

NEWS AND NOTES

Brother and Sister Gieseke received a card from the Cox's stating that their grand daughter was critically injured in an automobile accident. This is Paul and Alberta Sumney's daughter, Paula. Her husband was killed and another party in the auto was also injured seriously. We were sorry to receive this kind of news and we pray that her recovery will be faster and more complete than they now anticipate.

While the Pieratt's were visiting in Missouri an older sister of Jesse Pieratt died from a stroke. We didn't know this sister however it makes the burden no less on the part of the family. We are sorry and extend our sympathy to all the family.

A letter from brother Morgan from Garrett states that another monthly singing is scheduled next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Glenwood congregation on Reed road in Ft. Wayne. He urges us to come and also host a singing sometime in the near future, here at Lagrange. Brother Morgan also states that a men's fellowship has been planned every two months at various locations with a planned program of speakers and discussion on various subjects. The first will be next Friday evening at Platner's Steak House, on highway 327 north of Garrett. The time is from 7 to 9 P.M. The first subject for discussion is "Leadership". All the men of the church are invited to come.

There was some talk of a change in the singing at Mark's Home, not necessarily to dispense with it but to improve it. Until it is decided however, remember to be there at 6 this evening to lend your support.

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

L A G R A N G E

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

January 5, 1969

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

CONSCIENCE--

*An inner voice that
warns us somebody
is looking.*

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS

When the Almighty God created this world and created us, He showed us a way to operate. Any manufacturer in sending out his products encloses a list of instructions telling how to use it. If you follow the instructions, you get results. God is as wise as any manufacturer. He figured out the world, and He gave us instructions for living in it. And one of the greatest of these instructions is to care for the fatherless. When you remember them you do His will and you receive His favor and blessings.

--Selected

DRIVING IN THE DARK

There is not a person who would deliberately drive in the dark, but at times, it is likely that we do, according to an article put out by the Indiana Traffic Safety Council. It says that a person driving at night above 55 mph would be overdriving his headlights. By the time his lights would detect an object, he could not stop to avoid hitting it, if he had to. A speed above that would, in effect, be forcing him to drive in the dark and take grave chances on his safety.

When I saw this statement, I could not help but see a parallel to the spiritual highway that our God has given us to travel. It is complete folly to drive through life in the dark, spiritually. Jesus said "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" In 8:12. The road of life, at best, is lined with unsuspecting experiences. Any curve, bump, hole or object that we cannot foresee is a potential danger spot. Christ is our light which is sufficient if we are watchful and mindful of our speed. Too often, we are prone to blame the lack of light for the besetting objects we encounter when in reality it's our own fault, we are driving too fast. Perhaps we are trying to live so fast and cover so much ground that the light of the Lord is lost in the busy realm in which we are living. His light is sufficient when we drive within the limits of his law. If we are being beset by the road hazards, we'd better slow down.

One of the faults of our society is speed. We hurry to do this and hurry to do that, we run here and run there. We rush, rush, rush, but it seems that each job accomplished begets two more. As someone has quipped, "The hurrier I am, the behinder I get!" It is so easy to shove God completely out of the picture when all the other things must be done,

especially if his light is already suppressed in our lives and cannot warn us of the dangers involved. Our God knows the circumstances of our lives as well as our hearts and our needs. He knows we must work for a living; he decreed it that way. He knows we have disappointments and heartaches, often come up short on time and money, and long on selfishness and trouble, but he has allowed this to be if we choose. But he also knows that man needs a savior. His appeal is for his people to seek him earnestly, study his laws, walk in his light, daily. This takes time, and God knows it, but he has decreed that it must be this way, for it is for our best interest. If we have any hope of entering the heavenly city foursquare, we must allow the Lord's light to shine in our lives, and pace ourselves so that we do not overrun its bounds.

