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GRABILL, INDIANA

THE GREATEST DRAMA

There is an all-time true Drama of love having a world-wide premiere to a very select few. This beautiful story holds the heavenly academy award, not only for one year, but for all time. God's brilliant spotlights sweep the darkened sky of humanity, inviting and welcoming all who have a hunger for His love.

You must go down the aisle of will and slip into the seat of faith. The house lights of daily activity are dimmed and darkened. The curtains of the holy Scriptures are drawn apart and the story begins. Through the pages of the Bible, inspired by the Holy Spirit, we become a heart witness to the sufferings of the Saviour. In sweet tones we hear the theme of this action-packed thriller: "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The soft, heavenly music of God's melody of love fills the air with the sweetest rhapsody. It is very actually out of this world. The remarkable fact about this Drama is that it is true to the last detail. Step by step we see the Plan of God unfolding—carefully and perfectly. Tremendous issues are at stake! Never in the history of the world has so much been depending on the action we see. Man has fallen—he is fleshly. And the terrible fact is "that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

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A THIRSTY LAND

[Angry white-caps toss and break with angry roar on the beach of human wreckage. The machine guns of sin blaze away at man and continue to pile heaps and heaps of dead and dying. When we really face life as it is, what can the fading everyday pleasures mean? All but eternal treasures as autumn leaves that will blow away

HAVE YOU PRAYED AS JESUS ASKED?

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

and be burned. In faraway Japan we see a brother in the smoke and heat of the spiritual battle, lovingly administering the gospel to the wounded and dying. Listen to Willis Ehnle as he gives a report.]

It was twenty-five minutes past noon. I had just finished reading part of the mail I had received at noon

mail call. There was a knock on the door of our room and I turned to see Utsuki San (San means mister) standing at the door. He was breathing heavily and had evidently been running. He apologized in broken English for being ten minutes late.

Utsuki San had previously invited me to accompany him to his home to have a discussion on Christianity with him and some of his university classmates. I first met him at one of the entrances to the hospital, where he was on duty as a guard. He does this work as a part time job.

Together we hurried out of the building and down the street, where we caught a street car and later we transferred to a train and rode to the station nearest his home. From the station we walked along a lane having high and neatly trimmed shrubbery along the side.

At the door of his home, I was introduced to Kanada San, the only one of Utsuki San's classmates present. He also spoke English quite well and smiled a lot. Utsuki's mother appeared from an inner room with several little girls. Utsuki introduced me to her in English as we stepped into the living room, where the floor was covered with neatly woven straw floor mats and everything was immaculately clean.

The only piece of furniture in the room was a small table in the center,

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Mountain Climbers

ALSO NEWS TO REJOICE THE HEART

How wonderful to enjoy a spiritual springtime with Jesus, in all its heavenly beauty! "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land . . ."

It is a very lovely experience to stroll with God through the perfume-laden arbors of prayer! The soft atmosphere is aglow with the beauty of His holiness. Have you had priceless pleasure of bringing a fragrant bouquet of praise and giving it to our Father? We can tell Him all the perplexities and problems of daily living. He knows and loves and cares. "Cast thy burden upon the LORD; and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

His heavenly pathway is arrayed with gorgeous displays of the fruits of the Spirit. The pageantry of color radiates with beauty. The brilliance of divine love that blends from brother to brother sparkles in glorious hues. The world notices, for it "suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;"

The soft, lovely tones of His peace engage the soul in enraptured stillness. "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 exquisite bells of His joy ring out in complete bliss. The harmonious chorus is completed by the lustrous beauty of longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.

The path that is followed through this melodious happiness is the exact opposite of natural reason. It is the railway of suffering, the joyful road of the Cross. "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Beautiful humility leads us through

the meadows of singing birds. Pride brings rainy days to the soul. It pulls our eyes from the sweet music of the golden sunshine and blue skies. "If **there be** any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, **being** of one accord, of one mind. **Let nothing be done** through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

To see things in their proper perspective, we must lay aside the misfit glasses of self-praise and self-esteem. In God's Word we secure medical adjustment to fully enjoy His sweet communion. "(For the weapons of our warfare **are** not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

The charming freshness of the sweet breezes is missed when the mind is engaged with the gray drabness of its own merit. It easily slips off into the prickly briars of jealousy, anger, and quarrelling. How the torn flesh and the ugly scratches smart! "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."

There are various roads that lead from this straight and narrow way to the orchards of deception. The crafty adversary has painted his fruits of unrighteousness in lurid colors to attract those that despise wisdom. But "when wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: . . ."

Bremen On March 18, we witnessed

the testimonies and baptisms of Mary Alice and George Carmichel, with Brother George Yergler officiating. Communion services were also held with Herman Heuni assisting.

Elgin, Illinois On April 1 baptismal services were held for Charles F. Huber. We wish him God's Grace and Blessings. Those present to witness the holy rite were: Brother and Sister Herman Manz and family of Paulding, Ohio, Brother Herman Groh and daughter, Lucille, of Mansfield, Ohio, Brother and Sister Amos Schladenhauffen and son Paul of New Haven, Indiana, Sister Frances Kipfer of Ft. Wayne and Sister Esther Schladenhauffen of Bluffton, Indiana.

Francesville Our recent convert, Annabelle Yaggie, has confessed Christ as her personal Saviour and now has peace with God. May she be used as a tool in His divine purpose.

Forrest On February 4, we were happy to have added to the fold of Christ, Madlyn Widmer and John Wenger. Then on March 11 we again were blessed to have three more souls converted, Mrs. Leona Ricketts and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Roth. We wish them all God's richest blessings.

Mansfield The angels in Heaven rejoice over a sinner that repents, and so we also rejoice when souls repent and turn unto the loving Saviour and their names can be written in the book of life. On Sunday, March 11, Rudolf Graf and Noah Bauman were in our midst for baptismal services. Miriam Bird, daughter of Aaron and Katherine Sauder, Ben Stavenik and his wife, Dorothy, were added to our fold. We wish them much joy in the Lord.

