelessly vaunted his own strength, finding not that needed power to withstand temptation.

But there was One who cared and saw the apostle through defeat to victory. Jesus was aware of the cause of their sleep, for His Spirit inspired the writer to record: "for their eyes were heavy." He knew they were poor, tired men, but also that they should have been praying and watching when He had so plain-

ly warned them. Yet He was tender-hearted, pitying the apostle for that strain of weakness. Jesus did not sleep, but Himself grasped that golden timing for spiritual victory, submitted Himself to the will of the Father, and brought over-powering grace for His sheep.

In future days the apostles endured suffering and hardship, yet through it all the heavenly Father could shower on them the riches of this heavenly grace.

Those who live in the secret of the Saviour's presence knows its priceless value. Only the privileged few taste the glory and honour that is seen when with the good Shepherd. Strength and gladness abound in those who walk the life of faith. The heart joyously breaks out in thanksgiving and song. But there are times of distress and sorrow; here His presence holds the comfort that can uplift. There is power in Jesus for every task; every problem can here be solved and every impossibility that is in our way removed. "The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth."

A person who wanders from God's presence finds only heartache and restlessness. Everything that really matters is lost. Sin brings briars and thorns, where once the lovely Rose of Sharon was gloriously fragrant. When the cycle is complete, the snake will have callously and irretrievably taken final possession.

Return, O wanderer. Escape from the black danger that will surely blot out your last chance for light. You were spared to see this day for a reason. The Shepherd loves you. Come home, for you will find warm welcome. As we look down the way you have taken, give us the joy of seeing you coming back. We miss you; we can remember the friendship we had when we walked sweetly together into the house of God.

Jonah, a servant of God under the law, fled from the presence of the LORD. He became very conscious of

his pathetic loneliness and heartache. He prayed, "I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me". The sign of Jonah illuminates the contrite heart of a wanderer, for it is a prophetic picture of the Christ of Calvary. He, too, prayed in utter heartache and loneliness, but not because of Himself. He, too, was cut off from the presence of God, but because He took the sins of others. The repentant heart of the wanderer finds refuge in the shadow of the Cross. If one who has fallen into sin truly cries because of the affliction, then we can believe in the day of the Lord Jesus that, because of Calvary, this person's spirit will be saved.

All God's doings are wonderful. He understands His followers' need for restraint, and He allows the thorn to humble us. When we believe the truth, we know we are poor and needy, and can only stand by faith. We have every reason to know we are the least of God's children. But, alas, we are not naturally inclined to reason this, and our efforts would soon be pulled from the knowledge of the truth. Then comes the buffeting that causes us to yield ourselves willingly to the pull of our Lord's precious yoke and to yearn more for His love in us.

In the home in Bethany there were different degrees of faith, yet Jesus cared for each. "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." A message was sent to Jesus in a time of stress. "Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick." Though Martha and Mary would have avoided a deeper heartache, yet through the matchless wisdom of God a far greater wonder was granted than was ever expected. It always pays to tell our Father about every need and to leave the answering according to God's will. Though trouble is necessary as chastening for every child of God, yet let us let it work patience in us, clinging closer to our God. We can let trouble be a reminder to our need for continual

prayer.

The roar and movement of the highway cannot give time to contemplate on the beauty of God's wonders. Haste is a habit that stemmed from a restlessness now past for the believer. Haste's effort is diluted with a flutter of wastefulness. It always flavors the character and mind with a certain amount of instability, preventing a thoroughly quiet and deep rest on the will of God.

The secret of success for a life of trust can be seen in the lesson of the lilies: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." If we would examine the activity of our thoughts, we could in many of us see pages and pages of useless worry work. God is willing to provide all that we need if we would yield. Spinning and toiling of fears and worries, and sometimes concerns that belong to another's work, only add stiffness that prevents needed flexibility. Dependence, a leaning away from our own thought structures that desire completion, finds a daily supply of nourishment. Then there is always abundant strength to gracefully walk the path of righteousness.