The highway slogan which reminds us to "slow down and live" could very well apply to our spiritual life. Reflect on your own life. If you find you spend less time studying, worshipping and telling others about the Lord, a new resolution ought to be made. If you're too busy to develop your spiritual life like a Christian ought to, you're too busy. The best time in the world to slow down and live is now. Our life finds meaning in Christ. Don't take chances driving in the dark when we can have light to guide us. The apostle tells us that "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

D.H.

I Jn. 1:7.

* * * * *

A man who works with his hands is a laborer; a man who works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman; but a man who works with his hands and his brain and his heart is an artist.

--Louis Nizer.

NEWS AND NOTES

The area wide singing for the month of January is to be held this afternoon at the Glenwood congregation on Reed Rd. in Ft. Wayne. The time is at 3 o'clock. This is the newly formed congregation meeting on the Northeast of Ft. Wayne in their new building. If you haven't been there yet, this afternoon would give you the opportunity to see it and meet with other christians in this singing fellowship.

Brother Andy Ritchie, a teacher on the faculty of Harding College, is to hold a four day workshop on Christian Worship and Service, at the So. Side congregation in Ft. Wayne on the dates Jan. 26 through Jan. 29. He is well known for workshops such as these. We are invited and I'm sure we will be the ones to benefit if we go.

On Friday evening Jan. 24th, the MCJC chorus will be at the So. Side building for a singing program.

We miss those who have been sick at one time or another from services. With all the colds, flu (Hong Cong and otherwise) plus the early winter that set in, this is not too surprising. Lesly Hoggatt was added to the list this week. She was not responding to treatment for an illness so she was admitted to the hospital on Thursday. At this time, she is much improved and should be allowed to come in a few days. (Home, that is).

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

January 12, 1969

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. 464-3571

It is a sad religion that is never strong except when the owner is sick.

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Occasionally we find ourselves in the condition of seeking employment. Recently I read where a "Christian business man" was seeking new employees. He advertised that "a generous salary was available" and that the working conditions were good. He sought to employ Christians. There was only one "hitch." He proposed to pay a salary that was "ten times what the new employee had given to the church in the previous year". Are you interested in such a position? Or do you think perhaps it would be best if you just keep your present job?

--C. Willis

"When we say we haven't time for something, we usually mean that it is not of much importance to us."

THE CHURCH IS ON THE MOVE
(But which way)

In an issue of one of the papers published by members of the church I noticed two meetings that had been completed the previous month. There had been 241 responses in the two meetings. This sounds tremendous on the surface, but when we look closer we can see things that make us wonder which way we are moving. Of the 241 responses there were only 29 baptisms. This means that in two congregations there were 212 people who needed to confess wrong or move their membership.

One of the preachers said and I quote: " is the local preacher and the eldership is one of the finest anywhere." My question is simply: "With one of the finest elderships anywhere how does a backlog of 67 people build up who need to respond for reasons other than becoming a Christian?" In the other congregation there had been 492 responses that year with only 59 of those responding being baptized. Now don't get the idea that I'm against people responding to the gospel, but what kind of a teaching program would a congregation have that would result in 433 persons confessing wrong or moving membership? During the same period 59 were baptized.

Of course there are "floaters" who drift from one building or one preacher to another, but even with "floaters" it is difficult to understand these figures. The logical answer, I suppose, is weak teaching. Another reason might be "preacheritis": Some preachers are able to get responses because of their personality or because it is the fashionable thing to respond when brother preaches in a meeting. (That's the way it is in Billy Graham's shows. Oops! I mean -- "campaigns".)

I believe we need to seriously evaluate our teaching programs in all congregations; both large and small. We must do a more effective job in teaching Christians. I am fearful that too many times we "wet 'em and leave 'em." By the time a new

convert should be active in the work of the church they are slipping back into the world.

I can personally vouch for the importance of teaching the new convert. Due to a lack of teaching, at least partially, I soon became an erring Christian. I believe that if I had been properly taught I would have been faithful in the Lord. I never lived in any city at that time but where there was a congregation. The truth of the matter is it doesn't take much to break a weak cord. The new Christian, especially one who is not from a Christian home, needs considerable attention. Even children from Christian homes do not always remain faithful. There is a double responsibility here; perhaps the greater of which must go to the home and Christian parents.