Peoria We are glad to say that Mrs. Eva Hohulin has made peace with God and is waiting to be baptized soon and become one of our members. We also welcome into the fold two dear friends who having found peace with God were baptized on February 4.

Lester Sunday, April 29, was a blessed day. Two were added to the fold, Emil Knobloch and his wife, Freida.

Hancock and Morris How we rejoice that our two friends, Mrs. Gilbert Rinkenberger and Kenneth

Schmidgall, have seen their lost condition, have turned away from sin, and found peace with their Saviour. We pray more will follow, as we've no promise for a tomorrow. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." John 1:10.

THE GREATEST DRAMA

(Continued from page 1)

The hope of mankind was centered in one man, the Lord Jesus. Bidding farewell to His Home and Rest, He chose the rugged way of suffering. "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men . . ." One can never be the same after he has viewed the radiation of the heavenly glow of Jesus' love.

Something memorable and extremely important took place the evening before the crucifixion. The Saviour comes with the twelve apostles. Jesus is speaking: "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

The centuries of our mind turn back. The time is the night of the exodus of freedom from the cruel bondage of the Egyptians. The place is an Israelite home in Egypt. Look! There is blood on the two side posts and the upper door posts of the house. A lamb without blemish has been slain. "And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it . . . And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover."

That perfect, innocent lamb was the price of freedom from the plague of death that was to strike the Egyptians. "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you . . ." Life and joy and freedom for the Israelites meant death for the lamb.

The lights and shadows of the vanishing centuries ripple on and off our view. The scene changes, and the plan of God unfolds. Place: "Bethabara, beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing." One approaches him. John is speaking: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Here is a substitute for you and me—here is a reason for the Father to pass over an Israelite home, whether Jew or Gentile. He sees the blood on the doorpost of Calvary. From down the corridor of years, we hear a sweet gospel echo from one of the ransomed, "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us . . ." The harmonious chords of the blood-bought chorus resound through the golden halls of salvation. "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."

Because of Him we who are children are freed from the dungeons of despair, from the dark gloominess of slavery. No longer do we experience the sting from the whip of the driving taskmaster of sin. Jesus knew all about our trouble—He saw our cruel bondage—He heard our groans.

The Saviour takes the cup and gives thanks. He is speaking again: "Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come." He can look across the valley to a time of sunshine and happiness. But how dark are the shadows in the vale of suffering, and how steep and precipitous the pathway He must traverse. How deep and foreboding are the waters of death that will swallow Him in death. And the echo resounds through the canyons of time, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

The picture of the Old Testament Passover suddenly comes to life in truth and actuality. "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." We

see the Israelite family, His own, gathered around the family table. There is a sentence hanging over their heads that dooms them, unless that perfect Lamb is slain and the blood is placed on the door posts of Calvary.

Each word strikes a chord in God's beautiful chimes of salvation. They ring out in beauty and simplicity, heralding the day of an eternal Sabbath, with the fresh sweetness of immortality. Their charming loveliness announce life. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

Now in our modern twentieth century we can see bread being broken by the brethren. The cup of the fruit of the vine is shared. The action takes place on earth; yet the participants are walking in the heavenlies. There is an atmosphere of love and joy.

Outward actions can be seen, but they spring from the deep well-springs of the soul. In the background can be heard heavenly chords drifting on into the isles of eternity. The action gives beautiful testimony to the great Truth revealed in the blessed story. For "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

Now, not one second elapses, but what His children have the joy of His freedom. Gone is the cruel venom of sin. Past and buried at Calvary's Passover are our sins. Open to us now are the glories of heaven's gates and sunrise forever. Seconds vanish into minutes, hours slip into days, and days are left behind in the speed of years. The Dawn of Hope in the hearts of believers arrays the landscape of the soul with all the glorious promises of joys complete and pleasures forevermore. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Over the brook Cedron on the Mount of Olives was a garden. "And

he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him." The shadows are lengthening. The horizon is black as the powers of darkness sweep toward the Saviour. Soon its savagery will break, scattering His followers like paper in the first onrush of fierce wind.

It was the beginning of a happy ending for you and me, but, oh, the excruciating pain and anguish that was endured by our wonderful Lord. A nice, warm night of sleep is willingly given up. Ahead lies the cold chill of a long night and day of cruelty and suffering. He is speaking to His disciples: "Sit ye here, while I shall pray." The Saviour takes "with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy, And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch."

Framed in the picturesque beauty of night in mountainous country, He kneels down and prays. His pleadings come to our ears: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." His was a sorrow such as there was none before. Mankind had sown its sins: now, the innocent Lamb would reap the capital punishment.

The scene changes. It is beautiful country—the foliage is lush and luxuriant. Everywhere do we see the exotic charm of a paradise. The climate is perfect. But there is tragedy—mute and stark and cold. There is Adam with his wife, Eve. Gone is the sweet peace that has kept their inner countenances unruffled. "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Sin—that dreadful, deadly poison—had opened their eyes to know good and evil. It also brought the awful consequence of a conscience racked and torn in condemnation.

They were ashamed to look God in the face! Their lives were all out of adjustment and ruined. Hope had vanished. Communion with God was severed. "... for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

But even in the dawn of human history we see evidences of the mysteries that were to find their fulfillment at Calvary. The coats of leaves, man's poor attempt at covering, are brushed quickly aside as of no help at all. Something happens that is contrary to the life of Eden. The life of some innocent animals is taken—their blood is shed. "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." A covering that was not their own!

A bullock is killed by Aaron the high priest. He takes some hot coals and some incense. See, he is going into the innermost sanctuary of the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies. There, in the presence of God, he puts the incense on the live coals, so that the cloud of the incense will cover the mercy-seat, lest he should die. But notice now, he takes the blood of the bullock (for his sins) and sprinkles it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward: and before the mercy seat he sprinkles the blood with his finger seven times. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you . . . to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

Now Jesus prays alone in the shades of the Cross. Were thoughts of Home and honor and rest? In His memory were scenes of things once enjoyed. . . . Somewhere across the starry prairies His place was empty. Now He whose going forth has been from of old, from everlasting, prays in the enclosure of Time. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

In the law books of God's perfect wisdom, we find justice about to be vindicated. "... thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin . . ." Beneath the fringes of what we understand lies a depth of anguish we cannot

fathom. Suppose you faced the full and just penalty for the sinning and shortcomings you have done? "... the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Centuries and centuries before there was a lonely trail followed up Mount Moriah by a father and his son. Abraham had been asked by God to sacrifice his dear child, Isaac. Through the mists of yesterday we see the sad father erect the place of execution. The wood is laid in place on the altar. Isaac is bound by his father and laid on the wood. "And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."

