

## NEWS AND NOTES

Again we'd like to list the gospel meetings that some might be able to attend:

Donmoyer Ave., South Bend has one starting today and continuing through this Thursday. Brother Eugene Pigg will do the preaching, 7:30 ea. Eve.

Coldwater church, meeting at the corner of Grande and Clark also has a meeting starting today and continuing through this Friday evening. Brother Tune from Dearborn, Mich. will be the speaker at 7:30 (EDT) each evening.

Battle Creek ( 20th. St.) will be having a meeting later on this month which we'll give in later bulletins.

The ladies of the congregation are invited to another tray favor meeting on Wednesday afternoon at 1:30, at sister Ellen Hostetler's house.

The new President of Camp Indogan is George Welker of Muncie, Indiana, who was chosen yesterday at the annual meeting of the camp. He has worked with camp for many years and is worthy of our support. We trust that the camp will continue to be a great influence for good to the young people which it serves.

REMEMBER - Singing at Mark's this evening at 6:30.

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Earl Gieseke  
Route #4 Box 46  
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

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## LAGRANGE

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

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October 6, 1968

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#### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
405 South Townline Road  
Route 4, Box 46  
LaGrange, Indiana 46761  
Telephone No. 463-3571

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#### CHRISTIANITY

Christianity is not a voice in the wilderness, but a life in the world. It is not an idea in the air but feet on the ground, going God's way. It is not an exotic to be kept under glass, but a hardy plant to bear twelve months of fruits in all kinds of weather. Fidelity to duty is it's root and branch. Nothing we can say to the Lord, no calling him by great or dear names, can take the place of the plain doing of His will. We may cry out about the beauty of eating bread with Him in His kingdom, but it is wasted breath and a rootless hope, unless we plow and plant in His kingdom here and now. To remember him at His table and to forget him at ours, is to have invested in bad securities. There is no substitute for plain, every-day goodness.

## "THE GREEDINESS OF HELL"

Perhaps never before in the history of our nation have the forces of evil been more active. The condition in America today reminds me of the passage in Isaiah which reads: "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." (Isa. 5:14)

Surely hell has enlarged herself in America today. The servants of Satan are busily engaged in winning souls to hell and the devil's team. There are many agencies of helloperating today under false pretenses. There are many who claim to be rendering a service to mankind who are in reality using this position as a blind to ensnare the unwary. Hunters use a blind to kill the unsuspecting duck. The more expert the hunter is at making his blind look like something else rather than a blind the more successful he is as a hunter.

According to Isaiah hell has opened her mouth without measure. There is no limit to the size. It is, therefore, sometimes difficult to see where safety ends and hell begins. There were those in Isaiah's time who were calling good evil and evil good; bitter sweet and sweet bitter. Some were pulling sin after them as a cartrope. They were wise in their own eyes and were willing to justify the wicked.

Like the hunter in his blind there are people who encourage activities that are as dangerous as the hunter in the blind is to the unsuspecting duck. In the last school paper that came out at the school where I teach almost a page was devoted to deploring the fact that there was no dancing in the school. According to my understanding dancing is a sin. I do not believe that you can take sin and provide chaperons and make it anything besides sin. Teachers have told me, "I don't think (believe) dancing is wrong. I like to dance." Maybe that's why they don't think it is wrong! Those who drink, smoke, commit adultery or fornication could justify

it on the same basis. Are we to use this as a standard to determine if something is right or wrong?

Many try to justify the dance, drinking, mini-skirts (or wide belts—I'm not sure sometimes) and many other things on the grounds that they are essential to being accepted socially. I am beginning to gradually realize how unacceptable I am--socially speaking. I guess I am conceited in thinking that I had gotten along for 37 years without dancing, smoking or drinking socially. I am indeed a complete failure judging from these standards.

As I am writing this the week of the Corn School" (?) is only a couple of days away. LaGrange again will close the streets to legal traffic and open it to illegal gambling. (I am basing this remark on the previous four years). Now the city "fathers" call this a "school". I call it SIN.

I realize that calling sin by its rightful name is not popular. I realize too that I am not living above sin; but I do not believe that Christians can stand idly by and see our children, our older folk and our friends being drawn into the greedy mouth of hell without raising our voice in protest.

I do not know how long I shall live: either due to death or to the coming of the Lord, but I pray God will give me the strength and courage to speak boldly against all sin. Recognizing the fact that the stand is not popular, and often a lonesome one; I will continue to point out the dangers of the "blinds" in this world. Will you join with me in trying to promote spirituality in the home, school, town and nation? If not, why not? Am I wrong in what I say? If so, it is your duty to set me straight. If I am right and you will not join me in this effort then the greedy mouth of hell is getting too close for comfort.

E. E. G.

NEWS AND NOTES

There is a gospel meeting starting today at Garrett with brother Paul Galyan of Indianapolis doing the preaching. The meeting will continue through this week at 7:30 each evening.

A meeting is scheduled to start next Sunday at the Elkhart church on Willowdale street, Particulars on this meeting will be announced in next Sunday's bulletin.

The church was well represented at the Lagrange County Hospital this week ( as patients, I'm sorry to say). Emmitt Herr slipped and fell, landing on his head. This happened Thursday. He is still in traction but feeling some better than when he first went in.

Dick Hostetler had a planned tonsilectomy on Friday morning. He was released yesterday and is doing well. Brian Hoggatt developed pneumonia in his right lung and has been under oxygen tent since he entered Friday. By late last evening he was some better. We pray for the speedy recovery for each of these.

A letter from Earl Garner this week indicates that he is at the Romeo Old Folks Home at Romeo, Mich. This is a Christian Home superintended by brother and Sister Ersel Riggerbach whom most of us know. We hope that brother Garner will adjust and will come to like his new home very much. It has been suggested that we all send brother Garner a card, as he does appreciate mail and especially from the Lagrange church. His address is: Romeo Church Home  
Box 38  
Romeo, Michigan 48065

Earl Gieseke  
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

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October 13, 1968

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Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
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The Bible contains two Testaments. The Old is Law, the New is Love. The Old is Bud, the New is the Bloom. In the Old, man is reaching up for God, in the New, God is reaching down for man. In the Old, man is in the Valley but can see the shining on the mountain tops. In the New, he is on the mountain top basking in the sunlight of God's infinite love.

--Selected

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Some people think that a thirty minute sermon is entirely too long so they substitute a six-hundred column Sunday Newspaper.

--Sel.

## "THESE OUGHT YE TO HAVE DONE"

There is a statement of Christ recorded in Matt. 23:23 made to the Scribes and Pharisees, which should put important things in the proper place. He told the Jewish leaders that the weightier (or more important matters) of the law were that which they were neglecting, judgment, mercy and faith. In the adult class on Sunday morning we have studied how the Pharisees were so obsessed with the letter of the law, they showed little if any godly judgment and mercy toward those who might even be found in basic need. It is God's will that our hearts look out to the welfare of others and not to be content to stop before we get to others.

Perhaps we are not so guilty as the Pharisees in pressing every "jot" and "tittle" of the law to the exclusion of the weightier matters of the law, but whenever I consider these above references, I cannot help but see a frightening condition in the practice of the Lord's people in general in concerning themselves with the trivia of physical conveniences to the neglect of the weightier work of saving souls. The padded pews, the carpeted isles, the black-topped parking areas, air-conditioned comfort year round, gracefully proportioned interior and exterior fineries, all threaten to be an end in themselves. It seems that congregations "shoot" for these things and when they get them they have "arrived". To stop short of our real work here is comparable to a new Christian feeling that his baptism is enough and forgets that he is saved to save, and does no real work for the Lord. It just might be that the Lord would assess their condition differently. He might say "know ye not that ye are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked", as he did to the church at Laodicea when they said we are "rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing".