Scripturally qualified elders bear a tremendous responsibility in "feeding the flock" so as to keep as many members as possible from straying as well as winning lost souls to Christ. Too many elders, deacons and members hire a preacher and "turn the reins" over to him.

This is a mistake from several viewpoints. First, he is usually not qualified to do this. (Unfortunately, many preachers don't seem to realize this.) Many of them still have their college "accent" they picked up from their favorite prof. Secondly, it is not their job. Thirdly, you and I cannot delegate our responsibility to someone else. Fourthly, he will not have time to do the additional work of the elders, deacons and other members.

A preacher, if he preaches two sermons and teaches two Bible classes each week, should have three (yes, three) full days to prepare for them. Surprised? A preacher should have eight hours for each sermon he delivers. He should have four hours to prepare for each class he teaches. Don't you spend four hours preparing for your class? If not maybe that's why we are not holding our members and especially teenagers.

(continued next week)

and preaching (?) two sermons. During his spare time he writes bulletin articles. Two months each year he and his wife are the janitors for the church building. The side walks are a part of his spare time along with mowing the yard during the summer when there is no snow to shovel. Occasionally he visits with his family. Do you ever wonder why the preacher and his family hardly ever visit you?

My calendar watch shows it is Sunday. It must be wrong; I know its Saturday night. At least I thought it was!)

NEWS AND NOTES

E. E. G.

Next Sunday begins the workshop meeting at So. Side congregation in Ft. Wayne with Brother Andy Ritchie. The subject is "Christian Worship and Service". Continues through Jan. 29th at 7:30 each evening. Remember also the MCJC chorus will present a program this Friday evening at 7:30.

Lesly Hoggatt was released from the hospital yesterday after a ten day stay. The family appreciates the calls, visits and prayers by her friends while she was there. After another week recuperation at home, she expects to return to school.

Carl Pieratt left for Missouri to stay and work a few days on his new house. We pray for his safe return.

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

January 19, 1969

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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FAITH IN GOD

There are some people who spend much time discussing whether or not they can believe in God: But if they would reverse the question and ask: whether or not they are the kind of people in whom God can believe, it would help them in getting a grip on him. When a person is so faithful to his own judgment and highest ideals that God can trust him, when he comes to realize that a divine eye is watching over him, it is then that there comes surging through him a strength which serves to make him courageous.

--Selected--

* * * *

A teacher asked, "What is a prime minister?"
A small boy answered, "A prime minister is a preacher at his best."

"THE CHURCH IS ON THE MOVE"

(But which Way?)

(Continued)

Of course, I realize that preachers usually do not have this much time to prepare for their lessons, but this does not mean that they do not need it. If preachers spent more time preparing for their sermons and lessons we wouldn't have a backlog of 212 persons in two congregations that needed to respond to the invitation for reasons other than baptism. The same is true of the teachers of Bible classes.

Don't compare your preacher with those who come to your area to hold meetings. Do you know why meeting preachers are able to preach such stirring sermons? Usually the sermons they preach may be the same sermons they have preached several times during the past year and maybe a hundred times or more in different meetings. This is the way it should be. They can revise their sermons until they are as near perfect as man can make them. They are designed to get responses. That's what the visiting preacher is there for. The sermons that you hear from the local "full-time" preacher may be something he had to whip up between hospital visits, (which an elder, deacon or other member could have made just as well) or between breakfast and service time on Sunday morning, (with a few minutes out to prepare for his Bible class) or between writing articles for the bulletin and shoveling snow off the sidewalk.

How many people's work are you doing? How many have you visited in the hospital during the past year who were not relatives, or members of the church where you worship? How many hours do you spend in preparation for the Bible class you teach. How much time do you spend in preparation for the class you attend, but don't teach? How many visits have you made to those in your area who are erring Christians? How many efforts have you made to convert some one during the past year?

