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Proof of Value

Man in his own wisdom would do God's work so differently. The path of a prophet is uncharted, except in the mind of Him who knows the end from the beginning. It cannot be a set route that guides the gospel herald, but a Hand that directs step by step. Through the pages of God's word, we see the manifold wisdom of His plan in calling out and building up His church.

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not."

From the New Testament Record can be seen the fact that prophets must be supplied with a special gift for this work. They could not be selected by man. When there was proof of divine value present, then they were to be accepted. "And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed *them*." If one says he is a prophet, does he deliver that proof of divine value that grace is given for this work? "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them," our Lord said.

A true prophet's teaching and life is built on the Word. If the fruits do not meet the big test, in which every

foundational principle is sound, then that prophet does not measure up. "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, . . ." When the church has put him to the test, and it is seen that it is not just an error in thinking, but a corruption that has eaten at the heart, then that man is to be rejected as unfit as partaker of the table of the Lord.

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" The more we company with God's Book, the sharper we become in hearing His signals. Likewise, the keener we become in discovering and labeling the false sounds of the enemy. God performs His work in ways conforming to His Word.

God's directional beam does not start in a flash as a sudden, urgent move. How many an Asia and Bithynia look promising to the human view, but the rich and timely

fields of Macedonia lie ahead. The heat of the flesh urges to impatience—hasty, head-long action. But, alas, like the comet in the skies, it soon fades from view, clinging to its own course of reasoning. "They soon forget his works; they waited not for his counsel."

Saul, a king of Israel, is an example of impatience, of what happens when the heat of the flesh dictates the moves. The Philistines, fierce enemies of Israel, had gathered together for war. Samuel did not show up in the appointed time to sacrifice offerings. But there was a way of action open; just cut off the tried and proven knowledge and plunge in at once. Saul followed the quick and hasty way. He rashly offered sacrifices, thus proving himself unfit for the work for which he had been called. Clearly and emphatically the rebuke came. "Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God . . . now thy kingdom shall not continue. . . ."

Parts of God's directional will is heard through the brethren. Without these essential directions, their is danger of losing the way. Paul was following the beam on his determination to go to Macedonia, and the scripture carefully points out, ". . . we endeavoured . . . assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us. . . ." A wall of resistance among faithful brethren is the signal for a change in direction or a timely wait. The true direction of the beam always chords with the Giver's will for love and unity.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." In the Greek New Testament there are three different words used for love. The first, lettered in pronunciation we can understand, is *storge*. It means love of kindred or the affection of one for another. *Philein* is a second word; it is beautifully expressive of deep friendship. Then there is *agape*. It flows from the heart of

God. It is far from earthly reasoning, and gives the bearer a sweetness unknown in worldly life. It takes delight in waiting and serving in patience. Where no way seems forward at the present, where the brethren seem to be blocking a move of vast importance, its sweet melody is heard according to the notes written in the scriptures.

"And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*."

God's fruits cannot be expected unless He has engineered the project. He who has a perfect knowledge of every task and knows the heart and capacity of each worker assigns each according to His Will. There is a golden arrow in the life of every child of God that plainly marks the way to each particular station. It is that deep knowing in the heart of what should be done. It can be proved by patience and prayer.

Paul saw and recognized that golden arrow. He had been clearly called to preach the Gospel. ". . . I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; . . ." Yet, for a fruitful ministry, he had to learn God's way of doing things. It was necessary to take the course in training in Arabia, and the even longer course in Tarsus. The lack of knowledge and inexperience disappear, and instead there is a labourer ready and meet for the Master's use.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: . . ." At times an idea, new for that particular time, is worthy of suggestion for improvement. Actually, it would not be a departure from, but a conforming nearer, the scriptural way. What is the best way to convince another? To stand aside from the present place of productivity and strife wastes precious time. There

are certain golden moments which should be quietly awaited. The heart's conviction should be humbly presented. Then may success be expected with much patience. God's wheels of progress are never seen moving contrary to the motion revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."