The psalmist writes: "He maketh me to lie down", picturing a shepherd compelling his sheep to rest. Our good Shepherd knows that His own must have times of rest and quietness. There is a point where, without spiritual quietness, tension and errors mount. This fatigue can only be refreshed by the pause periods. They hold the secret of a life filled with power and love.

We should always take time to pray. In the morning, at night, and through the day comes those sweet moments when we can be alone and talk to God. In the family circle, may the little ones see a father or mother whose prayer habits have been deeply impressed in the mind of the little ones.

The Saviour loves us. If we are following at a distance, He endeavors to bring us closer. If we are near, He desires that we be drawn even nearer. The "all things that work together for good to them that love God" are planned to draw our affection to things yonder, where Jesus is. It is said that when a sheep will not follow its shepherd, it will follow if he takes the lamb in his arms. When one we love is taken to be with our Shepherd, we find heaven becomes ever dearer and closer to our hearts.

". . . he leadeth me beside the still waters." It is said that sheep do not care to drink from turbulent waters, but where water is quiet. It is in the heart and mind where the peace that passeth understanding keeps. In the most fierce tempest, when there is no sun nor stars of outward encouragement, inside there is serenity. At the height of the storm, in the middle of temptation, at the center of sorrow, is the joy of faith that hears the voice of Jesus, "It is I; be not afraid."

Human reasoning draws the conclusion that freedom from anxiety must be awaited till after the storm has calmed. Often we allow the tempestuous wind to work up our own thoughts. There is a secret that will always behold the golden song of rejoicing. We are overloaded when we carry even one problem or weakness. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." Again, we are faced with a habit still carried over from other days, when we sought to go alone, to work it out all by ourselves. We must unlearn ourselves, not by reasoning, but by plunging into new fields of discovery, doing what our Shepherd says, and finding heavenly blessing. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

In a certain hospital in London lay Taffy, a young Welshman. He had been injured two nights before, and

now lay near death. There were other helpless patients in the ward. The war had left some deep scars. A young man of sixteen was in one bed, with both mind and body damaged. This night the screaming dive-bombers came again. The nightmare of war is terrible; the bombs shattered windows and lights. There was dust and flying glass and fear. The deranged had screamed horribly.

A nurse called out as she crossed the ward to go to him, but her voice was drowned by a nightmare of fear and war. Then something wonderful happened. Above the storm and turmoil were heard the clear, beautiful notes of a young tenor, singing "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." Verse followed verse. A calm rested the ward. Then the singing ceased. After the lights came on, some one went over to thank Taffy, but it was too late. Taffy had slipped on into the Beyond.

We may, through the grace of God, find the art of waiting, both in service and in silence. Nature obeys the Creator's commands at the seasons He sees fit. The kingdom of God has cycles of both active and inactive waiting. The dependence of childhood, with its leaning on another, is the only way to interpret them, finding the noble and blessed life. The child who humbly submits and trusts with simplicity flourishes and blossoms in the sweet gifts of heaven.

Nature is timed to prevent the delicate blossoms from prematurely growing in January's snows. Through long months there is a silent wait for needed supplies of warmth and sunshine. There is no delay here. But it is this wait that contains the life that, with the arrival of supplies, will instantly blossom into spring-time loveliness and harvest-time fruits.

Day by day, step by step, there must be grace obtained to successfully walk the life of faith. It is human nature to be impatient. Fleshly forebodings cast shadows of doubt. Worry and distress come when faith

fails to perceive the spiritual duty. A fruitful prayer-time obtains grace to triumphantly walk in the quiet, confident persuasion that we are doing God's will.

Success in waiting depends on the state of the heart. To strive to carefully arrange and prepare the thoughts as faith can not yield success. Through prayer we release our own strivings and place ourselves on the faithfulness of God. A yielded obedience lets Him do the work through us in His way at His time.