Also, do not be too hard on your preacher if his sermons sound a little shallow. If they sound a little boring you might remember that if he is "full-

time" he has probably been doing some of your work for you. If he isn't supported full-time then he probably hasn't had as much time as he needed. He no doubt feels his inadequacies much more than you do. He doesn't expect too many compliments, but he does get a little discouraged when people go so sound asleep that they snore.

And did you know that most preachers can preach better to a full house? Your invitation to friends can help fill the building where you worship. Why not do more this year toward filling the building? Invite everyone you see to worship with you. Of course they will think you are a fanatic. They did Paul. Visit the sick; spiritually and physically. I would beg you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to give yourself to His service more fully. Help those who are new members. Encourage those members who are weak or discouraged.

If every member of the Lord's church was as dedicated to the church as he or she is to their job there would be a doubling of the membership of the church during the next year. If one half of us were as dedicated to the church as we are to our job the church membership would still double or perhaps triple. Have you ever noticed how much care we take before going on a vacation about our job, our worldly business and all sorts of things, but often the church is forgotten. I have actually known people to go away who were supposed to teach a class, or do some other public service and not even let anyone know he was leaving. But that same person would give two or three weeks notice on the job and if they said he ought not to go in most cases they won't.

(Epilog: Here at LaGrange we don't have those problems. We don't have elders, deacons, or a full-time preacher. The preacher here teaches school, (which some teachers think is a full-time job. How silly can you get?) and visits the hospitals only in emergencies. He also attends two P. T. A. 's. (One where he teaches and one where his son goes to school. How lucky can you get?) He is only teaching one Bible class now

NEWS AND NOTES

We shall miss the Fmitt Herr's, who this week left for Florida for a few weeks. We wish them a safe journey and trust that their stay might be enjoyable.

We should mention that Henry Hall (husband of Mary Lou Hall, who has been to services a few times) was electrocuted Tuesday afternoon at his home. A television tower which he was putting up touched a high tension line overhead. The funeral services were conducted Friday morning. The Halls, married in 1964 have three small children. Words cannot convey our sympathy for this lady and her family. Our greatest possible gift will be to encourage and teach them of that land where no sorrow comes. A lot can happen to the best laid plans in this uncertain life.

The second Sunday of February (the 9th) the congregation will host the area wide singing. The more recent singings have been at Ft. Wayne (So. Side, Glenwood and Chestnut St. congregations) as well as Garrett. We hope to have some from these congregations represented as well as our brethren to the west of us. Remember this and make your plans now to support it with your attendance.

A new address for Gary and Rosemary Carson is:
2289 Patricia Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45420

Remember the meeting at Ft. Wayne (So. Side) fr to continue through the 29th at 7:30 ea. evening. Brother Andy Ritchie is the speaker. Let's try to go one night.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

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

January 26, 1969

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

No man can follow
Christ and go
astray.

T H E R O C K

Immovable, unshaken and indestructible, it stands; the Eternal word of God which shall never fail. "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word by which the gospel is preached unto you" I Peter 1:24,25; the earth may be removed and the heavens rolled up as a scroll, yet it shall stand.

With feet planted on this firm foundation, we face the future with hope and assurance. We lift up our eyes to the hills for strength and the rays of the celestial sun, lights our pathway to the beautiful City of God. --Selected--

COMMISSION PLUS COMMITMENT

In Mark 16:15 the Lord said, "Go ye unto all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." The church in LaGrange has been commissioned to take the gospel to the whole world. This is true of every other New Testament church anywhere, and is the basis for its evangelistic work. Obviously, no one congregation could complete this assignment by itself. It takes the whole of God's people doing their share individually to even address itself to the task and it seems that even then, the job is not being done.