Now we see the lonely trail to Mount Calvary. Nowhere can we find so touching a scene. With pleading heart the Son turns to the Father: "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." And if such an appeal would have struck the heart chords of an earthly father, how do you suppose the heavenly Father felt? That is the Love that has sought you and me!

"And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor." Pilate was head of the local government of Judaea, now only a province in a vast empire; he represented the government of Rome. The Jewish people were restless and unhappy under this foreign yoke. Pilate's attitude was hostile. An insight into his methods can be gained from Luke 13:1, when some told Jesus "of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices."

But the scene we are about to view is one of absolute contradiction to the way things were. Pilate sits as judge—Listen! They are stating the accusation. "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that

he himself is Christ a King." Later on in the proceedings, as they fail to achieve their purpose, they become more fierce: "He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place."

Pilate carefully examines this Witness. The prisoner before the bar conducts Himself in a Princely manner. There is no man counselling for the defense, and yet the case is presented with perfect wisdom. The fact of His innocence illuminates every turn in the legal proceedings. Pilate becomes firmly convinced of what the verdict should be through the evidence presented, a dream his wife told him, and the Saviour's presence. "I find in him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?"

Now Pilate knew that the chief priests had delivered Jesus because of envy. He appeals to the desire that resides in the heart of the Jewish citizens. They ardently longed for independence and for a king of their own. "But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them."

Mob violence in all its hate steam-rollers what feeble opposition Pilate is able to muster. They "denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go." Pilate is torn between his desire to keep the plum of political favor (with its sometimes ill-fated future if lost) and his solemn conviction of the innocence of Jesus. He explores every opportunity short of the golden one that would have placed him in eternal bliss. But each exploration finds him trapped at closer quarters.

The accusers produce sledge-hammer blows. "If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar." Now Jesus is brought forth. Pilate sits down in the judgment seat, the official "bench" of that day, from which sentence was pronounced.

But as Pilate's lamp of justice dimly flickers, he makes two last efforts. "Behold your King!" But the throats

that are hoarse with sin cry out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him." Pilate speaks again: "Shall I crucify your King?" "The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar." "And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required."

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left." The time was the third hour. The place: near the city of Jerusalem. There they "killed the Prince of life . . ."

"... without shedding of blood is no remission . . . now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." On the wood of Mount Calvary the eternal Son is bound, and the gleaming knife of justice descends and finds its mark . . . all because of you and me.

In the fierce fires of the righteous indignation of God's wrath He suffers. Every part of Himself is subjected to this fierce baptism. There is His head . . . the scratches and torn flesh which the crown of thorns has imprinted. His face has felt the blows of those He came to seek. His back has felt the bite of the whip. Blunt spikes tore through those loving hands and feet. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Into these checkered wilds He came . . . into a world of woe. And man showered Him with hate. He not only felt the wounds of the instruments of torture, but He felt the cutting wounds of the tongue. Consider the insults hurled at Him on that lonely hill. There was the sharp barb of those that passed by: "Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, Save thyself, and come down from the cross." There was the cutting lance of the chief priests mocking among themselves with the scribes, "He saved

others; himself he cannot save. Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Even the soldiers and the thieves ganged up to hammer Him!

"Out onto Calvary's hill, Where Jesus died I'll go, To Hear the words He speaks, To see Him in His woe!" The words of Jesus stand in sharp contrast to the brazen taunts hurled at Him by man. He prayed for them that despitefully used Him: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." He honored his mother even in the midst of such fiery affliction: "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!"

He practiced perfectly what He taught. We see the lonely Jericho road. There is a victim, moaning, ravaged and torn by sin. Then Jesus came . . . with bloody foot-marks over thorns and rocks. The victim speaks: "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." And the sweet answer comes: "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Now He dies alone . . . utterly forsaken. "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

It all happened in terrifying realness. Never has the world seen anything like this. The wrath of a holy God dealing with sin's rightful penalty reaches its zenith. "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, thy sins . . ." *Calvary covers it all!*

We can enter the light, because He struggled through darkness. "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst." His agony in the thirsty land of forsakenness brought us the right to drink from the never-ending

fount of love. He endured the lonely vigil in Death Valley that He might bring His own to the ever-green oasis of the Father's communion.

But now the dry, hot heat of suffering is complete. The final payment in pain has been made for our redemption. Jesus cries, with a loud voice, "It is finished." "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."

A THIRSTY LAND

(Continued from page 1)

standing about eighteen inches off the floor. Beside the table were several cushions. Although I had already eaten dinner, I was served three balls of food, each a little different in shape and color, of a sweet tasting delicacy served with hot green tea.

It was Kanada who mentioned Christianity first, saying to me that he had heard I was a Christian. Soon the three of us were busily engrossed in a discussion which lasted one hour.

From my Bible which I had brought along, I read to them the first verse in the Bible, which gives God as the Creator of the universe. We spoke of our own nothingness, of some worshipping another man, some a beautifully carved statue, and still others the moon, the sun, or stars.

As the discussion went on into the sin question, I showed God as being at one spot and man at another with sin in the middle. Using I Peter 3:18, I firmly asserted that Christ Jesus had paid the penalty to blot out sin, permitting man to return to God and become His son. It was Isaiah 53, verses 5 and 6, however, which caused Utsuki to suddenly clap his hands, and say, "I see it. I understand."

Together we read a part of the last chapter of Luke concerning Christ's walk to Emmaus with two of His friends after His resurrection. Every time I would read from my Bible, Utsuki and Kanada would lean across the table and follow along with me in an earnest desire to catch the meaning. They also looked up some of the verses in their Japanese New Testament.