The how of the simplicity of faith may be seen from a verse in Proverbs: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Resting the heart thus brings spiritual poise. From this location of our faith, with its anchorage in heaven, we can find success in commanding and guiding our thoughts.

"He restoreth my soul". Throughout our journey our heart needs to be recovered from its many failings. We are chastened and purged in our heart and thoughts with godly sorrow. There is a replacing of those parts of our soul that suffered some loss. We indeed have great reason to be humble when we recognize how utterly helpless we are without help from above.

Our Shepherd knows each sheep and is aware when one drifts into tragedy. He seeks the wandering one, and if the sheep will let Him, carefully picks it up and brings it back to the fold. But prolonged refusal brings grave danger, for somewhere in every wayward path there is a point of no return.

"Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompence." All is emptiness and anguish without Christ, the Saviour. Without the Light, this life is a few dark days of sorrow, spent with the crumbling shells of sin. Without hope, there is fear of a judgment of condemnation and an outlook of an eternity in outer darkness. But forgiveness assures that which is real.

Though a lesser place may humbly be taken, then there is joy and peace and the hope of eternal happiness.

“ . . . he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” Jesus never fails. We can’t go wrong if we follow our Shepherd. In the path of humble obedience we are always safe. “Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe. . . .” As we abide in Him, we know we shall never be led to risky practices or into questionable places. The road will have many tribulations, but it is for our best welfare and is the straight way Home.

The great and mighty One, who has existed in fathomless reaches that have no beginning, leadeth His own. Think of the magnitude of meaning in His care for His sheep! The Creator of this earth and the remote spaces of the starry heavens remembers me, poor and needy though I be. The One who gave at Calvary and the One who died at Calvary is the same who drew me to Himself, cleansing me from every spot and stain. It is He who is unchangeable, who sees my smallest action and knows my inmost thought, my most serious frailty, who holds my hand. It is the unerring, all-powerful God who gave those exceeding great and precious promises and now is working those same promises in my life and for my future. Though He is in heaven, yet He is with me here on earth and makes me to know the path I should go.

God wants each of His own to be sanctified wholly. That which is alien to the charity so beautifully defined in I Corinthians 13 is marked for cleansing. Those areas of friction and filthiness that are the source of one fault or another are washed and set apart or consecrated to divine control. These areas are so mutinous and rebellious that, until they have no hold whatsoever in the heart, there is danger. Perfect love casts out fear.

If we do not pull away from His hand, God will lead us into great

service, where we are as a servant and as the younger. We are to share the knowledge of our faults with one another, and when we know, we are to earnestly go to work for our brother, pleading with our Father for cleansing. Even as our Master washed the uncleanness from the feet of His disciples, so we are to follow His example. Here is opportunity for sweet unity.

The will of God is that each actively use whatever may be entrusted to us, in His church and in our daily life. In olden times the children of Israel determined God’s will in their journey to Canaan by looking to the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. We of the true Israel of today are journeying through this wilderness to heaven’s fair shores. We, too, have a pillar to look to, but we must see with the eye of faith.

In the visible pillar of cloud and of fire, God went before in guidance. In the invisible pillar of guidance, the Holy Spirit makes clear our daily path. Whatever we do, we should be sure that God’s guidance has given us an open door and gone before us in the way. There is the Word of God, which always is an exact mirror of the Spirit’s testimony in our hearts. The path, the circumstances and opportunity, will grant clear movement and work at the proper time. But we are human, with error not only possible, but often an experience. There is one more safeguard and assurance to prove we have correctly determined the way, and that is the love of our dear brethren. Both if we would fail to recognize an unlooked for open avenue or if we would fail to see the closed sign on some way, then we would miss the best.

We must lean hard on our Lord, and He will help us not to lose one day’s journey. Immediately after Saul’s conversion, he preached Christ in the synagogues. Human reasoning could conclude that the way would be to continue, but God’s plan

was quite different. The straight road was to Arabia and a time of waiting, while the Master schooled Paul in the gospel of grace.