Perhaps a partial reason for this failure is lack of commitment. Commitment must go hand in hand with commission. We can receive the commission very humbly and thankfully, appreciative of God's trust in us, but if we fail to commit ourselves to his work, the command of our Lord simply will not be done. Nothing could be more dismaying to the Lord than to give his people the authority, the ways and means to do just what he wants, and then for them to address the work with only half a heart. The seriousness of the situation can only be seen when we understand that the Lord can do his work no other way. We needed the Lord, (and still do) while we were yet in our sins, and the Lord gave all for us. But now, not to be vainly arrogant, the Lord needs us, for he has chosen that through the "foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" I Cor. 1:21. We have received the commission, now we must exercise the commitment, the will to work, to teach, to preach in order that men might be led unto God. As someone has described it, God has no feet but ours to take the message, no tongue but ours to relate it, and no hands but ours to do his work. The apostle Paul states in I Cor. 4:7, (speaking about the light of the gospel), "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us".

Lest we should become puffed up about our importance in God's plan to carry the gospel, Paul whittles us down to size. In the above verse and

context of several verses, he relates to the frailties, the feeble weaknesses of dying men. Seeing that we are but frail vessels, subject to every carnal tie, we cannot possibly acclaim any credit for success. The fragile nature of the human means through which the gospel is spread only exhibits the greater power in the gospel itself, and the excellency of the power is seen to come from God and not man. God only uses us as a tool to do his work but a tool we must be, and a willing one at that.

If my memory serves me right, the church in LaGrange is going on its 16th year. The brethren here, while keeping an eye on the local work, have acted responsibly over the years toward many ministries that are geared to a more world-wide scope. For this we can feel a greater fellowship in the world-wide commission. This past year we have given support to the Herald of Truth radio and television programs, World Radio, support to the Italy work, New Zealand work and several other specific contributions to local and surrounding areas. The brethren agreed to support the India work, (a field that is white unto harvest) for the coming year and I'm sure that as other needs are known, we will give them attention.

Although our generosity is a good barometer of our commitment, the giving of oneself, first, is the real definition. Paul states in II Cor. 12:14, "Behold, this is the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be a burden to you: for I seek not yours, but you:" If we give ourselves, our money, our time, our talents, (which are the Lord's already) we will possess the commitment necessary and stand ready unto every good work. Just as faith without works is dead, so is commission without commitment. What we haven't done speaks so much louder than what we have done. We have all the authority of God in our commission. We need to match it in our commitment.

D. H.

NEWS AND NOTES

The Gieseke's received a postal card from the Herr's that they made the trip down to Florida just fine. Also brother Pieratt states that the Cox's left his house on their way to Florida, and should be there by now. Sister Pieratt heard that Paula (Paul and Alberta Sumney's daughter who was hurt in an accident) was much worse. We are very sorry to learn this but continue to pray for her recovery, if the Lord wills.

Please, please plan your schedule to be at the singing fellowship next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. It is Lagrange's time to be host. We expect many congregations to be represented and the least we can do is be represented well by Lagrange. It is a good thing to fellowship with those of like precious faith.

At 6 o'clock this evening, we will plan another song service at the Mark's Nursing Home. We have several minutes after the singing before evening worship that could be well spent in visiting with the patients. They appreciate this effort very much. Give them a chance to tell you by stopping and talking to them.

Tune in at 8:30 each Sunday morning (930 on your radio dial) for the regular Herald Of Truth broadcast. Brother Chaulk's lessons on Marriage and the Home is excellent.

We commend brothers Perry Miller, Dick Hostetler and Kent Hoggatt for the fine job of officiating at the Lord's table for the month of January. It's good to see this leadership quality being exercised.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

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

February 2, 1969

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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LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

LIVING THE WAY WE PRAY

I knelt to pray when day was done
And prayed: "O Lord, bless everyone:
Lift from each heart the pain,
And let the sick be well again."
And then I woke one day,
And carelessly went on my way,
The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from any eye.
I did not try to share the load
Of any brother on the road;
I did not even go to see
The sick man just next door to me
Yet once again when day was done
I prayed: "O Lord, bless everyone
But as I prayed, to my ear
There came a voice that whispered clear:
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray;
Whom have you tried to bless today?"