Rev. 3:17

It is so nice to have and easy to procure these improvements these days that whenever something is felt to be needed there is little reason not to have it. There is also the upkeep which involves much of our time and attention, just keeping house for the Lord. If the church building needs a new roof, we put it on, if the riding tractor needs repairing, we have it done. If the water sheds under the preacher's house, we come out in full strength to correct the situation. These things seemingly must be done, but the point is that if we want to be the Lord's Church in LaGrange, the teaching of souls must be done also. It may well be that all of these things have merit, for I'm sure that the Lord's people must have a base for their operations, but their justification can only be assessed in terms of our own faithfulness and attempt to reach other people. The great tragedy would be if we banked on these things alone to do the job without direct effort on our part. The reaching and teaching of the lost is the primary work of the church. These other things pertaining to the physical, need to be done, but how much more is needed, the dedication of a soul winning program with all its good works. If we may borrow the statement of the Lord and make application, "these ought ye to have done, and not leave the others undone". In our desire and effort to have and maintain a nice church facility, we must not fail to desire and work toward spreading the gospel of Christ which is God's only power to save.

D. H.

## I AM MONEY

Dug from the mountain side, and washed in the glen.  
Servant am I, or the Master of men.  
Steal me, I curse you; earn me, I bless you.  
Grasp me and horde me, a fiend shall possess you.  
Lie for me; die for me; covet me; take me;  
Angel or devil, I am what you make me. --Sel.

about the teachers, inviting people to come to church services with you, and participate fervently in the worship--and then walk off and leave without explanation. Make no mistakes about it, that will hurt!

Trouble is, we predict that thirty days of such activity will make you fall in love with the congregation, and there will be no way to drive you away from their fellowship. We Dare You To Try It!

--by A. E. Emmons  
Via Park Ave. Church of  
Christ

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#### News and Notes

We are happy to report that all who were reported in the hospital last week are now home and recuperating. We hope that brothers Emmitt Herr and Dick Hostetler will be able to attend services today. Brian Hoggatt is home but cannot go out for at least a week and must be kept rather quiet. (That's no easy job)

A gospel meeting begins in Elkhart (Willowdale Ave.) on Monday the 21st and continues through Sunday the 27th., at 7:30 each evening. Brother Ken Jarrett will be the preacher. Let's attend if we can at all.

A halloween party is being planned by the young people at So. Side Ft. Wayne at Camp Indogan this coming Friday and Saturday (stay overnight Friday evening). They invite all the youth of the surrounding congregations to come.

The So. Side Ft. Wayne bulletin reports that brother Howard Dilgard is in the hospital seriously ill. He has been one of the Elders of the So. Side congregation for many years. Let us pray for his recovery.

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#### LAGRANGE

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### EXHORTER

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October 20, 1968

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#### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

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#### WE DARE YOU TO TRY IT

Seeking counsel from Dr. George W. Crane, the psychologist, a woman confided that she hated her husband and intended to divorce him. "I want to hurt him all I can", she said. "In that case, said the doctor, I advise you to start showering him with all the compliments you can. When you have become indispensable to him--when he thinks you love him devotedly--then start the divorce action. That's the way to really hurt him."

Some months later the wife returned to report that she had followed the suggested course. "Good" said Dr. Crane, "Now's the time to file for the divorce." "Divorce!" exclaimed the woman indignantly. "Never! I've fallen in love with him."

When I read this, I thought: Here is the remedy for every disgusted church member. If you are angry with some members and have decided to walk off and leave them holding the proverbial bag--spend the next thirty days attending every service, preparing every lesson, complimenting every good thing you can find (cont. on back page)

## A HARD COMMANDMENT?

The statement of our Savior that we must love him above any other person, be it father, mother, son or daughter, is indeed asking a lot. Do we do so, do we strive to do so or are we spiritually mature enough to even understand why we should?

As I sit by the bed of my son in the hospital I cannot help but notice the families who show their interest and concern over loved ones who are confined to beds of affliction. This is natural and is as it should be. To not do this would show a grave injustice to those with whom we are emotionally tied. A 24 hour vigil for our little boy is our desire. It just seems that all other things become second to the primary work of getting them well.

My love and concern for my son is barely 2 years old. His, for me, is even less. I have a Savior whose love for me dates back to thousands of years ago. He was with his Father when the world and all things were created. He had me in mind when he planned his work of redemption, and worked his plan in leaving the portals of heaven and consent to an ignominious (degrading) death on the cross. He died for me, a sinner. He gave all that he could to win my love.

My Savior's concern for me did not stop at the cross. He made provisions for my welfare in this life and in the life to come. His body, the church, was instituted for me as an ark of safety. All of the saved are in the church and I am continually encouraged by their presence. The Lord has preserved his word, through ages of time, to be a constant reminder of his direction for me. I can avail my self daily of his forgiveness of my sins by walking in the light as he is in the light. I can daily live in hope of inheriting those mansions that he has prepared for me. And I can face death,

not as a departure but as an entrance to an eternity of happiness. I see the handiwork of my Lord in the Heavens above, on the Earth below and his blessings continue to come.

In view of the Lord's love and concern for provisions for me, how can I but love him? Earthly ties are but a few years and cannot be compared to the eternal tie that binds me to God. It is no wonder that he asks of us a love that is greater than anyone or anything on this earth. And if we can discern such an unspeakable gift, we cannot help but place him first in our heart.

When Christ was told that his mother and brothers were waiting, desiring to speak to him, he asked, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold, my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matt. 12:48-50. I doubt that his mother was offended in this, for in her son's very youth he was interested in his heavenly Father's business and could only see all things in relation to him. Mary, the scripture says "kept all these sayings in her heart." Luke 2:51.

We love our families deeply, and we want them to love us. However, love for our maker comes first. The greatest compliment that a son can give to his mother would be to express a love, second only to God. When they can do this, they have been raised right.

D. H.

## AN OBSERVATION

It has been observed that an average church member has heard 4,000 sermons, 8,000 congregational prayers, 20,000 public songs, and saved 0 sinners;  
--Charles Hodge

repent, no further extentions of love and mercy.  
God's provisions of mercy would have been exhausted.

The Holy Ghost is the final revealer of truth. We  
can obey it and live, or we can reject it, and be  
lost. The choice is ours.

D. H.

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#### NEWS AND NOTES

Happy to see Sis. Pearl Bozell out for services last  
Lord's Day. Besides our regulars, we frequently have  
visitors, for which we're always happy. ( We have  
hopes that the Warren Campbells will be visiting to-  
day.)

Also home for the week-end are Ruth Wilson and Kathy  
Hoggatt, students at Michigan Christian Junior Coll  
ege. We look forward to having our former young peop-  
le back with us occasionally.

Donmoyer Ave. congregation in So. Bend is having the  
MCJC chorus present a chorus program at 2:30 (CST)  
this afternoon. You would enjoy the excellent present-  
ation of this group if you can attend.

We noticed a notice in the paper that Otho Penrose died.  
(He and his wife attended here a few times when they  
discontinued services at Greenfield Mills). The cause  
was cancer. His wife is residing in the Butler Rest  
Home at Butler, Indiana.

I'll try to list in next week's bulletin the Herald of  
Truth broadcasts that can be received in this area.  
Since the time change in some areas, the program will  
be heard at a different time in this area.