As we drew near the end of our discussion, I asked Kanada what he thought repentance means. He said that it is when we improve or change our way of thinking and our minds. I pointed out that "re" means check, and that repentance is a turning back to God, at which time we realize our need of Christ, regret our past wrongs, and that we should correct past mistakes in so far as is possible. Later I mentioned that God changes our way of thinking; we cannot do it within ourselves.

After we arose from the table, I took one of the little girls up in my arms. Amidst many "Sayonara's" (good-bye's), I took my leave, being accompanied to the station by the two young men. As we walked along, I said to Kanada, "Utsuki will soon become a Christian." Utsuki spoke up and said "I think so." The young man who only a couple of weeks ago had told me that he was a Buddhist and that he did not believe my testimony concerning Jesus Christ, had come a long way towards a saving knowledge of the Saviour.

In our discussion we had spoken of the straight and narrow way, compared with the broad and crooked way. I had stated the fact that no one can go to heaven without receiving Christ and walking the narrow road which leads to heaven.

Before I boarded the train, we agreed to meet again next Monday, which is my day off from the hospital. As I bid farewell to these two young men, I realized that they were typical of many millions in this thirsty land, and that not only had the Holy Spirit convinced them of the truth of God's Word, but that He had caused a revival in my own soul.

THE FEW LAST THINGS

Life is short and death is sure,
The hour of death remains obscure,
A soul we have, and only one,
If that is lost all hope is gone.

Waste not time, while time shall last,
For after death 'tis ever past,
All-seeing, God your judge will be,
And heaven or hell, our destiny,
All earthly things will pass away
Eternity alone will stay.

I do not walk alone
The armour of the Lord.
Deep in my heart,
His promises;
Are treasures of His Word.
Oh! living Christ.
My strength, my stay.
No death, nor deepest sea,
No bomb can separate,
My Saviour's love from me.

AN EVENING PRAYER

Dear Father, now on bended knee
I bow before Thy throne of grace;
And pray that Thou wilt hear my plea
As humbly, Lord, I seek Thy face.

I thank Thee for this lovely day
Which seems now like a vanished dream;
For Thou hast wisely led the way,
Though life does oft-times transient seem.

For blessings for this mortal man
I give Thee thanks, Oh, Lord, above.
And for the hope salvation's plan
Does bring to us; and for Thy love,

I thank Thee, Lord. And now I pray
That Thou wilt keep me through this night,
And lead me to another day;
Protect me, Father, by Thy might.

And if today I've done some wrong,
Forgive me, Lord: I did not know.
And fill my heart with joyful song
For blessings that Thou dost bestow.

Oh, Lord, Thou know'st my heart's desire,
My needs Thou knowest more than I;
Oh, let Thy love my life inspire,
For Thou dost all my needs supply.

So now protect me till the morn;
My life and all are in Thy hand:
And someday may my soul be borne
By angels to that better land.

I thank Thee, Father, once again:
In Jesus' precious name—Amen.

—Charles J. Sauder.

Are You Tracing the Rainbow Through the Clouds?

ALSO NEWS OF DEPARTED BRETHREN AND FRIENDS

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." The first Sabbath after the Crucifixion was a day of lost hope for the little band of faithful that were mourning Jesus' death. All they were and ever hoped to be centered in Him whose place was now absent. The golden sunshine had left and now there was a vacant chair.

In the memory of the mind would be those dreams of the loving kindness and those dear familiar traits. In the land of Judaea, early that Sunday morning, before the sun arose, we see a group of women were stirring in activity. Listen, the gospel is speaking: "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun."

That was the first Easter morning. In a glorious display of power, the heavenly Father raised Christ from the dead. The crepe of mourning was torn away, and joy eternal brightened the rooms of the heart of the mourners. Gone now can be the silent stares for a loved one who has died in Jesus. The harsh, cold facts of death—the silent features, the casket, the hole in the earth, have lost their sting and the atmosphere of life can be gloriously tinged with hope of the morning rising. The lovely bells of hope can chime throughout the cemetery service of a believer foretelling of final Victory: "It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inherit-

ance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you . . ."

We shall know our loved ones, and while here we say good-night, there it shall be good-morning. ". . . we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him . . ." His family circle recognized Him. Watch the faces of His loved ones beam in happiness as they recognize Him.

Mary stood outside the grave . . . "...and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain." We hear them address her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" Heartbroken she replies, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."

"And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?"

Mary is speaking again. She supposes it is the gardener. There is still that note of sadness in her voice. "Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him; and I will take him away." Now the recognition comes. Its sunbeams brilliantly light up the countenance of the bereaved. "Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master." The glorious revelation lifts her soul into the heights of joy and happiness. Her saddened heart is changed to exultation; He is risen!

Listen! The gospel bells are ringing again. Close your eyes and hear their glorious music drifting on into the perfect blue of eternity . . . "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 firstfruits; afterward they that are

Christ's at his coming." Turn your face into the sunshine and wend your way Home, dear pilgrim!

Bay City Mrs. Matt Wackerle passed on to her reward at the age of 63, on Wednesday, May 2. Brother and Sister Wackerle, faithful workers in God's service in Alabama, had returned home due to serious illness in their family. We sincerely wish the bereaved family God's comfort.

Chicago Funeral services were held for Joseph Welk on March 25. Burial took place in Remington on Tuesday, March 27.

Alabama Mrs. Jesse Vess, mother of our friend, Gladys Vess, of Landersville died and was buried March 19. Gladys is the oldest child at home and is now helping her father care for a younger sister and three younger brothers. The youngest child is five years old.

Elgin, Iowa On March 11, we were saddened by the sudden illness and death of Elmer Moore, 4½ month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Werner Moore. May God comfort them in their sorrow. A precious little bud has been added to the Master's Bouquet.

Fairbury and Forrest Funeral services were held for Sister Sophia Huber on Thursday morning, March 29. Brother David Mangold held the services. Brothers David Mangold and Silas Leuthold held the funeral services of Brother Will Yoder on Monday afternoon, April 9.