We must be cautious and sure, for out of the maze of possibilities in our life, one choice is surveyed as best through them all. Paul's own thoughts would have missed the blessed road to Tarsus, where practical experience gave him a pattern of Jesus triumphant in his own life. The years in prison, the way that would be missed by the human planner, were used to the glory of God. How well, then, even in our daily routine, to always subject our intentions and methods to correction to the will of God.

“. . . for his name's sake.” He is Wonderful. The greatest and best experience that can happen in any one's life is to meet Jesus and walk with Him. No one but Jesus could have such marvellous love that gave His life for His sheep. Only our good Shepherd can do wonders for mankind. Through Him the burdened and oppressed find forgiveness of sins. Only Jesus can give that fresh, clean uplook to the soul through washing in His own blood. Only Jesus can meet the soul at its depth of sorrow and sin and place it in the heights of joy.

He is our Counsellor. We make mistakes, and Satan is quick to make accusation of guiltiness. Then in the Father's ear is heard the sweetest voice, our counsel for defense, advising and securing righteousness because of Himself.

We have our troubles and perplexities. Jesus will give advice and help that is precisely what is needed, perfect to the last detail. He is more kind than our closest friend and is thinking of our best benefit. He understands the way we look at things and how we feel, for He also dwelt in a human body, yet without sin. What He says will be frank and sincere and true. The smallest matter will be cared for, as well as the largest. Step aside then often, where

Jesus and you alone can discuss those things that demand action or occupy your thought.

Jesus is The mighty God. He uttereth His voice and there is a multitude of waters in the heavens. The roar of Niagara, the depths of Grand Canyon, the grandeur of Mount Everest, all are the work of His hand. The tremendous power of the atom and the mighty tongues of flame on the sun all work at His command and through Him. He knows the countless numbers of the stars and calls them all by name. Behold, there is nothing too hard for Him. He takes the heavy chains of sin that would bind the prisoner forever in darkness and snaps them easily. He calls and the dead hear and come forth to newness of life, awakened to things eternal.

Jesus is The everlasting Father. Our good Shepherd's heart vibrates with all the care of the Father, for He it is that does dwell in the Son and works. Together they dwell in the hearts of the faithful. The world can see that God indeed dwells in them when it sees love triumphantly shining between brethren and to all men. Here is the Father's kindness and patience. The good Shepherd's conduct on earth is always free from jealousy, never displays bragging, nor is it conceited. The everlasting Father always would have His children shine in His proper behavior and in seeking the happiness and good of others. His love is slow to anger, and entirely pure from thoughts of evil. The Shepherd who dwells in His own is never happy when iniquity is committed, but always rejoices in the truth. Like His walk upon earth, His love can bear up under anything, exercise faith in everything, keep up hope in everything, and enables to endure anything. Let us then seek this perfect love and find our path glowing more and more unto the perfect day.

He is the Prince of Peace. In the assemblies of the righteous His desire is for His own to experience the

sweetness of being in one accord. If only all His people would realize the melody of happiness, the soft invisible glow, that peace among His own brings, they would fervently ask and seek it. Then divine favor is granted and the hand of the Lord performs mighty wonders. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Through prayer, unity is attained. Only looking at one another's faults will not bring unity, and often our esteem for one or the other slips.

However, we can plead with our heavenly Father to forgive *our* trespasses and that He would guide us in seeking each other's welfare. In quiet conversation we can lovingly urge one another to reach onward. We may tenderly make known the better things where we long to see one improve. When acknowledgment comes, we should secure healing remedy in Jesus' blood. We can always let charity cover all and look on each other in Jesus' righteousness, whiter than snow.



NEWS



*Name of location may not be address, but may be church attended.