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Earl Gieseke  
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#### L A G R A N G E

#### C H U R C H   O F   C H R I S T

#### E X H O R T E R

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October 27, 1968

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#### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

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It is much better  
to hold out a help-  
ing hand than an  
accusing finger.

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#### HOW MANY WORKERS?

If someone should ask you how many members there  
are in the congregation, it would not be difficult  
for you to give the approximate number. But if  
someone asks, "How many workers have you?" What  
would you answer? Is there any church that has  
the same number of workers as members? Why?

The colored preacher had it right who said "One  
church member plus good intentions, minus action,  
figures zero with nothin' to carry, according to  
my "rithmetic". DO YOU COUNT for something in  
the work of the church, or are you just a cipher?

--via Garrett Bulletin

## GOD'S LAST TESTAMENT

Last week the article related the concern of God for man and the limit to which he had gone to provide for our welfare and eternal redemption. Little wonder then why God considers sin against his Holy Word as a terrible thing. I'd like to again consider this matter in a different light.

In times past, God dealt directly with His people through the heads of families, telling them what he wanted them to do. Sometimes he spoke to individuals, sometimes through dreams and other times through prophets whom he sent. The Hebrew writer says, "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last times spoken unto us by His son; whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. Heb. 1:1, 2. Even though for a time God's messages had their effect in the lives of His people, by and large, people were rebellious to his commands.

In due time and according to plan, he sent his only begotten son into the world in the form of flesh, to more fully convey to his people His word. John puts it: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" - "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth". Jn.1:1, 14. The message of the Word, Christ, as given by him, was a more complete message of God for His people and called them to repentance and to prepare their lives for the kingdom of God, which Christ said was at hand. Matt. 4:17. Again in the second "try" to relate the message to His people, some, a few, received and believed it, but the majority rejected it. John summed up this fact in Jn. 1:11 when he said, "He came unto his own and his own received him not". We have studied how the Scribes and Pharisees, who were the religious leaders of the people, led the rebellion against (Cont. )

Christ and counselled many times how they might destroy him. They even enrolled the help of their arch enemies, the Roman government, to do this. Christ denounced their hardness of heart and warned them to repent.

In spite of all the prophetic accounts and first hand experiences of the Son of God among them, they still rejected him. They even went so far as to speak evil against him and attribute his miraculous power to the working of Satan. Christ pointed to the time when one last attempt would be made for their repentance and if they would reject it, they would be lost. He promised the coming of the Holy Ghost which would perfect the testimony and guide into all truth. "And he, when he is come, will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment." Jn.16:8. This would be the third and last "try" by the Godhead to redeem stubborn man and if they rejected him there was to be no further agency or revelation sent by God to do it. Christ put it this way in Matt. 12:31,32, "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

God had tolerated or "winked at" the ignorance and rebellion of His people in times past. Christ even said that every sin spoken against him would be forgiven. But he drew the line on the rejection of the Holy Ghost. God's last agency which would reveal the complete revelation of truth was the Holy Ghost. If they so rejected the Holy Ghost when he came, there would be no forgiveness, for there would be no more testimony and no more opportunity to (Cont. on last page)



## NEWS AND NOTES

An announcement was received concerning an Open House for Brother and Sister Otis Lusher of Bristol, Indiana for their 50th wedding anniversary. They invite all the congregation here. It is to be held at the Four Arts Building, 311 West High St., Elkhart, Indiana on Nov. 17th. from 2:00 -4:30 P. M.

Remember the singing at the Mark's Nursing Home this evening at 6:00 P.M. Since the last time that we were there, Mr. Snow (the patient who joked about "being the only snow around here this time of year") was taken to the hospital and died within the hour. We are sorry that we will not see his smiling face anymore when we go there, but we can bring some joy to those remaining in the home while time is ours and theirs. We encourage everyone to attend and support this good work.

We are sorry that the Herald of Truth Television programs that can be received in this area are at a time when we are having our Bible study and Worship services. It comes on at 10:15 A. M. over channel 33 Ft. Wayne and also at 10:30 A.M. over channel 28 So. Bend. Even though these are at the wrong time for us, we can still mention them to our friends who might be able to see them. Also the radio program comes over WMAQ at 9:30 in the morning which is also a conflict with Bible study. It can be heard over a Battle Creek station earlier but the station and the exact time will have to be checked. As we learn about this and others, we'll mention it.

Anyone who can manage to go to camp next Saturday and help clear brush etc, for the new road entranceway, please see bro. Hoggatt.

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Earl Gieseke  
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## L A G R A N G E

### C H U R C H   O F   C H R I S T

#### E X H O R T E R

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November 3, 1968

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#### Schedule of regular services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
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WORSHIP  
REGULARLY WITH  
GLADNESS

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#### CHRISTIANITY

Christianity is not a voice in the wilderness, but a life in the world. It is not an idea in the air but feet on the ground, going God's way. It is not an exotic to be kept under glass, but a hardy plant to bear twelve months of fruits in all kinds of weather. Fidelity to duty is its root and branch. Nothing we can say to the Lord, no calling Him by great or dear names, can take the place of the plain doing of His will. We may cry out about the beauty of eating bread with Him in His kingdom, but it is wasted breath and a rootless hope, unless we plow and plant in His Kingdom here and now. To remember Him at His table and to forget Him at ours, is to have invested in bad securities. There is no substitute for plain, everyday goodness. --Sel.

## LENGTH OR QUALITY?

To borrow a well know line from advertising: "It is not how long you make it, but how you make it long". Many times we hear of so-and-so who has been a member of the church for fifty years. To some this is an automatic, pre-punched, pass to enter the "pearly" gates. The longevity of the Christian life is certainly commendable, but too, the quality of the life is much more important. All that some Christian's life has amounted to is a service or two each week and telling a few denominationalists that they are going to hell because they don't "believe" as "we" do.

This is not to imply that all "old-timers" are this way. All of us are aware of many faithful saints who have had a long and fruitful life in His service. But the point I am trying to make is the same one the "cancer-stick" people are trying to make in their commercials; it isn't how long you make it, but how you make it long.

What produces a quality Christian? How good does a Christian have to be? Does he or she have to be as good as you or I? If everyone who becomes a Christian is as zealous as you will the church grow spiritually and physically. If every person who is converted to Christ becomes as active in winning souls to Christ as you are will there be many souls<sup>1/20</sup> to Christ? I am fearful that there are those who will die without making any strong or consistent effort to win any to Christ. If every new convert is as faithful in their attendance as you are will everyone be present for every service? If every new convert studies the Bible as diligently as you do will we become a Bible-reading church? If the new convert gives as liberally as you do will the church go up or down in its giving percentage wise?

What makes a quality Christian? It seems to me that the primary thing that makes a quality Christian is having someone to follow as a good

example. I do not believe that ducking a person in a pool of water will automatically change them into a zealous, liberal giving, scripture quoting, church going, sinner converting Christian. How I wish this were true! If it were true I would get a portable pool and hire three or four strong men and go up and down the country ducking people. But it does not work that way. The road to heaven is won only by struggle. Too many are not inclined to struggle. Many are willing to drift with the current. The current today, as always, is sweeping people towards hell. As has been said, "Any fish can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream." Are you floating or drifting? Will those who watch you be led upwards to a life that will be Christ-centered or one that will be self-centered?

How good does a Christian have to be? "Except your righteousness shall exceed . . ." God has never accepted a second class religion from His people. Consider the teachings of the Old Testament! Look how God dealt with those who worshipped from the lips, but not from the heart. He rejected the meaningless worship of sacrifice of the wicked. God demands that we put His son first in our life. Is this easy? No, but this does help to determine the quality of our service. Remember: IT'S NOT HOW LONG YOU MAKE IT, BUT HOW YOU MAKE IT LONG.

E. E. G.

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"True repentance is never too late; but late repentance is seldom true. Many persons who appear to repent are like sailors who throw their goods overboard in a storm, and wish for them again in the calm.

--Selected

## NEWS AND NOTES

A letter from brother Steve Cain of the new Glenwood congregation announces that brother Robert Page will present a talk on the New Zealand work this next Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock at the church building in Ft. Wayne. They would like to have some from LaGrange to come.

The Ladies of the congregation here is to have another tray making session this next Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock. The meeting place will be decided today.

An area wide singing is scheduled at the Chestnut St. congregation in Ft. Wayne this afternoon at 3 o'clock. This congregation is invited.

If anyone has any articles or announcements to be put in the bulletin, please see that Sister Ellen Hostetler has them by Thursday evening at services.

### WHOSE NAMES ARE HERE?

Try to find the hidden names of some Bible character in the sentences below:

1. Put Sam's on the table.
2. Jim and Anna both like candy.
3. I hope Terry will find his way home.
4. Don't scratch or mar your new furniture.
5. Is Jessica in the house?
6. Harry rang a bell loudly.
7. They first met on a May evening.
8. Susan roamed through a mossy glen.

-Answers next week.

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Earl Gieseke  
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## LAGRANGE

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

## EXHORTER

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November 10, 1968

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### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
405 South Townline Road  
Route 4, Box 46  
LaGrange, Indiana 46761  
Telephone No. 463-3571

Giving thanks always  
for all things unto  
God and the Father  
in the name of our  
Lord Jesus Christ.  
Eps. 5:20

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### WHAT WILL MONEY BUY?

It will buy a bed, but not a good night's sleep.  
It will buy looks, but not brains.  
It will buy food, but not an appetite.  
It will buy finery, but not beauty.  
It will buy medicine, but not health.  
It will build a house, but it cannot buy a home.  
It will buy amusement, but not happiness.  
It will buy preaching, but not the truth.  
It will buy a church building, but not salvation.

--Selected--

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into  
the house of the Lord. Ps. 122:1

## "STIR UP THE GIFT"

One of the problems that I face as a teacher in our public schools is the lack of motivation in the students. I see an occasional spark of the hidden abilities deep within the student. All teachers glimpse this and wonder how we can fan this spark to keep it alive, and yes, even see it burst into a flame that will carry the student on to a success which he or she can attain and deserves.

I think that we can call motivation the desire to succeed. Although I see this as a problem in school, I see it as a greater problem (perhaps more aptly expressed--a tragedy) in the church. We see people who have used their talents in achieving a degree of success in business. The same talent, knowledge, energy and motivation applied in working for the Master could render equally great success, and what's more important, permanent success.

I would that God would grant unto me the ability (and not me only, but all preachers of the gospel as well as elders and other dedicated Christians) to inspire people to do greater things in the Lord's service. It really seems unbelievable that a person who knows and believes what the Bible teaches would be anything other than motivated to achieve the greatest success possible. As we read and hear of the great and precious promises made in God's word it is indeed strange that we are not stirred up to do His will more diligently.

It thrills me beyond expression to see those who are eager to do well in their Christian life. Especially as I see those who are newly united with Christ as they seek to serve Him with their limited knowledge I am motivated to keep on. This more than offsets the heartaches and disappointments that I have in seeing those who have been Christians for many years that make little if any effort to interest others in becoming a Christian. Many Christians are not motivated to make a sustained effort who ought to be converting others.

Have you made an effort this week (successful or not) to interest anyone in Christ? How far back does time go since you last tried to convert someone to Christ? The great hinderance in the church is not the lack of people, but the lack of teachers. Will you be a teacher? Will you make a dedicated effort to teach someone you know about Christ? Does Christ mean something special to you? Does He mean as much to you as your farm, business, or other possessions of this world? Would you drive to worship in weather as bad as weather you drive to work in? Will you miss service due to illness that would not prevent you from going to work or some important social event?

What does it take to stir up the gift of God in us? The hope of heaven? The fear of hell? Or have we become so complacent that nothing will motivate us to really give ourself to Him? We must not allow ourselves to become satisfied just to "baptize our own" and let the rest of the world go by. We need faith that will motivate us to launch out into the deep. Complacency and self-satisfaction is a grave and real danger. Jesus was made sick by those who were luke-warm. Is it possible that the church is becoming lazy, fat and luke-warm? Has keeping our friendship with the world become more important than serving Christ? Surely no one in their right mind wants to come before the judgment bar of God without a consistent and dedicated effort to convert others to the "Way". Let each of us attempt to stir up the gift of God that is in us. "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, . . ."

E. E. G.

\* \* \* \* \*

"True repentance is never too late; but late repentance is seldom true. Many persons who appear to repent are like sailors who throw their goods overboard in a storm, and wish for them again in the calm.

--Selected

Cont. from front page--

And your vision, alas, as you look in the glass,  
Meets an image that's less than a man.

You cannot do wrong and forget it.

In the judgment you've never a pull;  
For the wages of sin, when once you begin,  
Must be ledgered, and settled in full.

--Schuyler C. Allman

Happy to have the Ashcrafts here from Portland today. There was some chain saw work to do at camp yesterday, and we appreciate brother Ashcraft's willingness to help. Want to invite them back anytime they can come.

Sister Pulley has had a cold all week and said that she could not be at services today.

We understand that Sister Bozel was in the hospital, but for tests only.

#### ANSWERS TO LAST WEEKS BIBLE QUIZ

1. Sampson
2. Naboth
3. Peter
4. Mary
5. Cain
6. Abel
7. Eve
8. Amos

Earl Gieseke  
Route #4, Box 46  
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

## LAGRANGE

### CHURCH OF CHRIST EXHORTER

November 17, 1968

#### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
405 South Townline Road  
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Telephone No. 463-3571

LORD, WHAT WILL  
THOU HAVE ME TO  
DO?  
Acts 22:16

#### THE PURCHASE PRICE

How much did you pay for your money?

And what was the price of your wealth?

As you gathered the dross, did your soul suffer loss?

Have you squandered your honor or health?

If you've trod on the rights of another,

If of blight on your soul there's a touch,

If your brother took wrong as you hurried along,

Then your money has cost you too much.

Lad! What was the price of your pleasure?

What goods have you bartered for fun?

What sadness and woe did your conduct bestow

Ere the night of your revel was done?

If your joy has brought pain to another,

If your fun cost a heartache or tear,

If you've lost self-control, if it stunted your soul,

Then your pleasure has cost you too dear.

What trade did you make for high honors?

How high have you bid for applause?

Did the bargain bring shame to another's fair name?

Be fair in your answer because

Your renown, friend, has cost you too dearly,

if installments are paid on this plan;

## GIVING ALL DILIGENCE, ADD TO YOUR FAITH

The will of God as revealed in the New Testament is the "meat" by which we are to grow, as Christians. It gives us the strength, the "protein" to sustain and nourish our spiritual appetites. Just taking in the meat however is not enough. We must exercise ourselves into action, to expend the energy that it gives, for it to be of any value. To avail ourselves of the meat and fail to use up the power that it gives, is often done, but not to any benefit. His will is for us to show forth good works, a result of digesting and exercising his will in our lives.

Much of our obedience unto God has to do with the unseen, the inner man. Faith is a necessity (Heb. 11:6) and a penitent submission of the heart (Acts 17:30) is a pre-requisite, before we can even come acceptably to God. But at this point however the Lord requires our inward feeling to be put into outward action. And this beginning of outward performance goes beyond our steps of primary obedience and into years of useful exercise and service to Him & to His glory. It is unto this end that He called us. (Eph. 2:10) To stop on the threshold of obedience to the gospel (faith, repentance, confession and baptism) without further obedience of spiritual growth and works of righteousness is no better than not having obeyed in the first place.

The goal of our teaching should not be just the primary steps of obedience, but converting people to a continued obedience. From the moment we confess with our mouth that Jesus is the Christ, that moment we begin an outward profession that must be sustained until death, if one is to have any hope of an eternal reward. It must be taught and understood this way.

The apostle Peter assigns the task of spiritual growth to the newborn Christian. In 2 Pet. 1:5-7 he writes, "and beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly

## "ELOQUENT HEARING"

We demand eloquence in a speaker. We expect the preacher to speak well, to prepare and master every topic at all times. Two things are indispensable to effective teaching--eloquent preaching and eloquent hearing. It is just as important to hear as to speak. When one does not give attention to what is spoken, he places himself in the unprepared. Many times we find fault with the speaker and with that which he speaks. But if we would examine more closely it just might be our ears, our attitude, our unconcern, our indifference, our lack of respect for God's word. Jesus said, "Take heed how ye hear". Jesus often closed his sermons with this statement, "He that hath ears to hear let him hear. Perhaps people in general have not listened to the Master in hearing His words. Why do people go through life believing that they are saved when Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved Mark 16:16". These who think they are saved without baptism just do not believe the Lord's words in the above mentioned verse. Why did Jesus instruct Peter on the day of Pentecost to tell the people to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins? Acts 2:38.

If one will but read Acts 2:41 he will find that they that gladly received his words were baptized the same day. Who had the keys to the kingdom? Who gave him the keys? What are keys for? read Matt. 16:18-19. Peter bound baptism Acts 2:38. He that hath ears to hear let him hear.  
--Selected--

kindness charity" Notice he says we must go beyond faith and grow beyond faith. We are to add these characteristics of God into our lives with diligence or with deliberate effort. Growth comes through exercise. And it must be understood by a would be disciple of Christ that to start the Christian life is a serious matter and that he is obligating himself to a continuous course of work which is neither easy or natural. It is persevered only through effort, time and expense. It is carried through years of good as well as bad. Faithful, dedicated, continuous service that is registered by God and rewarded at that great day when we stand before Him.

## SUNDAY'S PRAYER

Our Father and our God, when we come to worship Thee, may we acknowledge Thy presence in humility and yet in eagerness. Continue to work through us Thy great purposes and bestow upon us the treasures of Thy Truth. Make us to understand that our love and faith are tested by what we are willing to suffer and sacrifice. In our failures, O chasten and forgive us: If impulsive restrain us with Thy blessed calm. Help us day by day in the solutions of our problems-even in our fears. May we learn that the highest object of righteousness is man, fallen man, and its greatest service love. We pray in the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who stole and carried a city gate away?
2. What Israelite leader preceded Joshua?
3. What king stole a vineyard and showed no pity?
4. What prophetess predicted the fall of a city?
5. What angel to Mary, the virgin, was sent?
6. Who to the land of her mother-in-law went?

-Answers next week-

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Earl Gieseke  
Route #4, Box 46  
LaGrange, Indiana 46761

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## LAGRANGE

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

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November 24, 1968

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### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
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### THE BUILDER AND THE WRECKER

I watched them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town:  
With a ho-heave-ho and a kusty yell  
They swung a beam and the side wall fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skille,  
And the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He gave me a laugh and said, "No indeed!  
Just common labor is all I need.  
I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken a year to do."

(cont. on next page)

## I READ YOUR LETTER

Today I got a letter! It wasn't written with ink, and it wasn't written on paper. You may think this is a bit unusual, but really it is not. I receive a letter most every day, and sometimes several--so do you. You see, this letter was someone's life. It might have been yours. By inspiration, Paul tells us that we are an epistle (letter), known and read of all men. II Cor. 3:2. We are a letter written with the Spirit of God, and on fleshly tables of the heart. You and I are "ambassadors for Christ" according to II Cor. 5:20. This means that wherever we go, people are reading us. Wherever we go, people are receiving a message. If you were the letter I read, what message did I get? Was it carelessly written? Was the message "clear"? Please tell me the simple message of Jesus. Let me see His love in your eyes. And if perchance I should read "between the lines", don't have to be ashamed of what I might find. You have the words that will change my life--for better or worse.

To be an ambassador for Christ carries great honor, but also great responsibility. Blessed is he who shall be counted as a faithful ambassador. Blessed is he who carries Christ's message far and wide--and next door. But woe to him who is slothful, and who distorts the message of Christ.

(Cont. from front page)

And I thought to myself as I went my way,  
Which of these roles have I tried to play?  
Am I a builder who works with care,  
Measuring my life by the rule and square?  
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,  
Patiently doing the best I can?  
Or am I a wrecker, who walks the town,  
Content with the labor of tearing down? --Sel.

## WALKING THE LEDGE

Have you ever watched a child very foolishly walking a high ledge seeing just how close he can come to the edge without falling while the child's parents or teacher or guardian holds their breath for the child? The thought immediately arises: "How foolish! That's just like a child--immature, reckless, blind to danger."

There are many child Christians--immature babes who delight in seeing how close they can come to the chasm of sin without falling in.

There is a game that juvenile delinquents have formulated. It is called CHICKEN. Two cars race down the high way headed straight for one another. The one who swerves first is "Chicken." The point of the game is to see how close they can come.

The sane, mature driver sees how much room he can leave between his car and the approaching car.

The sane, mature Christian has fallen in love with the Lord and he is not concerned with how close he can come to sin but how close he can get to God. The mature Christian isn't constantly saying, "Well, I don't see anything so wrong with this or that" or "Surely it didn't hurt this one time."

The mature Christian is so determined that he wants to be right and wants to be saved that he's made up his mind that nothing can stand in his way.

WHAT KIND OF A CHRISTIAN ARE YOU--Mature or immature? Christ said, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." We may rest assured that though we claim to be on the road to heaven yet we long for the pleasures of sin, that ultimately Satan will triumph and we will be lost, our hopes will be dashed into the chasm of sin. --Selected--



(cont. from page 3)

then a matter between the sinner and Christ. If Christ desires to save a man without obeying the gospel terms, that is his (Christ's) business and not that of the preacher.

People frequently ask, "Can not one be eternally saved without immersion?" There is just one sure way to find out--die and try it--but that is going to be awfully late for some people.

-- Selected --

\* \* \* \* \*

(Cont. from front page)

What will you do with Jesus?"

The call comes low and clear,

The solemn words are sounding

Now in your listening ear,

Immortal life's in the question,

And joy through Eternity.

"Then, what will you do with Jesus?"

What will your answer be?

-- Selected --

\* \* \* \* \*

### NEWS AND NOTES

There is to be an area wide singing at the So. Side Church in Ft. Wayne the 8th of Dec. at 3:00 o'clock. We urge Lagrange to be well represented.

Remember the singing at Mark's this evening at 6:30.

Answers to last week's Bible Quiz:

1. Samson, Judges 16:3; 2. Moses, Num. 27:18-20;
3. Ahab, 1 Kings 21:4; 4. Hulda, 2 Kings 22: 14-17;
5. Gabriel; Lk.1:26,27; 6. Ruth, Ruth 1:16.

Earl Gieseke  
Route #4, Box 46  
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

## LAGRANGE

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

### EXHORTER

December 1, 1968

### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
405 South Townline Road  
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Telephone No. 463-3571

A wise man will  
neither speak nor  
do what anger would  
provoke him to do.

### AN OLD STORY

"Tomorrow," he promised his conscience;

"Tomorrow I mean to believe;

Tomorrow I'll think as I ought to;

Tomorrow my Savior receive.

Tomorrow I'll conquer the habits

That hold one from heaven away."

But ever his conscience repeated one word,

And only one word, "Today."

Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow--

Thus day after day it went on;

Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow--

Till youth like a vision was gone,

Till age and his passions had written

The message of fate on his brow;

And forth from the shadows came Death

With the pitiless syllable, "Now!"

(cont. on back page)

## ONCE A YEAR?

This past week, people from all over our land gave remembrance to bountiful blessings which had come from a loving God, whether they are deserving of these blessings only God knows, but a once a year demonstration of thanksgiving makes it look doubtful. One of the most habitual sins is that of daily ungratefulness. To withhold a year's thankfulness and converge it upon one day, or none at all in many cases, is far from practicing "give us this day, our daily bread". It must grieve the Lord when His creation fails to acknowledge a daily dependence and thanksgiving. Even so, he has promised a continuation of His blessings upon the just and the unjust alike, and with this assurance, it is so easy to slip into the practice of forgetfulness.

The habit of saying "thanks" does not come naturally. Our children must continually be reminded to say thanks for the things they receive. They usually are so "busy" they just don't think about it. But how appreciative we are when they do, and do it without prompting. Thanksgiving Day, whether intended or not, is designed to prompt men to say thanks. Everyone is doing it, so no one should forget. But what about the other 364 days of the year? A grateful christian will be as intent in his daily thanks as the "once a year" man is on his special day. When man tries to appease God through "holidays, specials, holies, etc." and use them as a substitute for a daily life of righteousness, he's in trouble. God's basic demands for His followers cannot be circumvented. A christian can conscientiously observe this day like the world if he continues his observance of thanksgiving on every other day, unlike the world. There is no cramming of goodness, no pigeonholing of obligations into a once a year remembrance, and expect to receive the stamp of approval of God. Every grateful soul must know this. Our God must be served.

## SALVATION---TERMS PLAINLY STATED

A man is employed to sell clothing. The goods are plainly marked, and, of course, belong to the merchant, not to the clerk. A customer asks the clerk for a cut in price, and the clerk grants it.

The clerk is then called in by the merchant, who says, "You sold a suit to a customer for a price lower than the marked price?"

"yes," replies the clerk.

"Whose goods are these?" asks the merchant.

"Yours," says the clerk.

"Were they plainly marked?" Continues the merchant.

"yes."

"Your part," says the merchant, "is to sell my goods at my price. If I want to give some away, that is my business, but you were not authorized to do so. You are no longer needed in this store."

Salvation belongs to Christ. He purchased it with his own blood. The terms are plainly stated; the preacher is just the "clerk in the store." The preacher offers the "goods" at the "marked price", and if the sinner will not accept, it is

(cont. on next page)

\* \* \* \* \*

"Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grows. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves" H. W. Beecher. The Christian has been so convicted of his sins that he stands humbly in awe that God would grant him anything. From only a contrite heart does "thanks" come freely and naturally. Our duty is clear. The writer of Hebrews reminds (Heb. 13:15) "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

D. H.

## NEWS AND NOTES

The Cox's and Pieratt's indicated that they would be attending the services at the South Side congregation today and visiting with the Tracy's. They plan to be at the singing in the afternoon. All of the congregations in this area are invited to be present at 3 p.m. This will be the third area wide singing and the plans are to have one each month at one of the congregations within a fifty mile radius of Fort Wayne.

Rochester announces a singing also this afternoon with the Melody Boys (a quartet from Farmersburg) sharing part of the time with their presentation of several numbers. A gospel meeting begins next Lord's Day with Brother Dale Smith preaching. It continues through Tuesday evening at 7:30 each evening.

The ladies are scheduled to meet to make tray favors this Wednesday at Sister Hoggatt's home. The time was decided at 12:30.

meeting

At the last business it was decided that each family that wanted to receive the POWER FOR TODAY could order it individually, since the subscription runs out the end of this month, that the church ordered last January. A single subscription is \$1.50 but a club rate of three or more is \$3.75. If any family wants to order it, contact Brother Hoggatt who will send in all the names together for the cheaper rate.

Earl Gieseke  
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

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## LAGRANGE

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### EXHORTER

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December 8, 1968

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#### Schedule of regular services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
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Telephone No. 463-3571

To err is human;  
to remain in error  
is stupid.

---

The old preacher stood up to preach. He read his text: "They brought to Jesus the sick and people that were taken with divers diseases."

The preacher said, "Now, the doctors can scrutinize you, analyze you, and sometimes cure your ills, but when you get divers diseases, then only the Lord can cure you. And, brethren, there is a regular epidemic of divers diseases among us!

"Some dive for the door after Bible School is over. Some dive for the TV set during the evening services. Some dive into a bog of excuses about work that needs to be done for Jesus. Others dive for the car and take a trip over the 'week-end' forsake the house of assembling and teaching assignments. Then a few dive into the filthy of fault-finding every time the church takes on a work program. Yes, brethren, it takes the Lord and love of the church to cure divers diseases. You is in a bad way, brethren."

-Sel.

From the preacher's desk:

This bulletin is not designed to be used for the propagation of my prejudice viewpoint or hobbies. It is intended to be an instrument of truth to exhort all to love and to good works. If any who read this bulletin detect any error in it you will be a true friend to point them out.

At the risk of being called a "Scrouge" I feel compelled to express my feelings concerning the religious holiday coming soon. I am even willing to offend a few that I might save some.

It is amazing that we are so "dogmatic" about what the Bible teaches in some areas as opposed to what men teach and then turn completely around and never raise an objection against other things which are just as unscriptural. Nearly all New Testament Christians will rear up on their "hind-legs" and forecast an eternity in hell for those who teach things not authorized in the Bible until we come to Christmas. Then many join hands to take part in pageantry unknown to New Testament Christians.

If I am against the religious observance of Christmas I should (no, must) have a reason. Peter said that we are to be "ready to give all men an answer concerning the hope that is in us." Paul said that we are not to be "squeezed into the mold of the world." How do we become spotted by the world? Simply by engaging in the activities of the world which are not intended for Christians.

I suppose by now you think I am an "anti". Well you are right! I am anti-sin in any form. But someone will always say, "But this is harmless. How can it be sin?" Romans 14:23b--"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Many have been and will continue to be deceived "by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years." (Gal. 4:10) Christmas has come to us from two sources, both of which are without scriptural basis. The Roman Catholic Church has given us the name and part of the practices from the Catholic mass. Christ plus mass equals Christmass. The other source is Paganism. It came from a pagan

festival, not a Christian festival. The Christmas tree came to us through the practice of tree worship. Christmas day is a combining of Roman Catholic error with the error of the worship of Sol the Sun god by the heathen.

But most important, there is absolutely no Biblical authority for any Christian to celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. We stand and cry (often with tongue-in-cheek) for all to speak where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where the Bible is silent; and to practice only those things for which we can find a "thus saith the Lord" in our service to God. Sometimes we are as inconsistent as muddy water. We are so good at applying the scriptures to everyone else that we never get around to the important matter of applying them to ourselves.

Another important reason I am against this season is because lies are told to our children about the "jolly Old Man" who comes on Christmas eve. Rev. 21:8--"all liars will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone". Millions are spent foolishly that could be spent to spread the gospel, to feed and clothe the widows and the orphans, and others who are in need. Let me finish this unpopular article with a short "poem".

If there's a season I find myself sick,  
It's the season of lying about "ole saint Nick!"  
They tell of his trip to all the world,  
And the "goodies" he brings to the good boy and girl.

The hymns are sung so merrily,  
But in the heart dwells hypocrisy.  
For if in the life Christ is near,  
He will be there each day of the year.  
Millions for lights and ornaments are spent,  
And pennies to widows and orphans are sent.  
Millions on cards to send to our friend,  
That will gain us nothing in the end.  
The "spirit" is fleeting that many conceive,  
It always runs high about Christmas eve.  
Christmas day passes; the "spirit" departs,  
It found not lodging within the hearts. E. G.

## NEWS AND NOTES

The congregation here extends our sympathy to the family of Bedford Wilson. Bedford was a brother to Earl Wilson of this congregation. He had a car accident late Thursday evening but was not found until the next morning. Here is another case of our acquaintance that did not know he would never reach his home that night. As brother Gieseke wrote in this bulletin, ~~his~~ year had come. Could next year be Our year? Should we not live as though it is? A healthy attitude toward it would be to do all that we can for the Lord, for my time, at best, is short.

We are happy that our college students are back with us for a time and can attend classes again. From their new experiences we can expect mutual edification.

Missed some of our members at last Thursday evening services. There has been quite a lot of flu and colds going around. Whether this was the reason or not, we do want you to know that we missed you.

We hear by way of the grapevine that the Cox's are leaving for a trip out west within the next few days. As ever, we hope they have a safe and happy trip.

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Earl Gieseke  
Route #4, Box 46  
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*Dean's file*

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

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December 15, 1968

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### Schedule of regular services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

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Have patience. If you pick the blossoms, you must do without the fruit.

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### NEW WARDROBE

One of these days, I must go shopping. I am completely out of self-respect. I want to exchange some self-righteousness I picked up some where for some humility which they say is less expensive and wears better.

I want to look at some tolerance which is being used for wraps this season. Someone showed me some pretty samples of peace. We are a little low on that and can never have too much of it.

And by the way, I must try to match some patience my neighbor wears. It is becoming to her, and it might look well on me. I might even try on that little garment of long suffering they are displaying. I never thought I wanted it but feel myself coming to it.

And I must not forget to have my sense of humor mended and to look around for some inexpensive, everyday goodness. Isn't it surprising how quickly one's stock of goodness is depleted? Yes, I must go shopping soon!

-- Selected

## "IF WE HAD BUT ONE YEAR TO LIVE"

In Jeremiah 28:16 the prophet of God tells another prophet that he has less than a year to live. As I consider the verse I am made to wonder how you and I would react if an impossible thing occurred and we knew the time of our death. None of us have any doubt concerning the certainty of our death. It is the uncertainty of the time of death that helps us (or causes us) to go on living each day as if we had a million left to live. I read that during the past holiday season more people died on the highway than in any other comparable time in history. I dare say that not one of them expected to die, and further that most of them were unprepared to meet God.

I wonder how many of them would have ventured out on the busy roads if they had known that they were going to die this year? How differently each of us would live if we knew that 1969 would hold the day of our death. We ought to be cognizant of the fact that it could well be our last year. It will be for thousands who are now living. There will be some 50,000 who will die on the highway. Another 45 to 50,000 will die from lung cancer. Thousands will die from miscellaneous causes, but the fact is they will be dead. After death comes judgment. Doesn't each of us, as did Felix, tremble at the thought of our standing before God at the judgment. And we too, often push the thought of death and judgment aside and think, "When I have a little extra time I'll get ready for death."

Perhaps there is no topic that is unpopular as the subject of death. Like Paul we must "speak forth of truth and soberness." The knowledge of this important time would urge each of us to prepare for life in another world. It was said of Abraham that he "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." It has been said that, "He who is not fit to die is not fit to live." That spiritual life that prepares one to die is

just the kind of life that Christians should be living in this present world.

I am glad that God in His wisdom has not shown us the day of our death. It is for our own good that this is true. But we must prepare now! God does not have a "Pass now, work later, plan".

If we had but one year to live,  
Considerable thought to it we'd give.  
We'd consider our ways as much as could be,  
To make sure our life from sin was free.  
If you had but one year to live,  
Would it change the way you give?  
Would it cause your heart to fear,  
If you were going to die in one year?  
Much time in secret with God you'd spend,  
So you'd be found faithful in the end.  
How carefully we'd select the path to tread,  
To make sure it leads upward to God.  
Listen my friend--Who made thee wise?  
No man knows the day he dies.  
Perhaps tomorrow will be the last day,  
Better make sure you're found in "the Way."  
E. E. G.

\* \* \* \* \*

We today, often depend too much upon our own power; our own knowledge and intellect; our own devices and wisdom. Success in living the Christian life is attained by trusting in the Lord to the extent that whatever he says and commands, we do because of his grace being sufficient for us.  
--Selected

### TOO CLOSE

\* \* \* \* \*

A little boy who fell out of bed explained it by saying, "I stayed too close to where I got in." Many Christians fall away and are lost because they content themselves with first steps and don't seek to grow in the Christ life. (Selected)

## NEWS AND NOTES

The Fred Cox's have left for an extended trip through the west and south and then end up in Florida where they will stay for the winter. We'll miss them here, but do hope that they will have a safe and enjoyable stay wherever they are.

The Carl Pieratt's have left also for a trip to Missouri, however they plan to be back approximately the first of January. May the Lord guide these two families safely.

Just learned also that the Gieseke's are planning to go to Kentucky Monday morning and will return either Friday or Saturday. Wish them a safe and happy trip.

The Hostetler's have invited the congregation out to their house on new year's eve for a get-to-gether. Make your plans now to go.

The Gieseke's have invited the young people to their house on new year's day to watch the Rose Bowl parade on their color TV set.

Glad to have all the college students home again. The Hoggatt's invite them as well as the high school student's over any night that it can be arranged.

As the old year draws to a close, let us count our blessings, list our shortcomings, and resolve to live more dedicated lives in 1969.

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Earl Gieseke  
Route #4, Box 46  
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

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## LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST EXHORTER

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DECEMBER 22, 1968

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### Schedule of regular services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister	It is much better
405 South Townline Road	to hold out a helping
Route 4, Box 46	hand than an
LaGrange, Indiana 46761	accusing finger.
Telephone No. 463-3571	

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### DIARY OF A BIBLE

Here is what most Bibles would write if they could write their own story in a diary:

JANUARY: A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me all the way through this year. They kept me busy for the first two weeks. They have forgotten me now.

FEBRUARY: Clean up time. I was dusted yesterday and put in my place. My owner did use me for a few minutes last week, he had been in an argument and was looking up some references.

MARCH: I had a busy day the first of the month my owner was appointed leader of something and used me. I got to go to services Sunday for the first time in this year.

APRIL: Grandpa visited us. He kept me on his lap for an hour, reading I Cor. 13. He seems to think more of me than he did. I guess it's because he is getting old.

MAY: I have a few green stains on my pages. Had some early spring flowers pressed in me.

JUNE: I look like a scrap book, they have stuffed me full of clippings from the newspaper, one of the girls got married. (cont. page 3)

## QUESTIONING GOD'S INTEGRITY

If you could ask almost anyone if they question God's integrity, they would surely answer that they did not. But if you go from preacher to preacher and ask each one what to do to be saved each might give a different answer.