Funeral services were held for our dear Brother and Sunday School teacher, Andrew Reiger, 60, who passed away at the Mercy Hospital in Champaign, Illinois. Services were conducted by Al Fisher and Otto Norr. Burial was in the South Forrest Cemetery. Surviving are his wife, Matilda, and two sons, Harvey and Richard, both of Forrest, two brothers, four sisters, and nine grandchildren.

Princeville Funeral services for Katherine Farney, wife of Alvin Farney, were held February 3. She passed away January 31, the day after her second wedding anniversary, in a hospital after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, her parents, Albert and Louise Menold, four sisters, four brothers, several nieces

and nephews and many other relatives, and a host of friends. The brothers, David Mangold of Roanoke, Ben Heiniger of Morton, and Ezra Feller of Cissna Park, conducted the services.

Twin daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Martin on March 11, but both died after birth and were buried March 14.

Peoria Mrs. Minnie Bessler an aged sister in faith, passed away on March 14. Her funeral was Saturday, Mar. 17.

Elgin, Iowa Elmer Eugene, 4½-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Werner Moore, passed away March 11. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Butikofer and Mrs. Rose Frieden of Taylor, Bert and Albert Butikofer, who are stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas, obtained a leave, all attended the funeral.

West Bend Funeral services were held for Joseph A. Banwart on Wednesday, April 18 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Metzger and at the Apostolic Christian Church. The services were in charge of Brother Noah Schrock of Oakville. Brother Banwart, born at Elgin, Iowa, June 19, 1864, passed away at the home of his oldest daughter after suffering a stroke on April 10. He is survived by ten children, eighty-five grandchildren, sixty-five great-grandchildren, one adopted son, Mrs. Mary Mogler, his sister, aged 89, of Rock Rapids, Iowa, was unable to attend the funeral. Many relatives and friends from other congregations came to pay their respects to a faithful minister of our congregation who will be greatly missed.

Gone to rest and his reward,
Faithful servant of the Lord,
Weary pilgrim of earth's shore,
Now at rest for evermore.

Four score years and more he trod
In this vale—he walked with God.
Cares, and sorrows, cross, laid down,
He has won the victor's crown.

Fairer tribute there is none:
Just to know his work well done.
Gone to dwell in mansions fair,
Just asleep in Jesus' care.

The Secret of Sunshine Valley

ALSO NEWS OF SHUT-INS

What could be mistaken for a frustration of one's life, an interference that places one on a detour of many years, can be a super-highway leading to the celestial vacation. God's Ways are wondrous ways. "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

Often we examine a fragmentary piece of our life. To our human reasoning, we can see no place where it will fit to complete the picture. Each way we turn it, there are seemingly over-lappings and empty spaces. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We would soon become lost in the mists of confusion were it not for the heavenly road-map God has provided. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." There is a beautiful illustration of how God works in the eighth chapter of Acts. Stephen had been put to death because of his testimony. Saul made "havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison." Harsh treatment, suffering, and persecution can be made rungs in God's ladder to success. His Will went forward, rolling the counter-attacks of the enemy into defeat. We read: "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

A period of terrific trials brings a purging of ourselves. Have you noticed the fresh exhilaration, like a lake breeze, lifting you more towards eternity's goal? "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

The Work we are called to do is very difficult when viewed from our vantage point. When surveyed from the heights of God's power, impossibilities and difficulties evaporate. Faith still moves the power that parts the waters of many a Red Sea. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." No way possibly exists for a solution in human reasoning, yet the simplicity of a child-like faith finds the waters a wall on the right hand and on the left hand. "... lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

Elgin, Iowa Ruth Schupbach underwent major surgery. Several of our members have not been able to attend services for some time. We miss them very much—Mrs. Elizabeth Frederick, Fred Schneider, Mrs. Lawrence Gehring, Sam Yost.

Forrest Miss Josephine Zimmerman submitted to an operation at the Fairbury Hospital on February 5 and is now recovering at her home.

Princeville John Herrmann had the misfortune to fall while doing chores on his farm, and broke his ankle.

Hancock and Morris Gary Messner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Messner, and his tonsils and adenoids removed April 27. He got along fine and returned home the same day.

Illinois A number from Peoria motored to Chandlerville, Illinois, on Sunday afternoon, April 29, to see Sister Mary Stuber, who is very sick. Among those that went were the ministers of our congregation.

Lester Sister Anna Kellenberger was able to attend Sunday services April 29 for the first time since last fall. Miss Irene Meyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Meyer, is suffering after-effects of measles and is still unable to attend Sunday School and school.



NEWS



Alabama

Brother and Sister Fred Defoe welcome the arrival of a baby daughter, Mary Janet, born on Saturday, April 14.

The fourth Sunday in March Brother and Sister Noah Bauman, Brother and Sister Winkler, and Brother and Sister Ramseyer of Rittman, Ohio, were here. Brother and Sister Sam Friedinger and Brother and Sister Alpha Kaeb of Bay City, Michigan, also stopped in on their way home from Florida. This being Easter Sunday, after services at Hillsboro in the morning, the children gave an Easter program.

The need has definitely arisen in Athens, Alabama, for a permanent house of worship of our own. The Lord has blessed this congregation and is giving the increase. Pray with us that we may soon have a small church building for the members and friends of Athens and vicinity in which to meet and worship God.

More laborers are needed in the joyful service of the Master. If He is calling you, obey and rejoice to be a co-worker with Almighty God.

Bremen

We enjoyed the presence of Emma Jean Anliker from Francesville and Roland Meiss from LaCrosse in our congregation.

The Sunday School presented a program commemorating Easter on the afternoon of March 25, and was enjoyed by all.

Chicago

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schambach of Peoria spent Sunday, April 15, with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hitte and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lehmann, Sr. of Forrest and three cars of Cissna Park young folks were in our midst on Sunday, April 22.

Our visitors on Sunday, April 29, included Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hodel, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hodel and Mr. and Mrs. Silas Hodel of Roanoke, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Roth and family of Forrest, Minnie Stortz and Frances Stevig of Gridley, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Germann, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Germann, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Germann,

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Williams, Mrs. Lizzie Heiniger, Bertha Heiniger, Eunice Marti, Peggie Marti, Josephine Marti, and Aldine Bucher all of LaCrosse.

Our Sunday School held its Easter Program on Sunday, March 25.

On Sunday, April 1, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Anliker, Alma Lou Anliker and Marvel Moser of Oakville, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Fisher of Roanoke and Mr. and Mrs. David Hartman, Melvin Hartman, Mabel Hartman, and Ruth Hartman of Fairbury visited us.

Irwin Klotzle of Rittman, Ohio, is attending school and Andrew Lehmann, Jr. of Forrest is employed here. Miriam Hemmer of Princeville and Stanley Gudeman of Francesville are in Chicago at the present.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Bahler are the happy parents of a baby daughter, Mary Elizabeth.

Detroit

On March 11, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ramseyer, Clarence Wackerle, and Eula Maibach visited us.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Ramseyer, Mr. and Mrs. Will Wieland, and Mr. and Mrs. John Lambert, all of Bay City, were here on March 18 to partake of the Lord's Supper with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Martin of Cissna Park, Illinois, visited relatives here for a few days over Easter week-end.

Spending the week of March 28 to April 5 in our community was Henry Lanz of Rockville, Connecticut.

The engagement of Dan Knochel to Ruth Emery of Akron, Ohio was announced on April 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maibach, Jr., and sons, Benny and Alan, Frances Maibach, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shaw and Johnny and Linda spent Sunday, April 15, at Alto, Michigan.

Visiting in our community the week-end of April 22 were Eunice and Jo Marti, Len Hitz, and Roland Meiss of LaCrosse, Indiana.

We enjoyed the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Clem Wieland and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Stoller and children all of Latty, Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wieland and son, and Mr. and Mrs. Will Wieland and

daughter, Laura, of Bay City on Sunday, April 29.

Elgin, Illinois

Louise, Lenora, and Gladys Steffen, Marjorie, Robert and Edward Haas attended the Haab-Wuethrich wedding at Milford, Indiana, March 11.

A baby son was born March 19 to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Steffen. He is named Philip Nathan.

A baby son, Charles, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kellenberger on March 20.

We enjoyed having a large group of young folks on March 18 from Roanoke, Milford, Goodfield, Congerville, Fairbury, and Chicago, in honor of Frank Shock, who left for the Service March 28. A pot-luck supper was held at the home of Louise, Lenora, and Gladys Steffen. Seventy-four young folks attended. The evening was spent at Edward Haas's.

Visitors here March 11 were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Knecht, Mr. and Mrs. Rich Shurter, and Peter Ernst of Chicago; also Peter Weber from Roanoke.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Miller of Congerville spent March 18 visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Steffen.

Albert Schmidgal, Jr., as well as Brother Frank Schock, were inducted into the Army on March 28. Frank is stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia.

On April 1, some of the Morton young folks visited here: Shirley Witzig, Gloria Friediger, Jean Jacobs, Dorothy Miller, Bill Hinesman, and Roy Wiess. They had dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haas.

On Saturday, March 31, a short visit of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Unsicker and son, Tommy of Portland, Oregon, was enjoyed. They had dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Steffen and then made a few calls at homes of other relatives, including Mrs. William Banwart, who is a sister of Brother Guy Miller of Portland.

On April 8 we enjoyed having with us Mr. and Mrs. Gus Sinn. Other visitors were Mr. and Mrs. David Steffen of Fairbury, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Schrock of Congerville, Mrs. Ben Lehman and daughters of Forrest, Illinois.

Elgin, Iowa

On March 6, we were richly blessed at both afternoon and evening serv-

ices conducted by Henry Beer and Otto Norr.

Bert and Albert Butikofer of Fort Riley, Kansas, also spent several days leave with the home folks. We enjoyed having them with us again. We miss them in our church and community.

On March 17, Paul Pulfer of Elgin, Iowa, and Evelyn Welti, Rockville, Connecticut, were married. His mother, Mrs. Bertha Pulfer, and Mrs. Fannie Frieden also attended the wedding.

Henry Beer of Milford, Indiana, and Otto Norr of Grabill, Indiana, visited us March 6. Church services were held in the afternoon and evening.

Mrs. Jacob Gehring, Eunice, and Phyllis and Bertha Mae Pulfer spent Good Friday in West Bend and Easter Sunday at Lester. Mrs. Gehring remained a while to help care for her mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Weigand from near Fairbury spent Mar. 25 with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Sutter from Taylor, Missouri, and Mrs. Marie Blunier and Bobby of Roanoke visited here on April 1.

Mrs. Lawrence Butikofer spent a week with her folks at Fairbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Banwart, Mr. and Mrs. George Bruellman, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Mogler, Verlas, Esther, and Robert of West Bend, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Butikofer of Taylor, Missouri and Uriel Gehring of Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, visited our congregation April 29.

Leslie Pulfer from San Diego, California, was home on a furlough.

Fairbury and Forrest

Harold Aberle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Aberle, who was stationed with the Army at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, has been moved to Fort Bliss, Texas.

March 4 we enjoyed having with us young folks from Chicago; they were supper and evening guests of Andy Lehman, Jr.

We were happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sabo and his father from Mansfield, Ohio, with us Tuesday, March 6, for the evening services.

Roy Maurer, Byron Nussbaum, and David Weigand were moved from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

On Easter Sunday, March 25, the wedding of Mariam Ramseyer and Raymond Wenger was solemnized by Phil Aeschliman of Cissna Park, uncle of the bride.

A group of young folks from Bluffton visited Fairbury congregation over the week-end of April 14 and 15. They were guests of Miss Velda Leman and Miss Joyce Huber.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ifft, a girl, Nancy Jean, on Sunday, April 22.

Michael Weyneth and Joseph Hodel conducted services in Forrest on Sunday, April 22, and visited Fairbury congregation that evening with Silas Leuthold.

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Broquard, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Steffen and daughter, Louise, Mrs. Mary Traub and daughter, Ruth, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Aberle visited in Elgin, Sunday, Apr. 22.

Francesville

Three boys, Adam Gutwein, Jr., Charles Anliker and George Erb were inducted into the armed forces of our government.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Eph. 5:31. The marriage of Robert Wuethrich and Phyllis Haab of Milford was solemnized March 11. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their life together.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pfledderer were blessed with a baby girl, Lona Sue, on April 10.

Hancock and Morris

Several from our community spent Sunday, April 29, in Lester, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Messner and children from Winthrop, Mr. and Mrs. Jacog Wulf of Lester, Iowa, visited friends and relatives here recently.

New arrivals in our community recently were: Lois Jean to Mr. and Mrs. Noah Nohl, March 14; Ronald Gilbert to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Knobloch, April 19; Vicki Lynn to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Zeltwanger; Diana to the Paul Fehr's and a baby boy to William Feuchtenberger, Jr.'s.

The engagement of Vila Zeltwanger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Zeltwanger, to Floyd Schmidgall, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schmidgall, was announced Easter Sunday. They

chose May 6 for their wedding day. A shower for the couple was given April 27 at the Frank Messner home; hostesses were Corrine and Marion Moser, Stella Schmidgall, and Mrs. Frank Messner.

Mrs. Ricka Messner and Arthur, Donald Reber and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Messner and Cedric returned home March 30, after a two-week trip. They visited Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Reber and family a week in Tacoma, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schaefer and sons, Linda Schmidgall, and Martha Schaefer left March 26 and were gone two weeks visiting in Peoria, Cissna Park, Chicago, and Elgin, Illinois.

Lamont

It was our privilege to hear the gospel proclaimed through Brother Emil Bahler of Fairbury, Illinois, Mar. 1. With him were Sister Bahler and Ralph, Mrs. Verla Davis, and Miss Jane Helmers.

"And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead." Acts 10:42.

A group of brethren and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Anliker, and Ione, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Schwab, Mrs. Hulda Jacobs, and Lloyd Luthi visited the Sabetha and Bern churches March 4.

Brother and Sister George Waibel of Remington, Indiana, and Mrs. Nathan Farney of Wolcott, Indiana, visited relatives here March 5.

Brother Noah Schrock of Oakville, Iowa, was in our midst Friday evening, March 16.

Sunday evening, March 18, a group of members journeyed to Wichita to hear the Word proclaimed. Brother Noah Schrock was there.

Brother and Sister Charles Gleichman, Richard and John of Harper, visited here Sunday, March 25.

Latty

A son, Larry Leroy, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wenninger, on April 14. Mrs. Wenninger is the former Josephine Schlatter.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Graf and family visited with us Sunday, April 29, and went to Junction in the evening for services there. Also visiting us that day were members from Rittman, Mansfield, and Roanoke.

Plastering on the new church build-

ing has been started, but it is expected to be several months before we will be occupying it. The old church building was sold at public auction Saturday, April 28.

Rober Gerber and Eunice Stoller were united in marriage by Samuel Aeschliman on March 18. Roger left to serve with the armed forces on April 9. He is stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland, at the present time.

Marvin Klopfenstein and Earnest Stoller are now stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Marvin's wife, the former Mary Tonner, has gone to make her home with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stoller became the parents of a baby son in March.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich Kipfer and Esther have moved to Paulding from Leo. We welcome them to our congregation.

Lester

Our Brother, Wilbert Knobloch, left for the Army this past month and is now stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland, where a cousin of his, Alfred Knobloch is stationed.

Herman Kellenberger and wife and son from Elgin, Illinois, spent several days with his aged mother, Anna Kellenberger, and other relatives and friends.

John Moser, Sr. of Sabetha, Kansas, spent a week with his son and family. Also Mrs. John Leuthold of Sabetha spent a week visiting her children.

Leona Banwart spent a few weeks with her sister, Mrs. Eli Metzger.

Mansfield

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartzler and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beer were in New Martinsville, West Virginia, Sunday, April 1.

Philip Gutwein conducted services Thursday evening, April 19. The Swiss labourers in the Master's vineyard gave a report of conditions in the countries of Europe, which was greatly appreciated. We also wish them God's blessings in the great work they are doing for the displaced persons.

A group of our young members from Detroit, Michigan, and Rittman visited with us Sunday, April 29. May God continue to grant us the privilege to meet from time to time and enjoy the fellowship of the Spirit.

Milford

Visiting with us Sunday, April 15, were Mr. and Mrs. Lester Plattner and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Plattner of Goodfield, Mary Jane Steffen, Aldene Knapp and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoerr of Peoria, and also a group of young people from Cissna Park.

Sam and Paul Leman, Lloyd Schumacher and Bill Sauder from Roanoke visited in Milford the week end of April 21 and 22, being Sunday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Theo Beer and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Leman and family of Roanoke, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Emch of Girard, Ohio, visited their folks, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Beer, the week end of April 21.

Otto Beer, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Beer, and Harry Rapp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rapp, left recently to serve in the armed forces.

A group of young people from Goodfield and Roanoke were with us the week end of April 28 and 29.

Mrs. Amos Steffen spent a few days at Bluffton, being with her father, Jeff Gerber, who has been quite ill for some time.

Peoria

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Feller spent Sunday, April 1, with us. We were much impressed with his message and hope he can soon be in our midst again.

A group of young people from Tremont, Roanoke, Forrest, and Morton, were here for Christian Endeavor on Sunday evening, April 8.

David Mangold was a visitor here on April 15. He united in marriage Harlan Thomas and Mazie Eberhardt. A reception was held at the Manuel Eberhardt's after the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Sinn visited our congregation on Thursday evening, April 11. They were supper guests at the Michael Weyeneth home.

Lester Wagenbach and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heinold, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Weyeneth of Peoria, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hodel, and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hodel of Roanoke spent Sunday at Forrest, Illinois, and the evening in Fairbury.

Miss Wilma Huber, who works here, entertained a number of girls from Peoria at her mother's home in Fairbury on April 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Somerhalder of

Burlington, Oklahoma, visited our church on Thursday, March 1. We enjoyed his sermon very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Manassa Kisling of Kiowa, Kansas, visited our church on Sunday, March 17.