There is joy in the presence of the angels in heaven when sinners repent. From Roanoke, Ill., we learn of twenty-four souls who were baptized in the year 1953. What reasons for rejoicing. Here are the names: Nelson Martin, Joy Bittner, Marvin Pfister, Calvin Moser, Richard Leman, Leland Zimmerman, Phyllis Schumacker, Dale Schumacker, Jerry Schumacker, Betty Schlipf, Delores Moser, Mary Ellen Leman, Geraldine Grusy, Carol Fehr, Mildred Fischer, Louann Bittner, Arlene Rocke, Eldon Rocke, Gene Hangartner, Bill Zimmerman, Robert Zimmerman, Mrs. Bill Sinn, Mr. and Mrs. Art Legal, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hodel.

The following marriages were in 1953: Jerry Fischer of Roanoke and Marge Stoller of Latty, Sam Schmidgall of Morton and Gladys Zimmerman of Roanoke, Gerald Leman and Velma Miller—both of Roanoke, Lester Martin of Roanoke and Ruth Schmidgall of Morton, and Roy Hangartner of Roanoke and Norma Wiegand of Goodfield.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Mike Knapp of Goodfield and Louann Bittner of Roanoke.

The following are back again, after

being in the service of our government: Lester Fischer, Roy Hangartner, Jerry Fischer, Gene Fehr, Lloyd Schumacher, and Bill Hodel.

To Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fehr a girl was born in 1953; to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Leman, a girl; to Mr. and Mrs. William Kempf, a girl; to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Plattner, a girl; to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sauder, a boy; to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fehr, a boy; to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zimmerman, a girl; to Mr. and Mrs. Gene Fehr, a boy; to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bowald, a girl; to Mr. and Mrs. David Fischer, a boy; to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Klaus, a girl; to Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hartter, a girl; to Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Rocke, a boy; to Mr. and Mrs. James Martin, a boy; to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hodel, a boy. Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Fehr also were parents of a baby.

Mrs. John W. Leman, who had a major operation, is getting along very well.

From Wolcott, Indiana, we learn baptismal services were conducted for the first time in the new church on July 19; it was for Janet Furrer and Francis Stoller.

Kenneth Furrer has been released from the Army and is again at home.

There was cause for rejoicing when it was learned that Glen Blume had

answered the call of our Saviour and was in repentance.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Blume are the parents of a son, Craig Eli.

Funeral services were conducted at Wolcott November 13 for Margene Louise Lehman, three and one-half month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lehman of Crescent City, California. The baby was a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lehman.

The Peoria church enjoyed a lovely harvest of souls. Reasons for rejoicing were found because of the following baptisms: Alf. Hohulin, Joe Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Hoerr, Max Hoerr, Almina Rauhaus, Helen Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Schurter, and Donald Hoerr.

Week evening song services are conducted at Peoria every Tuesday evening at the church. It is a blessed time well spent.

On Nov. 18 Jos. A. Getz performed the wedding ceremony of Eugene Bruellman of West Bend and Evelyn Egli of Peoria.

On Sunday, Oct. 4, Sam Aeschliman and John Yergler and many others were at Peoria. It was a time of joy and fellowship.

Lydia Woertz, 1007 W. Gift St., Peoria, Ill., and Mrs. Rudy Hoerr, 305 Elmhurst, Peoria, and Louise Genzel, 205 Frye Ave., Peoria are shut-ins for many years. If you know them, why not remember them with a note or letter?

Communion was participated in at Taylor, Missouri, on November 22. The elder conducting was Noah Schrock.

Roy Grimm of Quincy, Illinois, and Dona Feller of Cissna Park were united in marriage December 6.

A son, Thomas Edward, was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Cottrell of Quincy in April.

Marcia Ann, a daughter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sutter of Taylor, in July.

A daughter, Evelyn Rose, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Perry Yackley of Taylor, in September.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, visiting ministers at Morton, Ill., were John Wagler of our Chicago church and David Kieser from our Princeville church.

On Thanksgiving Day Ben Maibach Jr. was present. Services were held in the morning and again in the evening.

November 15 was the date for another program in which young people from the Bible classes of various churches participated.

Mr. and Mrs. David Mangold of Roanoke and Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Getz of Morton were in Bay City and Detroit the early part of November.