Suppose that a preacher came here to hold a meeting and we listed the main theme of each sermon as follows:

1. You are saved by faith only.
2. You are saved by faith and obedience which includes repentance, confession and baptism.
3. Man's salvation is predestinated by God and he can do nothing to save himself.
4. Believe and repent and be saved.
5. The important thing is to be satisfied.
6. Join the church of your choice.
7. Only God can add one to the church.
8. Baptism is not essential to salvation.
9. Baptism is for the remission of sins.
10. You may be sprinkled, poured or immersed for baptism.
11. There is one baptism, that being a burial in water.
12. Once in grace always in grace.
13. It is possible for a child of God to be lost.
14. Creeds and Confessionals or Disciplines are safe guides.
15. Only the word of God is a safe guide.

Any sensible person would refuse to believe the person to be preaching the word of God because of the contradictions, but the same person would many times be willing to believe fifteen different men preaching the same things in fifteen church buildings. Now what is the difference? Is our God a God of confusion? Would He be a God of integrity and endorse all the themes listed above? If God will save you one way and me another is He a God of integrity? Is He a just God? If you ask me how to get to Elkhart and I told you to go west on Highway 20 and the next person I told to go east on 20 and the third to go south on 9, would I be a

(Cont. from front page)

July: They put me in a suit case today. I guess we are off for a vacation. I wish I could stay at home as I will have to stay in this thing for a month.

AUGUST Still in the suitcase.

SEPTEMBER: Back home again and in my old place. Have a lot of company; two movie magazines, one *Life* story and four funny books are on top of me. My *Life* wish I could be read as much as they are.

October: They used me a little today. One of them is sick. Right now I am all shined up and am on the center of the table. I think the preacher is coming.

NOVEMBER: Back in my old place. When they were looking around for some old papers today, one of the children asked if I was a scrapbook?

DECEMBER: They are getting ready for the holiday season so I'll be covered under wrapping paper and packages.

I hope this is not the diary your Bible would write. The need for knowledge is very urgent. We must know what we believe. --Sel.

person of integrity. Would all these roads take you to Elkhart? Of course not. Then why in the name of common sense will people be willing to believe every preacher who comes along with a different "road" to heaven? Why are people willing to say that there is one road that goes from LaGrange to Elkhart while at the same time proclaiming that there are many roads from here to eternity in heaven?

I would not trust a god of confusion. But the God of the Bible is not a God of confusion. All who will go to heaven must go according to His will. Man may seek salvation or damnation in his own way, but God has never granted His salvation to those of "another way". God has always required His own to render obedience to His laws.

Let us encourage all to seek the truth and to apply it. This is the only way we can be well pleasing to God.

E. E. G.



involvement of each individual christian, which in turn will take care of many of our faults. With encouraging signs we look with confidence toward 1969. May the Lord bless our mutual efforts.

D. H.

#### NEWS AND NOTES

Remember this coming Tuesday evening (New Year's Eve), Brother and Sister Hostetler invites you out to their home for an evening of fellowship. I can't think of a better way to spend New Year's Eve than with fellow christians.

We miss very much those who have been sick, especially since several of our regulars are away. Sisters Goldie Pulley and Marcella Ritchie have missed services recently. Our prayers are for their speedy recovery.

Within a week or so (this Thursday for Mary Wilson) our three young ladies (Mary, Ruth and Kathy) will be college bound again. We hope that they have enjoyed being home as much as we have enjoyed having them. As ever, we ask that God's loving care will abide with them.

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Prayer is a golden river at whose side some die of thirst -- others kneel and drink.

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Earl Gieseke  
Route #4, Box 46  
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

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L A G R A N G E

C H U R C H   O F   C H R I S T

E X H O R T E R

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December 29, 1968

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#### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister  
405 South Townline Road  
Route 4, Box 46  
LaGrange, Indiana 46761  
Telephone No. 463-3571

By doing our duty,  
we learn to do it.

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#### A NEW YEAR

The end of any year is a memorial occasion. It causes us to reflect back on the previous year and assess our progress individually and as a church in LaGrange. It makes us humbly ashamed to have to look hard for signs of progress in the numbers of conversions but as we know, spiritual growth is not limited to such definitions. There are obvious signs of progress and it is not only fair but encouraging to think on these and to give credit where credit is due. If anything is needed in a hard to work place like LaGrange, it's encouragement. An honest, candid look at the positive side is not vain but is of great value; particularly if it is used as a springboard to greater efforts in the year ahead. To this end, I submit some personal observations and I hope that I speak for many others here.

I find a personal appreciation for our preacher brother Gieseke. This past year his lessons from the pulpit have been consistently good. The study which he gives toward preparation is without question. He is sound in the preaching of the gospel and a consistent daily life verifies his conviction. He is not preaching for the money but for the Lord. I would not be afraid to let my children be taught by him, in school or in church. I believe that even he himself recognizes his development and at this time he deserves the thanks and encouragement of his brothers and sisters in Christ. While I'm on the subject of the Gieseke's, sister Gieseke has a great role to fill. She has taught a class the past year (no one can deny that that doesn't develop a person). She was projected into the role of a preacher's wife. (unanticipated at the "yes" point of her marriage, I might add) and time is needed to sense the patience, understanding and partnership that leads to the rewards of her position. I want to encourage her along the way. It takes two to make a happy, effective preacher. She has a very vital part to play.

There are so many encouraging signs I don't know where to start, so I guess I'll just start. The Millers (Perry and Hazel) have been a great source of inspiration in their obedience to the gospel and interest and growth in the christian walk. Their remote distance from the church here is not a deterrent to their faithfulness. Brother Millers willingness to lead prayer, lead singing, wait on the Lord's table and kind attitude is commendable. He has a good helpmeet in his wife Hazel who is indeed a changed person in her obedience to Christ. She now recognizes the folly of staying out of Christ and appreciates the church's patient interest in her from the beginning (as she stated in a letter to me which I shall always keep and appreciate). I'm happy because she's happy, and has a solid basis for it. Together, Perry and Hazel will continue their years as a testimony to God's longsuffering, and be an ever increasing influence for His cause. One of the evidences is in the leading to Christ, Hazel's

sister, Marcella. She has expressed the gentle kindly attitude that is so sorely needed among God's youth, the kind of leavening influence that determines the effectiveness of the church today and its hope tomorrow.

I believe that more effort was evident by most all members of the church here in visitation, concern, bringing to church, talking on the job, in the home, showing of filmstrips, using tracts, increasing contributions for local work and other good works, as they come to our knowledge, physical work around the building, faithful church attendance, attending fellowship meetings, ladies making tray favors, young men (especially Dick Hostetler and Kent Hoggatt) taking a more active part in the worship service, and no doubt other things that point to signs of growth in 1968. So many specifics come to my mind which I could not begin to enumerate in this article. All of this activity does not slip by unobserved, but of more importance and assurance is the knowledge that God sees. The old adage that God helps those who help themselves is akin to the thought that God will open new doors of opportunity as we have met the opportunities that he has already given. The past year is encouraging.

Let me again return to specifics. I believe that sister Ellen Hostetler ought to be commended for the weekly job of typing the bulletin. This is no little job and she never gives a complaining remark about it. Many an extra mile has been driven by her on Saturday evening to get the mimeograph stencils to me for running off. All of this unselfish work in her busy life is worthy of note. She, along with her husband and family, are inspiring to the work here.

Next to growth, is the appreciation of growth. In the greatest work on earth, year by year progress can be enhanced by an appreciation that it is taking place. We can accomplish so much more by building up than by tearing down, and thus this article is intended to do. It'll be among the first to acknowledge we have faults, and our Lord died for them. The progress of the church depends upon the positive