Within the vaults of the brotherhood are fabulous treasures. If the teachings on deposit would be carelessly handled and some hasty investment devour them, then someone would have to answer for the painful shortage. For this reason, every new proposal is thoroughly tested, to be sure it meets the requirements demanded. It must give scriptural proof that shows it is in truth what it purports to be.

In Luke 2:1 is the word "world." "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed." Ouikuememe, translated world here, meant inhabited world. It brought to the hearer's mind the geographical expanses of the great Roman empire.

In the book of Acts is the map in principle of the times of the Gentiles. It contains the history of the early church's wise investment of fabulous treasures as it follows the advice of God. Here is a proven record of success of the completed coverage of the world. "Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."

Even though today's world is different in outward appearance, yet of which God has no change in His view or method. In the divine manner the Apostolic Christian Church will be guided to wise investment. No longer is it the Roman empire, but the world in the very shadow of the end. But even now the cautious and wise

can not let talents lie unused. The Lord Jesus wants the treasures He invests in His church to yield His fruits. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away."

God asked His people to send forth these two prophets after He had presented the full case to them. God's people are given indisputable proof; it can easily be seen that the contemplated decision is God's Will.

The Holy Spirit gave the church adequate time to observe the daily walk of Barnabas and Saul. The presentation aims to convince that there is proof of value that they will satisfactorily perform the needed task. "And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people."

The Holy Spirit guides the thoughts of God's people when observing an actual performance of a duty. The Bible test is applied: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: . . ." Many a person who has appeared sturdy and well-fitted proved out to be unable to perform the needed work. The completion of the actual test run is vital to the acceptance of any person.

Whether in method, or men, with only a shallow glance and impulse acceptance, there is great danger. Alongside of the well-fitted product in this world is not only a weaker choice, but also the imitation. The imitation attempts to give an appealing appearance, but proof of value is absent. It is characterized by the quick and easy, though spectacular. The true product is characterized by permanence. Through patience and trust it is carefully built for eternity.

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation."

There are certain critical times in which the success of a church may hang in the balance. Divine strategy has chosen a line of Truth that must be held. No church can long endure if it does not stand fast here. The enemy attempts to soften the stand of the church with false reasoning. The thoughts may appear small and harmless, but there is death planted in their purpose. The loss of those who surrender may be heart-breaking, but the defenders' valor means that the principles of the gospel will not perish from this church.

"And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."

Burrowing deep with wily reasoning, the enemy places an explosive charge near the line of Truth. With devastating fury the falsehood is told that Right is not right, but wrong. The real victims of this tragedy are those who failed to follow divine advice, thus openly exposing themselves to enemy fire. They fail to hear love's plea to acknowledge their wrong and return. They follow the deadly dangerous error of persistently relying on their own sense of direction. Those safely entrenched in the right position, though ridiculed and persecuted, are ever safe from harm.

"And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew *them* into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And

teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans."

The dark hours of this world come before Dawn. The roar of the enemy and his ferocious attacks fill the way with tribulation. His savagery persecutes the church, lashing his hatred in cruel stripes. He does his worst, even imprisoning God's people to every visible way out. But he has no power to capture the Citadel where hope is anchored. There, in the glowing Light of eternity, the tired and worn prisoner may live in the hope of the glory of a never-ending eternity.

"And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."

Enslaved man groans in a darkness horrible and fantastic in cruelty. Under the lighted dome of heavenly freedom the congregation of the righteous and the assembly of the elders meet. If a helping hand is extended to suffering and down-trodden hearts, this united body is delegated to lay hold on divine power and grace. But in this vast world, with the correct course one in a maze of possibilities, what should be done? Prayer, individual and united, is the key that opens the way. It sets the machinery in motion that shakes the fortresses of darkness and brings to broken man the peace and joy of heavenly Light.

"And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his

sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled."