Mrs. Henry W. Rapp underwent a major operation at the Carle Memorial Clinic and Hospital in Urbana, Illinois, in October. She is back home again.

On Nov. 18, Henry Rapps' daughter-in-law, Mrs. Howard Rapp, had an appendectomy at the Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

There were also reasons for rejoicing at Leo. In November Mr. and Mrs. Edward Souder were baptized. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton and George Sinn of Latty were elders who carried out the work. In December, Dorthy Schwartz were baptized, with Sam Aeschliman carrying out the work.

Communion was partaken the same day as the baptisms of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Souder.

There was a wedding ceremony in the Leo church in August, with Sam Aeschliman officiating. Charles Carr, son of Samuel Carrs' of Bluffton, and Dorothy Winzeler, daughter of Elias Winzellers', were united in marriage. They are making their home near Bluffton.

John Greuter Jr. was united in marriage to Marceil Mason. Sam Aeschliman performed this ceremony.

Marvin Steiglitz is back home, after spending time in the service of our government. We enjoy having him home.

Twin boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Pulfer. Oliver Stieglitz's are the parents of a little boy. James

Winzellers' also have a little boy. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Garman are the parents of a baby girl.

Funeral services for Luella Robathan were conducted in December. Otto Norr and Henry Beer shared in the messages at the church. Surviving Luella are her husband, James, and two daughters.

Funeral services for Tina Popp of Fort Wayne were conducted December 23. Joe Souder and Otto Norr were the ministers. Two brothers survive Tina, Herman and Jacob Popp.

Francesville

There were many months of work involved in the addition and remodeling of our church at Francesville, but now, the new parts are, at least for the most part, completed. This church is one of a group of sixty churches scattered throughout the United States, in nineteen states from California to Connecticut.

This church was founded in Francesville in the fall of 1906. Some of the first families that migrated here, mostly from Illinois, are names that are well known to us yet today, such as the Gudemans, the Gutweins, the Pelsys, the Anlikers, the Yaggies, the Boehnings, the Vollmers, and the Bechdolts. Some have moved away, but for the most part, their families still remain.

The church first assembled in the houses of members. Later, the house now occupied by Conrad Schubert was purchased and this was used as a meeting place until the year of 1912, when the original building was built at the present location at the southwest edge of Francesville. The original building was of two-story frame construction and had assembly room for one hundred and fifty people. It also provided a combination dining and Sunday school room, kitchen and a baby cry room and nursery combination.

As the church grew, it became necessary to find larger quarters, because of crowded conditions, and it was decided to remodel and enlarge

the existing structure. This task was completed in the year 1942. The assembly room capacity was increased to three hundred, larger and separate Sunday school rooms were provided, and the dining and kitchen area was made much larger. The church was also modernized with running water and sanitary rest rooms. There were also enlarged baby and nursery rooms provided.

At this time, it was thought that the building would be adequate for many, many years, but the church grew very rapidly, for which they were very thankful. Again it became necessary to provide additional room.

Because of the number in the membership of young married couples in the past fifteen years, the Sunday school and nursery room facilities were very inadequate, and in the remodeled plan the emphases were put on these problems first.

In the year 1952 work was begun. This time the building was more than doubled in size, providing individual Sunday school rooms to take care of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred or more Sunday school pupils. There are also provided sound-proof baby and nursery cry rooms, directly connected to the assembly with plate glass partitions and provided with loud speakers. The assembly room now will seat in excess of five hundred and fifty people. The complete outside structure, new and old, has been covered with Indiana Limestone.

The church has a total membership of some two hundred members. An average Sunday school attendance is one hundred and seventy-five children. The elder of the church is Philip Gutwein Sr., assisted by three of his sons, Philip, Conrad, and Adam. In all of this, the credit belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, whose Spirit lives and reigns among its members.

Services are held every Lord's Day morning at 10:00 a. m. and 12:30 in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome.