



THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana

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Treasured Verses

"Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen." Romans 15:33

"Be careful for nothing; (stop being worried about anything) but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6,7.

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8.

The Valley of Peace

Henry Souder, Jr.

Some things you see with the eye...
Some things you hear about...
History . . . news and views . . .
saga of the sages . . . buildings and
streets . . . seas and scenery . . .

But did you know that by far the greatest of all is hidden away in heavenly mystery? It is real, being in life eternal. It is the valley of peace.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Sin has yoked man in a leaden deformity. The inside soul, the most important, is rent from God.

The sinning soul is intense to keep its strange, unkept litter of chaos. It joins hands with the same, unseen felons who grave-yard eternity. It spends its energy for the sweatshops of pleasure, spins its hollow, evening coins for the heavy-laden moments of the flesh.

How utterly, beautifully different is the halo of the valley!

God is there. He is the reality of satisfaction, for He is Life.

In Him is that dream world called contentment. He is the secret of peace.

"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."

Vain is the world. Its night is a gruesome hysteria in things of the flesh. It is a blackened, blinded, garbled waddling in sin.

Jesus lifts from darkest midnight to glorious light. He is the Way to the Valley.

He is the peace of the Valley. Jesus creates a "you" for always.

From tragic wounds, from deformed souls, His Spirit frees. Then He breathes wholesomeness.

The soul awakens. Vim and vigor of eternity come with real sight

and hearing. The whole person inside breathes deep and happy in the beautiful valley of peace.

"Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

In the Valley of peace, God's Dreams become our deepest reality.

Christ won peace for us when nailed to the cross. Likewise, the cross is the secret to the success of every peacemaker.

The lighted church window of unity rests on the foundation of the cross.

We gaze at His terribly agonizing moments spent for us. We yield ourselves constantly to that fire of divine offering. We yield in weakness, strong in belief, and find the tremendous surging of victory.

Not as we will, not always as we expect, but as He wills. The unexpected is God's expected when we learn in humility and service.

"... the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

God's formula for wisdom brings success. His way is wrought in the actuality of the hour, but with the character of eternity.

Trouble storms through the hemisphere of our little hour. "... man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Resentment, argument, harsh words are in the combustible material of the flesh. Satan is ready to blow up into major proportions the smallest wisp of smoke.

But God is able to always do the beauty of the Valley of peace.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

God loves perfection. And, with all our short-comings, He has His Way of perfect righteousness.

The dwelling grounds of our daily living have little places of unloveliness. Haste and anger are unsightly. Persistence in petty ways strikes a small failure. Stormy sessions brood

unhappiness. Words fall short of their mark. Knowledge lacks in completeness.

But over all can softly settle, as the snow, the beauty of His love. Its descent is watched in joyous splendor. It beautifully covers all the little drabnesses.

It is the loveliness of forever in the valley of peace.

"And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Jesus struck the chords of the divine pattern when He wrought peace for us through the cross. His followers must tune their hearts to this celestial anthem of peace to know the fruits of victory.

Cuddled harshness toward another cuts ourself. Beautiful peace rejoices the heart. The divine course of events finds cheer encouraging our way.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

The Valley of Peace . . . where children's hands join in an inseparable forever . . . cares are cast on Him, and contentment always pleases . . . where God's hand is nearer than our reach and His dwelling within.

The Valley of Peace . . . the dwellings of heaven . . . the joy of His Home!

The Valley of Blessing

I have entered the valley of blessing so sweet,

And Jesus abides with me there;
And His spirit and blood make by
cleansing complete,

And His perfect love casteth out fear.

There is peace in the valley of blessing so sweet,

And plenty the land doth impart,
And there's rest for the weary-worn
traveler's feet,

And joy for the sorrowing heart.

There is love in the valley of blessing

so sweet,
Such as none but the blood-wash'd
may feel,
When heaven comes down redeemed
spirits to greet,
And Christ sets His covenant seal.

There's a song in the valley of
blessing so sweet,
That angels would fain join the
strain,

As with rapturous praises we bow at
His feet,
Crying, Worthy the Lamb that was
slain.

Oh, come to this valley of blessing
so sweet,
Where Jesus will fullness bestow—
And believe, and receive, and con-
fess Him,
That all His salvation may know.



NEWS



BLUFFTON

Bro. Ervin Lehman of Wolcott visited our Church on Sunday Nov. 30. In the afternoon baptismal services were given to Friends, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Isch, Linda Stultz and Lorene Baumgartner.

Brcs. Herman and Robert Heuni of Bremen visited our Church on Sunday, December 10.

Funeral services were held for sister Rose Geisel, age 74, on Tues., Dec. 12; she passed away of an heart attack.

Funeral services were held for Bro. Daniel Kipfer, age 91, on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Sister Sarah Gerber, age 77, was laid to rest on Sat., Dec. 27; she passed away after having a stroke.

Sunday school singing program was held in the auditorium of our Church on the 28th of Dec. On Tues. evening, Dec. 30, Bro. Emil Bahler of Fairbury, Ill., visited our church.

Bro. Sam Aeschliman visited the Bremen Church on Sunday, Jan. 4, and the Remington Church on Jan. 11.

Bro. Simon Wagenbach of Tremont, Ill., visited our church on Sunday, Jan. 11.

Bro. Richard Reimschisel and sister Elaine Stultz were united in marriage on Sunday, Jan. 18.

CISSNA PARK

Mr. and Mrs. Charlo Kuntz became the parents of a son, Ronald Joe, on December 1.

Brother John Eisenmann entered the service December 4. He is stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

On December 7, Mary Ellen Brenner was proved and baptized by Brother Josh Broquard. Brother Walter Koehl of Fairbury was also with us that day.

A daughter, Kanda Kay, was born to Brother Glen and Sister Laura Knapp December 9.

We appreciated having Brother Art Gudeman, LaCrosse, Indiana with us on Christmas Day.

During a Christmas leave John Gudeman was added to the flock. He was proved and baptized by Brothers Josh Broquard and George Yergler on December 28.

The approaching marriage of Sister Lois Hodel of here and Brother Andre Neihouser, Francesville, Indiana was announced January 4.

Sister Anna Zimmerman, Altadena, California, and Brother Bert Gudeman of here, were married in Altadena January 8.

Roger Hari returned home from the service January 13. He had spent over a year serving in Korea and since his return has been announced for proving and baptizing

We are also thankful that Everett

Hari has recently given his heart to the Lord.

FRANCESVILLE

Engagements: Julie Welker to Jakob Baumann of Mansfield, Ohio.

Andre Neihouser to Lois Hodel of Cissna Park, Ill.

Births: Duane and Bonnie Swing of Bossier City, Lo., a son Bryan Scott; Robert and Lois Gutwein, a daughter, Kimberly Joy; Johnny and Charlene Gutwein, a son, Curtis Gene; Art and Roberta Geyer, a daughter, Sondra Jean.

Visits: Brother and Sister Harry Bucher and others of LaCrosse visited our congregation on Jan. 4, which we greatly enjoyed.

Injured: John and Helen Gutwein were returning home Dec. 4, from a visit with their daughter and family, Rovine and Herbert Geyer of Denver, Colo., when they had an accident, and Helen received a broken shoulder and fractured ribs. She has been released from the Hospital at Missouri, and is recuperating at her home.

Death: Services for Joseph Gutwein, age 49, son of Brother and Sister Philip Gutwein, was held Dec. 31, by Bro. Herman Heuni of Bremen.

ELGIN, IOWA

Bro. Paul Banwart, Bro. and Sister Joe Benninger, Bro. and Sister Walter Banwart and daughter Janet from West Bend, Iowa, visited in our church Jan. 18.

We are thankful for the three souls who have recently given their hearts to the Lord. They are Mr. and Mrs. Ira Farney and Shirley Butikofer. They are awaiting near future proving and baptism.

EUREKA

Sis. Mary Bradle passed away Jan. 11. She had reached the age of 85.

Daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard King, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wiegand

Bro. Roy Blunier has been ordained into the ministry. We wish him the Lord's blessing.

Wedding announcements have been made of Bro. Roland Martin and Sis. Deloris Wittmer, and Bro. Eldon Rocke and Sis. Ida Mae Steffen of Congerville.

The Sunday School held its Christmas Program on the 21st of Dec.

MANSFIELD

Sunday, Oct. 12, Bro. Amos Hartzler and Joe Ramsier of Rittman visited us. We enjoyed their services very much.

Brother Ben Maibach of Detroit spent Saturday and Sunday Nov. 22 and 23 in our midst. After the services on Sunday he gave a very interesting review of his trip to Japan. It was a very blessed day.