The fabric of God's work is incomplete. There is coming an eternal morning for His church. There the soft roseate hues of perfect happiness will blossom in springtime forever and ever. But today men outside the fold sob in a dark night of terror, having no hope for eternity. The Hand of love has a pattern in mind for His yet unwoven work. Point by point He deftly adds that foreknown beauty to the whole. Through the skilfulness of His guidance men who are lost, trembling at the future, find the Way to the pleasant Tomorrow.

"But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas. And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Everyday living flows sweetly by the home of some child of God. It is close to the owner's heart, warm with friendliness. He willingly turns away to carry into action the grace of God asked by the church. But human understanding can not trace the marvellous beauty and infinite loveliness of the heavenly pattern. Day by day, as the worker firmly rests in faith on God, he is guided through each delicate movement. In trust he follows the invisible pattern that shows him where to go and what to do. Into the beauty of the kingdom are woven those gems who were fore-ordained to hear and believe the word of the Lord.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house."

It is love alone that broods over the dismal sea of wrecked mankind. Love would draw every creature to itself,

if they would only yield. And it is love that speaks the word, which brings into being a new creation, living and abiding for ever. Its yearning cannot be quiet as long as there is chaos in hearts that belong in the Kingdom. It recognizes no bar in distance, but knows the burden of sin is heavy anywhere. Always onward and outward it follows its rule, to gather those beyond the completed work, bringing to weary hearts the joy of redemption.

"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."

There is no language into which the Bible cannot be translated, and in many instances the words used are graphic and rich in spiritual meaning. For example, the Quechua Indians of Bolivia speak of the peace which God gives as "God makes us sit down in our hearts. The Tzeltal Indians of southern Mexico describe "faith" as "hanging onto with the heart." This phrase "to hang onto" may be used to describe a great vine which wraps itself around the trunk and branches of some towering mahogany and becomes so intricately bound to this giant of the jungle that it cannot be torn away.

Records show that some part of the Bible is appearing in a new language on the average of every six weeks. To assist translators in the great task of Bible translation—to publish the Scriptures in these new languages, is one of the major activities of the American Bible Society.

Prayer Is Answered

"Pray without ceasing."

In the world of buying and selling, an earnest desire and a sincere wish stirs man to seek eagerly the object of his mind. Could God's people but grasp the fact that there is awaiting a beautiful array of brilliant answers in God's keeping in exchange for a diligent and sincere prayer life. "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

Within every man is the knowledge that there is an avenue to help outside of the activity of self. Sometime this knowledge has been clouded and perverted, yet the evidence is available to all. A hold that refuses to let go of earthly intelligence and riches never tastes the radiant splendor of heaven. "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD."

A certain man boasted to others of being an infidel and of having no use for the church or prayer. An only son went to far-away France and was in great danger in Flanders Field. Would their darling be among the missing or wounded . . . or dead? When a time of prayer was set aside for the boys in France, this man came. A friend said to him, "I'm surprised to see you here. You have said so often you do not believe in God and prayer." In his reply he said, "You know I have a boy over there, and I fear the worst for him, and I know of no one else to talk to him about but the One who is above: so I

came to ask your God to take care of my boy."

Many a person had cried out unto the Lord in a time of trouble who otherwise would have ignored Him. An emergency brings the need of prayer in sharp focus, but God wants more than prayer only in time of dire need. Emergency prayer may be answered, but there is no guarantee that it will be. Only the continual prayer of the continuing Christian carries the expectation of answer. "For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows."

All true prayer has as its object the presentation of the heart's thoughts and desires to our heavenly Father. There is a vital lesson the Lord teaches His pupils. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." The secret of a successful prayer life is found in the discovery of the closed door and the aloneness with God.

Ten thousand foes arise to keep us from the golden rays of happiness in secret prayer. Excuses . . . excuses . . . excuses . . . throw their block and trip us head-long so we cannot have the best of those jeweled moments. "We do not have time," but the minutes fly away as we waste them in other pursuits. "We have something else to do," but prayer is the means to the energy and wisdom to do all things. The enemy cunningly presents his thoughts, throwing doubts on the value and beauty of prayer.

How formidable and tall do these excuses line up to block our would-be gains. But what an opportunity is present if we but go straight forward empowered with omnipotent strength.

"Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth." "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

One wintry day in Iowa snow fell to the depth of two feet. In a log cabin lived a woman with five young children, the oldest being eleven years old. The nearest relative was six miles away. Day by day the small food supply kept dwindling away. The last provisions were cooked and eaten. The fuel was barely enough for another day. That night, the little ones heard the blessed scripture, as was the custom, before commending them to a loving heavenly Father's care.

Then, bowing in prayer, she plead from her heart that help from God might be sent. The Spirit took the words of the Psalmist in answer to the prayer of faith: "I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Again, another blessed promise came, as if spoken aloud. With a dependence on One who could do the impossible, she retired to rest.

The next morning she kindled the fire and put on the kettle as before. In another home during the preceding hours of the night, something was happening. Here lived a man and his wife, unacquainted with the circumstances of this woman; in fact, they had never even been in her house. He and his wife had spent almost a sleepless night, impressed with need in that home.

Just as the sun arose in the morning, he drove to her door in a sleigh and inquired how they were getting along. He was told of their need. From his sleigh, he brought into the house provisions. Now, when she needed it, the mother was supplied from above with everything needed. "The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good *thing*."

Prayer is the key that unlocks the door to sparkling treasures of happiness and peace, resplendent in the hues of eternal reality. The book of Acts reveals how very much time was spent in prayer. The church resorted to prayer to find the correct solution for problems and for power to carry out its work. Prayer brought unity where division would be the natural course. The history of the early church reveals certain unalterable principles. A consciousness of human inability is a sure sign that we have made the right turn and are on the road to success. A unified dependence on God in prayer means the destination has been sighted by faith and will be reached. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;"

Abraham in sweet communion with God knew the fate of reckless and careless Sodom. While the city-dwellers rushed madly on to disaster, the tender heart of God's servant pleads for mercy. And it is the children of that same faith of father Abraham who hasten and rise in the morning to do the thing the Lord has commanded. Do they dream and long for dear faces to be seen inside the warmth of the fold? Yes, they do more, they move the arm of God who can warn and plead and work miracles of salvation, yea, has done so time and again. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

It's hard to take a disregard for one's feeling, but gentleness and prayer sees wonders take place. A poor widow made her living taking in washings. Then, too, she had a garden from which she gathered food for her meals. One night several boys robbed some of the produce. She looked and saw a knife, and

there was a name on the handle. She knew who it was; however, nothing was said about the matter to him.

Time passed. The boy was convicted of his sinful condition. True repentance brought the necessary fruit. He went to the poor widow to confess his part in the wrong-doing. She told him she knew what he had done and showed him the knife. "Why didn't you report me and make me pay the damage?" he asked. "There was a more excellent way," she said. "I began to pray that God would save your soul, then I knew you would want to make everything right and I knew He could supply all my need. Now He has given me the joy of seeing a soul saved."

Lest we forget . . . lest we forget the agony in the garden and the thirst on the hill . . . we must pray. Can it be we could forget that first love? Lack of prayer is a positive danger point in the weakening of the desire for the presence of God. Careful . . . such was the condition of those who fell by the way. Such was the only posture Satan could get advantage over, leaving the guard down.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

"The neighbors are gone, I hear them no longer," said a poor crippled boy to his mother. "I am so selfish, I have kept you here. Take the little girls with you."

"We are all safe; God will not leave us, though all others forsake us," his mother said.

"But what can help us? Who can defend us from their cruelty? . . . Oh, why was I made so weak! I have no strength to defend."

"There is a sure wall for the defenseless," the mother answered, "God will build us a sure wall."

With his fears stilled, after a while the boy fell asleep. Morning came . . . and with it the arrival of the fierce enemy. But a protecting wall had been built by Him who holds the winds in His fists and who pities those who trust Him. During the night snow had fallen, and a stormy wind fulfilling His Word had blown drifts against the low house till it was safely hidden. As always, the trusting, though defenseless, lay sheltered beneath the tender care of God.

Ah, it is a searching spot, this aloneness with God. Kneeling in the beams of dazzling light, we know He can see us just as we are. Making a fair show is certainly out-of-place. Whether a vocabulary is wide or small, whether a prayer is long or short, choice of words for display and self-exultation makes the prayer life drab and barren. "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

Christ was the great example of perfect prayer. He would arise a great while before it was day and go to a solitary place to pray in secret. From His life also we can know there are times when love recognizes its duty in prayer also for the benefit of those present. How many a prayer, beautiful in its sincerity, has been deprived a group by one whose duty has been to pray for the benefit of all? Again, Jesus blessed the food before eating. How many times have we faltered when we should have shone?

A Christian man was in a hospital, where he had gone to have an operation on one of his eyes. There were perhaps a hundred patients in his ward, and seemingly most of them cared not for the things of Christ. As the time came to retire, he wondered

what those people would think if he followed his usual kneeling for prayer beside his bed. He was determined not to neglect his prayer, for himself and his loved one and others. But he was disturbed by the thought that some might sneer.

"Just then," he said, "I looked across the room and saw a little boy getting ready for bed. The moment he was ready, he got down on his knees and said his prayers just as he would have done at home. That little fellow's courage helped me to quit thinking about the people about me and helped me to let others know of my relation to my Heavenly Father.

There were five thousand men present, when the record states Jesus "looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves." There were four thousand people present at another time: "and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before *them*; and they did set *them* before the people. And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before *them*." The sneer of the world rings loud in our thoughts, but, oh, the blessed feeling in our heart when we know we have done that which is fitting and proper.

"Do you know the Twenty-third Psalm?" a man asked a little shepherd boy. He didn't, so he taught him five of the words, "The LORD is my shepherd." He pointed out there was one word for each finger of one hand. The boy treasured the five words he had learned, and was especially impressed by the fourth word "my." He would frequently say the words, and holding onto his fourth finger would repeat, "my shepherd, my shepherd." During the winter a severe blizzard struck and the boy perished. "When his body was found in the deep snow," his mother said, "his two hands were seen projecting from the snow. He was clasping his fourth finger—and we knew what that meant."

The infinite wisdom and love of God moves in a perfect way. If His answers do not correspond with our wishes, understanding, and timing, we should seek eagerly to know the manifold wisdom of God. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."

If we admit that we are at a loss as to what we ought to pray for, we have reached the point where a prayer-life may grow to abounding fruitfulness. If we come to realize our efforts are feeble, we have reached that stage of learning where the Holy Spirit may put miracle power in our prayers, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." Earnest, persevering prayer will gain us the understanding and power we need.—"The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry."

A certain man in New Jersey loaded his wagon. In the morning he planned to get an early start for the market in Philadelphia. At six he put the coffee-pot on and started to the barn. Suddenly, as he walked along, a voice spoke: "Don't go to market! Go to 985 N. Fifth St.!" The words were repeated as he returned to the house and a third time while drinking his coffee.

On North Fifth, at six the cook had announced there was no food for dinner. So the house-mother of fifty orphans knelt on the kitchen floor, asking God to provide. At 8, there was still no sign on the visible horizon. Again she took her needs to God.

It was 10 or after, and although there was still no visible assurance in view, the cook was told to put water on the stove. The door-bell rang. "That's our dinner," quietly said the woman who had prayed. And there it was—in answer to prayer, a load from Jersey, heaped with all that was needed.



NEWS



Leo

Baptismal services were held for Henry Brinkman. In January, baptismal services were conducted for Colleen and Melba Schlatter.

A Bluffton choir participated on the Young People's program here in January.

A large group from here visited Bremen in February.

Marvin Stieglitz is still stationed in Texas and plans on being out in May. Thomas Mills is overseas. John Greuter is on the Los Angeles in Korea at the present. Dwight Souder is still on the Iowa, at present at Portsmouth, Virginia.

Week evening church services are held once a month at the home of our beloved sister, Lulu Robathan, who has been bedfast for some time.

Morton

Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Getz returned with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Getz from their recent visit to Altadena and Maywood, California, where they attended the latter's church dedication. On their return trip, a week's visit was enjoyed in Phoenix, Ariz.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Witzig also returned from a month's visit in California, visiting their son, William, and family.

Sunday, March 1, six new members were taken into our congregation's membership: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kaufman, Mr. and Mrs. Louie Keiser, John Schick Jr., and Edward Belsley. Our church was filled with visitors from many churches. The elders attending were Silas Leuthold of Princeville and Joe Klopfenstein of Gridley. Ben Maibach of Detroit and many of the local ministers attended. A supper was served at the church for relatives and friends of the participating families. Services were held in the evening and later baptism took place.

Our Morton Bible Class chorus of 30 members, with their teacher,

Arthur Heiniger, and song director, Henry Rapp, motored to Princeville to take part in the Young People's program of seven different Sunday School Bible classes. We also had our octette singing.

Chris Rassi, brother of the late elder, Carl Rassi, fell in his home and fractured his leg. He is in the hospital and the last news was he had a stroke. His condition is poor.

Tylla Rassi, daughter of the late elder, Carl Rassi, is convalescing after a long illness and stay in the hospital. She is a registered nurse and will be supervisor in the new addition of the Methodist Hospital when fully recovered.

Anyone who knows Maggie Harter Yentes and Anna Yentes could bring cheer by remembering them. They are patients for seven years or more.

Fairbury and Forrest

Miss Nathalia Schaeffer of Fairbury and Albert Wenger of Forrest were united in marriage on Sunday, Feb. 15. Joshua Broquard performed the wedding ceremony services. After a short wedding trip, they will be at home on a farm near Fairbury.

Little three-year-old Janice Ifft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ifft of Fairbury, is a patient at the Research Hospital at Chicago. She has been there for three weeks, but hopes to go home soon.

Mary Leuthold has shown a nice improvement since her stroke a couple of months ago. She is staying at the home of Gottlieb Hari and daughters. Eliza Wenger is still a patient at her home and endures much suffering. She is able to be in a chair just a little each day.

Wolcott

Funeral services were held on Feb. 3 for our aged brother, Leonard Hofstetter, who passed away quietly after a long illness. George Yergler conducted services.

Evening services were held Sunday, February 8. We were privileged to have George Yergler and Arthur Gudeman with us.

We are happy to announce that our friend, Frances Stoller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stoller, has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish her God's grace and blessings.

Al Fisher and family and a number of other Chicago folks were with us Sunday afternoon, March 1. We enjoyed their visit very much.

Detroit

We are happy to welcome home from the service Merle Wieland from Bay City, Michigan, and Mike Bartolf Jr. of Detroit. They were with us for Wednesday evening services on Feb. 4. Also Wayne, Don, Clifford and Florence Wieland; Laura Knochel, Neola Wacherle, all of Bay City, Michigan. Ida and Kay Bartolf of Detroit.

Wayne Wieland left for Camp Pickett, Va., Feb. 9.

On Wednesday, February 18, Helen and Mrs. Emma Schlatter were with us.

Visiting us the weekend of February 22 were Esther Kipfer; Marjorie, Pat and Russel Stoller; Melvine Zimmerman, from Latty. Mr. and Mrs. David Schlatter and Laura Knochel of Bay City, Michigan. Marian Summers, who is teaching in Detroit, Kay Malden, Ida and Mike, Jr., Bartolf of Detroit. Majoria Frank of Oakville, Iowa, was visiting her sister Mrs. Betty Baker. The group from Latty were visiting Ellsworth Stoller, who is in Detroit stationed at River Rouge, Michigan.

We enjoyed the visit of Mrs. Mike Stoller, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Plumer, Josephine Stoller and Kenneth Stoller of Latty, Ohio, on Feb. 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maibach Sr., left for Florida Monday, March 1.

Tom Shaw was with us Sunday, February 22. He is stationed at Sampson Air Base, Sampson, N. Y.

Peoria

Rose Marie Hohulin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Hohulin, and Gary Klopfenstein of Bremen were married November 23. A reception was held at the bride's home after the ceremony.

Robert and Clara Plattner were baptized on Nov. 9.

December 21 we had a blessed Sunday when 13 souls were baptized. They were Sonia Kline, Marie and Helen Staub, Shirley Klauss, Florence and Marjorie Hoerr, Bernada and Cathy Hess, Phyllis Herman, Verona Snyder, Lorene Sinn, Norman Geier, and Frank Fawer.

Mildred Hoerr and Arthur Moser were married Dec. 21. A large reception was held at the bride's home after the ceremony.

Croghan and Naumberg

Brother Godfrey Schlatter of Toledo, Brother and Sister Henry Dotterer and Brother and Sister Sam Kaehr of Bluffton visited here Oct. 29 and 30. Brothers Schlatter and Dotterer held services in both churches.

Brother Kenneth Schultz and Sister Lois Schneider of Rockville, Conn., were united in marriage Nov. 2 by Brother John Bahler in Rockville. Several from here attended.

Baptismal services were held in Croghan church Dec. 14 for Mrs. Rita Petzoldt by Brother Philip Beyer. Sister Rita is the daughter of Brother and Sister Theodore Virkler of New Bremen.

Funeral services were held Jan. 31 in the Naumburg church for Sister Barbara Schleider of Lowville, N. Y. Sister Schleider was Barbara Zehr before her marriage to Brother John Schleider, who passed away in 1937. Sister Schleider reached the age of 89 years.

Brother Elmer Sauder and his cousin, John, of Mansfield, Ohio, and Miss Harriet Feldman and the Misses Hannah, Alma, and Marie Schneider of Rockville spent Sunday, Feb. 22, visiting churches here.

The engagement of Brother Clifford Farney of New Bremen, N. Y., and Sister Harriet Feldman of Rockville, Conn., was announced Sunday, Feb. 8. They are to be married Mar. 22 in Rockville, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Virkler, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Hooper, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Virkler and daughter, Karen, are spending some time in Florida.

Brother Bradley Herzig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Herzig, was inducted in the armed services, Jan. 13. He is now stationed at Camp Pickett, Va.

Kenneth Farney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Farney of Croghan, is stationed at Camp Dix, N. J.

Mrs. Philip Beyer, who has been shut in with a circulatory trouble since Nov. 1, is somewhat improved.

Toledo

We are glad to see Godfrey Schlatter and Emil Frautschi back from their trip to Florida. They enjoyed their trip very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rehklaue have a new baby girl born March 17, 1953. She is named Joyce Freda.

We are glad to have Kathryn Stevens back at church again after her recent illness.

Taylor, Missouri

Nine young people gave their testimonies and were baptized: Raymond, Laurretta, Louis, and Irene Hoerr, Dick Sutter, Michael Schumaker, Judy Grimm, Marjorie Arrowsmith, and Charlene Winfield. Services were conducted by Brothers Noah Schrock and J. A. Schrock.

Communion services were conducted by Brother Noah Schrock on November 9.

Bert Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa, and Beulah Favrhon of Quincy were united in marriage on Feb. 22 by Brother Fred Grimm.

QUOTATIONS

It is our duty, if we know the truth, to proclaim it to the lost world and prove by our lives that Jesus is the same today.

* * *

It is impossible to have faith for healing of the body as long as there is the slightest doubt as to its being God's will.

* * *

It is the delight of Satan to keep people in his bondage and to keep them from possessing their inheritance.

* * *

When we trace character to its source, we must go to the heart.

* * *

The condition of the heart will determine the moral quality of one's life.

* * *

There is a way in which man can be reinstated, if he should happen to fall or to be overtaken in a fault, and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ, Who spanned the gulf, bringing man and God together.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."—I John 2:1.

* * *

There is nothing in the world that dims the vision of the return of Jesus Christ like the cares and responsibilities and obligations of this life.

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Garlic is mentioned but once in the Bible and then in connection with the mixed multitude that was among the children of Israel.