Princeville

A group of friends of the Chris Schafer family gathered in the home of Sam Kieser on February 9 for a farewell singing. The Schafer family are leaving our community and moving to Peoria.

A number from our congregation spent February 18 in Cissna Park and witnessed the wedding of Betty Knapp of Cissna Park and Raymond Wagenbach of Princeville. They were united in marriage by Silas Leuthold. Their attendants were Bernice Wagenbach and Jos. Stoller.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Stoller are the parents of a daughter, Vickie Sue, born February 22. Mrs. Stoller was the former Martha Menold.

Mr. and Mrs. William Elsasser, Jr. and daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Stoller, and Mrs. Jeff Streitmatter spent the week-end of February 25 visiting the boys who are stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. There were thirty-three who spent the afternoon and evening together.

Pvt. and Mrs. John Baurer, Jr., arrived home March 2 for a short furlough. John has been stationed at Camp Cooke, California, and upon returning to camp expects to be sent overseas.

A farewell singing was held at the home of Mary Scholl February 24 for Robert Knoblock, who was inducted into the service.

Emily Menold became the bride of Joseph Stoller, Sunday, Mar. 4. They were united in marriage by Silas Leuthold, and were attended by Mary Menold and Nathan Stoller. A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, after which the young couple left on a wedding trip.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Martin, Arlys, Arlene and Alice and Miriam and Charles Hemmer, Mr. and Mrs. John Endress and Dale spent the week-end of March 11 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where they visited with Nathan Martin, Vernon Stoller, Jeff Streitmatter, Jr., and with the other boys stationed there.

Harvey Herrmann and Robert Knoblock are both stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. Norman Wieland, who is stationed at Treasure Island, California, enjoyed a leave with relatives here the first part of April. Vernon Stoller visited his mother and other relatives from April 9 to 16. He returned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Wilbert Knoblock of Lester spent a few days visiting relatives here before being inducted into the Army April 10. Wilbert worked in our community several years but returned to his home in Iowa last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Kieser and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Baer spent the week end of April 9 in West Bend visiting with the parents of Mrs. Kieser and Mrs. Baer. They returned a few days later with Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Martin to attend the funeral of Joseph Banwart.

Remington

Leon G. Waibel, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Waibel of Remington, was united in marriage to Miss Reva Strahm, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David J. Strahm of Sabetha, Kansas, on March 4. A wedding dinner was served at the bride's home to many relatives and friends. After a wedding trip through the South and upon their return home, a reception was held Sunday evening, March 18, at the George Waibel home.

West Bend

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Bruellman are the happy parents of a daughter, Cheryl Lynn, born March 19.

Donald, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bruellman, is now stationed somewhere in Korea.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Grimm, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Grimm, and Betty Banwart were visiting relatives at Princeville, Illinois.

Elmer Strahm, Lyle Steiner, Mary Ellen Metzger, and Phyllis Banwart were here visiting at the homes of Silas Banwart and Alvin Banwart.

Victor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Banwart, is still in a hospital in Osaka, Japan. His fingers, which were frozen in Korea, are now getting better and he will soon go to a camp near Tokyo for re-assignment.

Wolcott

On March 18, our Sunday School presented their Easter program, fol-

lowing afternoon services. Visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lehman, Estella Lehman, Dennis Lehman, Mr. and Mrs. Gotlieb Lehman and children, Anna Furrer, Ann Schladen, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hofer, Mr. and Mrs. Will Ringger and Mrs. Cadwalder and daughter of Chicago.

Visitors on April 8 included Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kaisner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Walters and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Kyburz and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. William Kupferschmid, Jr., Louise Mauer, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Zimmerman of Forrest; Mr. and Mrs. Will Kupferschmid, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kupferschmid of Roanoke.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Walder and Sharon of Cissna Park and Arles Kropf spent the week-end of April 15 with the Maibach families at Rittman, O.

Harold Lehman of Killeen Air Base, Texas, spent several days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lehman and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thomas and children of Peoria visited her parents, the Leonard Hofstetter's, on April 29.

Visitors of the Levi Klopfenstein's on April 29 were Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Moser and Mrs. Oliver Fehr and children of Goodfield.

AN ENDURING INVESTMENT

[Due to the physical nearness of earthly treasures, it is easy to see the returns they bring. When our vision is properly adjusted through God's Word, we see the proper valuation of heavenly securities. The keener our view, the clearer will be the more distant landscape of golden treasures.]

A tired pilgrim ready to go home . . . that was Karga, one of the ransomed souls of Tangale-Land, over in Africa. Life's evening sun was sinking for him. Several times he had asked for his Tangale New Testament and asked to have it opened. "I cannot see it to read, but just let me hold it. I want to go Home with it in my hands." At about four in the morning he said to his wife, "I'm going to my Father. Do stay faithful to Him. Take good care of the children. It is my journey!"

Karga's life, since his conversion, had been spent in the service of the Master. He knew the rugged but joy-

ful way of the cross.

The Saviour's love beamed abroad through this humble child. The western Tangale people, once despised enemies, became hearers of the glorious gospel through him. Karga was a great help in translating the new testament and other parts of the holy scriptures into the language of his own tongue. Long hours were employed, in selecting the right words to convey the meaning.

Karga was investing in the opportunities God gave to him. God always places within the means of every child of His investments that will be compounded for eternity. His contract reads: ". . . 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."

Do you carefully weigh your investments? An investment in heavenly securities involves absolutely no risk—no inflation will depreciate its value, nor will any depression cause it to vanish.

If you invest in the holy scriptures they carry God's own guarantee: "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 whereto I sent it."

Our duty is as near as our opportunity. The key to our search on how we should invest our treasures is the opportunity God provides. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all **men**, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

We can travel many, many miles through the use of an opportunity. The dark shadows are beginning to lengthen and time is limited. There is someone over there in the darkness—waiting for you. On this road of time, distance may be long, but our opportunities lead us directly past that bruised and beaten soul.