Sister Anna Steffen and Sister Lydia Beethol and son Lloyd of Fairbury spent Sunday, Dec. 21, with us. Lloyd was just released from the Army and was on his way home.

Sunday, Dec. 28, our Elder Bros. Rudolf Graf and Noah Bauman visited us.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, and Sunday, Dec. 21, a large group from our congregation went Christmas caroling for the sick and aged and shut-ins. We had a wonderful and enjoyable time and it was much appreciated by all.

Bro. Joel Beer has been on the sick list but glad to report he is much improved.

Bro. and Sis. John Fuhrer have gone to Sarasota, Florida for the winter.

On Sunday Jan. 18, Our visitors were Victor Beer and wife, Frank Beer and wife, Buss Rassi and wife, Emanuel Steffen and wife and Art Moser and wife of Milford, Ind. Carl Stoller, Albert Gasser Sr. and Albert Gasser Jr. from Rittman and Eli Manz and Family of Paulding.

Amos and Mary Steffen, Luther and Helen Steffen and family of Milford. Lewis and Erlene Steffen and family and Nelson and Marie Moser and family of Bluffton spent

Christmas with the Charles Sauder family.

MORTON

Sons were born to the Robert Martins and the Virden Rinkenbergers' on Dec. 5.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sister Louise Mae Birkey and Bro. Richard Kiefer of Gridley.

Bro. James Hoerr of Peoria had the services here Dec. 14.

Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger of Pulaski, Ia., was with us Christmas day.

Bro. Ben Maibach and family spent Sunday Dec. 28 here.

Bro. and Sis. J. C. Belsley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Andrew Streits celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary Jan. 4.

A son was born to the Robert Belsleys' Jan. 7.

Bro. John Welk received a few callers on his 98th birthday Jan. 9.

Bro. Jim Hodel of Roanoke and Sister Doris Getz were married Jan. 14 by Bro. Joe A. Getz. Bro. Joe Hodel of Roanoke had services here Wed evening.

Funeral services for Sis. Carrie Greiner 85, were held Jan. 15th. Bro. Kaisner of Fairbury, Joe Zimmerman of Roanoke and Frank Woertz of Goodfield assisted Bro. Joe A. Getz.

Bro. Lowell Stoller and Geo. Kieser of Princerville conducted services Sunday Jan. 18.

PEORIA

Sister Lydia Hoerr passed away Dec. 7.

Sister Amelia Anlicker passed away Dec. 15.

Fanny Herman passed away on Jan. 10. Her funeral was held from the Wilton Mortuary.

A very sad car accident happened in our vicinity with Bro. Chris Barth and his wife Louella. The car in which they were was burned. Bro. Barth was dead on arrival at hospital. His wife died the following day.

Funeral services were held for them on Dec. 22.

Rose Steffen, who is staying at the A. C. Home, was baptized on Jan. 5; also, Lou Ann Schafer was baptized Dec. 7.

Bible Class started Dec. 2 with a large attendance.

We had as our guest speaker Bro. Joe Schrock of Congerville, Ill. on Jan. 20.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hoerr Jr. on Dec. 8 and to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Aeschleman was born a daughter on Jan. 12.

Bro. Henry Beer of Milford, Ind., spend Wed, Jan 21 at the Bro. Michael Weyeneth home. There were no church services as had been planned on account of snow so there was a Hymn-sing at the Bro. Dave Hoerr Sr. home in the evening. It was a very pleasant evening.

Visiting ministers the past month were Bro. and Mrs. Henry Sabo of Mansfield, Ohio; Bro. Henry Beer of Milford, Indiana; Bro. and Mrs. Emanuel Gudeman of Cissna Park, Ill.; Bro. and Mrs. Al Fisher of Chicago, Ill. We received a great blessing and hope they will all visit us again.

Bro. and Mrs. Michael Weyeneth visited the Roanoke Church on Wed., Dec. 31 and also witnessed the wedding ceremony of their neice, Mary Leman to Wm. Ringger.

Our monthly Hvmn-sing was held Jan. 11. The different groups of Peoria sang.

Bro. Fred Grimm of Quincy, Ill. was a guest at the Roy Sauder home.

At this time Sister Kate Genzel of the A. C. Home is in the hospital in a very serious condition.

Bro. Albert Von Bergen is on the sick list. His address is 826 N. Rebecca Place. Those who wish may remember him with a letter or card.

Bro. James Hoerr and family who have been to California and different places for several weeks returned home on Jan. 12.

PRINCEVILLE

We were happy to have Bro. Emanuel Gudeman of Cissna Park with us Nov. 30. Bros. David Mangold and Eugene Bertschi were here Dec. 28. Bro. Mangold assisted in the provings and baptisms of Carl and Velma Hauscher. We are thankful to have them added to the fold.

Brother Noah Schrock spent Jan. 11 with us.

Several of our members have recovered from major operations and happy to have them in our midst again. Among them being Bro. Jeff. Streitmatter, Bro. George Kieser Sr. and Bro. Dan Stahl, and Dan Endress.

Bro. Dan Streitmatter has been confined to his home the past several weeks with a heart condition.

New babies have been welcomed into the following families:

Sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. John Elsasser and Mr. and Mrs. James Knobloch and daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hemmer, Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Rumbold and Mr. and Mrs. David Kieser Jr.

REMINGTON

Miss Betty Frey spent the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frey, and also spent some time in Bremen. Betty teaches school at Los Angeles, Calif.

Miss Emma Beckley has returned to her home here after spending the past 2½ years in Rockville, Conn.

We are happy that Wally Frey has sought the grace unto repentance.

We are enjoying the presence of Bro. Phil Getz in our assembly again. He submitted to major surgery several weeks ago and is much improved.

The Robert Seibenthal and George Waibel families have moved into their new homes in Remington.

Bros. Elmer Witzig and Edmund Kloter and families spent Dec. 7 with our congregation.

RITTMAN

The engagement of Sister Mary

Ellen Maibach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Maibach to Brother Truman Gerber of Bluffton, Ind. was announced on January 11.

A February wedding is being planned.

Our community has been saddened by the death of two friends. Esther Steiner was laid to rest on January 17 and Mattie Mae Walters was buried on January 20.

WICHITA

December 12, 1958 Bro. Roy Farney of Kiowa officiated at the funeral service for Sister Bertha Lambert. Burial was in the Burlington, Oklahoma cemetery.

Brother and Sister Art Yergler, Danvers, Ill. attended our Christmas Eve Services. They spent Christmas with her parents, Bro. and Sister George Lambert.

Brother and Sister Loren Strahm of Gridley visited here for our Wed. night service January 14.

LEO

The Sam Aeschlimans' of Bluffton, Indiana, the David Mangolds', Nettie Pfau, Marion Bertschi; Mae Sauder, the Shearers of Roanoke, Ill., and others spent Sunday, Oct. 5, with the Leo congregation.

Brothers Orville Ringger and Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton, Ind., conducted Thurs. evening services here on October 16.

Loren Stoller of Latty, Ohio congregation was guest speaker at the Thanksgiving program Sun. evening, Nov. 23.

Thursday evening church services of Jan. 28 were at Brother Wm. Klopfenstein's Sr., who has not been able to attend church services.

David Unsicker is stationed at Bainbridge, Maryland, at the present time.

Brother and Sister Joseph Zimmerman of Roanoke, Ill., Emma Klaus and Brother and Sister Walt Anliker of Eureka spent Sunday, Jan. 11, with the Leo congregation.

Kenneth and Mona Lou (Bertsch)

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Zimmerman: A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Beer Jr.

GIRARD, OHIO

During the year of 1958 we lost three of our dear members and a friend through death.

Sister Emma Hecker died April 14th shortly after her return from California. Funeral services were held April 17th by Bro. Rudolph Graf.

Sister Carrie Deislinger passed away August 15th, at the age of 90 years. Funeral services were held Aug. 18th at her home by Bros. Rudolph Graf and Noah Bauman.

Friend Arthur Bollinger passed away Oct. 12th, after several years of ill health. Funeral sermon by Bro. Forest Ritzman, assisted by Bro. Rudolph Graf, on Oct. 14th.

Bro. John Gerber died Oct. 26th, at the age of 90 years. Funeral services were held Oct. 28th by Lorentz Emch assisted by Jesse Emch.

All of the above mentioned are missed very much.

We also enjoyed a blessed day on March 2nd when two souls were baptized. Zimmerman are the parents of a little daughter, Tamaria Sue, born Jan. 11.

We are happy to have Rose Conrad back with us in church service. Rose has been ill and spent a couple of weeks in a Chicago hospital.

MILFORD

Cissna Park, Illinois Sunday School class, entertained the Milford Sunday School class, Sunday, November 9. Milford Young People spent the weekend of November the 8 and 9 at Chicago, Illinois. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Sauder and daughter.

We had our Thanksgiving Program Sunday November 23. It was well attended.

Edna Lehman and Carol Weisser are on vacation. They are spending 10 days in Florida.

tized, Raymond Riehl and his wife Doris Jean.

Bro. Joseph Emch, who underwent an operation about the middle of July which followed with very serious complications, is now able to attend church again and return to at least part-time work. We are all very thankful for his recovery.

The Robert Stoll family and Raymond Riehl family spent Sunday, Oct. 26th, in Toledo, Ohio.

Bro. Harold Emch, wife and children spent Sunday, Oct. 12th, in Milford, Ind. Again on Sunday, Dec. 28th, the Harold Emch family spent the forenoon in Akron and the afternoon at Pittman Church.

Bro. Elmer Zollinger and family from Pittman visited us on Sunday, Dec. 28th. We were thankful to have them with us.

On Sunday, Jan. 11th, our Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf, wife Betty and Sister Suzan Palmer, also Bro. Ezra Beer and wife from Milford, Ind., were with us. We had a blessed day together.

Our hearts were filled to overflowing on Sunday, Jan. 18th, as we had Bro. Joe Ramsier and family, also a group of 15 young members from Pittman Church to spend the day and evening with us. We were glad to welcome them by having the new "Hymns of Zion" hymnals to us in Sunday School, also noon and evening song service.

We can all be thankful to God and grateful to all our brethren who gave so much of their time and talent in preparing both the "Zion's Harn" and the "Hymns of Zion" books. May we all use them in our endeavor to honor and praise Him who is the giver of all good and perfect gifts.

"We beg you, brothers, to practice showing respect to those who labor among you, who are your leaders in the Lord's work, and who advise you; continue to hold them in the highest esteem for the sake of the work they do. Practice living at peace with one another. We beg you,

brothers, continue to warn the shirkers, to cheer the faint-hearted, to hold up the weak, and to be patient with everybody. Take care that none of you ever pays back evil for evil, but always keep looking for ways to show kindness to one another and everybody. Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Make it a habit to give thanks for everything, for this is God's will for you through Christ Jesus."

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which
flowed,
Be of sin the double cure—
Save from wrath and make me pure."

The godly man who penned these beautiful lines said, "It is my dying avowal that these great and glorious truths which the Lord in rich mercy has given me to believe and enabled me to preach, are now brought into practical and heartfelt experience. They are the very joy and support of my soul. The consolations flowing from them carry me far above the things of time and sense. So far as I know my own heart, I have no desire but to be entirely passive."

Frequently he called himself a dying man, and yet the happiest man in the world, adding, "Sickness is no affliction . . . death itself no dissolution;"

Within an hour before he expired he seemed to awake from a gentle slumber, when he exclaimed, "O, what delights! Who can fathom the third heaven? What a bright sunshine has been spread around me! I have not words to express it. I know it cannot be long now till my Saviour will come for me, for surely no mortal man can live," bursting as he said it into a flood of tears, "after glories that God has manifested to my soul. All is light, light, light—the brightness of His own glory. O come, Lord Jesus, come; come quickly."

At the age of thirty-eight, on an August 11, August M. Toplady closed his eyes and entered heaven.

A certain man lived in England a faithful life. His duty given was the care of many, many orphans. The support of that orphanage for a year (and costs have greatly increased since then) was \$230,000. Sometimes as much as \$27,500 was expended in one day.

An amazing thing about his experiences is the way God answered prayer. This man says he had never asked a human for a sixpence! Nor did he believe in contracting debt for the orphanage.

Often the last sixpence had been spent, and within a few hours either money must come or hunger. But the money came without fail, and never were the children sent hungry to bed.

Hundreds of times he prayed with his helpers twice in a day, asking God to send them supplies for the next meal of food for the orphans. In every case the Lord graciously answered.

When in the deepest poverty, he did not give any human being the least intimation of his needs, either by word or look, but always carried every matter great and small to God, and continually rejoiced in the Lord.

O, love of God unending,
Fill now our hearts today!
That we may share this precious gift
With those who pass our way.
Let us now show this mighty love
To those who know not God,
And prove by all our actions,
In Jesus' steps we've trod.

Dale Hartzler

If you are moving or thinking of moving notify The Silver Lining of address change.