(continued on page 3)

"FIVE BLEEDING WOUNDS"

My Savior died on Calvary,
Five bleeding wounds He bore for me
In hand and foot and bleeding side,
Five wounds He suffered as He died.

Cross so cruel, love so true,
He carried the cross for me and you.
He bore that cross until He fell,
That He might save our souls from hell.

What can we do to help repay,
The debt he paid on that day?
Live for Him; from sin be free,
Five bleeding wounds He bore for me.

Make not His death in vain that day,
From His gift turn not away.
From the depths of hell He set us free,
Five bleeding wounds He bore for me.

Love so great all else exceeding,
Now from heaven His call entreating.
He gave His all on that tree,
Five bleeding wounds He bore for me.

Mid-day was dark; the dead arose,
He conquered death--the last foe.
My Savior died on Calvary,
Five bleeding wounds He bore for me.

How bleak that day my Savior died,
What truth the Roman soldier cried.
"The Son of God this man must be."
Five bleeding wounds He bore for me.

Blood and water poured from His side,
As on that cross He hung and died.
My Savior died on Calvary.
Five bleeding wounds He bore for me.

E. E. G.

THE RIGHT CHURCH

The other day I heard a Christian preacher tell of his uncle who lived a veryworldly and reprobate life. He drank, he swore, he "ran around", he indulged in almost every personal pleasure. Then one day he became convinced he should "get religion" so he began looking for the right church. He was introduced to a church of Christ and was taught that a true member of Christ's church could not live for self but must surrender himself to Jesus Christ and the will of God. After much teaching he decided that this church was not the right church. So off he went to see if he could find the "right church".

It wasn't long until he found the church he had been looking for; he found that "right church". This church accepted him as a bona fide member in spite of his worldly life. The church he finally called home did not deal in specifics; it did not speak where the Bible speaks ("to each his own"); it did not preach on sin; it did not even define worldliness; much less condemn it; it allowed all to be members who would attend occasionally and give in the same way. To the uncle, this was the right church because it did not impose any restrictions on his self-indulgent life, it allowed him to live as he pleased and still have "religion". Did he find the right church?
Selected

(Continued from page 1)

God's sweet est blessings always go
By hands that serve him here below."
And then I hid my face and cried:
"Forgive me God for I have lied,
Let me but live another day,
And I will live the way I pray."

(Author Unknown)

NEWS AND NOTES

At the top of the list today is the singing this afternoon at 3 o'clock. We hope that the members here will plan to be here. Every congregation within a 50 mile radius of Lagrange has been notified so we should have a good number present. It isn't very often that we have our building full, so plan to be here and enjoy the inspiring singing fellowship with other christians.

Notice Ladies of the congregation. The tray favor session will be held at Sister Hazel Millers this next Wednesday afternoon at 12:30. If any needs a ride, contact sister Hoggatt. Also, sister Gieseke has requested to have the work session at her house for next month.

Another member has gone south (at least to Missouri). Carl Pieratt left Friday to work for a few days on his house in Camdenton, Missouri. We pray for his safety and return shortly.

Young People - A letter has been received that Niles is to host the Michiana banquet this May, exact date to be set later.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

Sir:

I owe you \$8.00 plus
tax for the phone call to
Indiana - I'll pick up the charge
when I move out tomorrow. Thank you.
Jim Bowen

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

February 9, 1969

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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"O come, let us
sing unto the
Lord"
Psa. 95:1

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Training a child to worship is more than keeping him quiet. It is nurturing a tender young heart in gratitude to God. Consistent, resourceful home training prevents most distracting incidents in the assembly, but when an occasional relapse occurs, there should be a quiet exit, before a scene is created. Nurseries are an aid to training but should not be used as a soundproof play room. They are not sound proof by a long shot.

Any necessary toys should be quiet and controlled, but Mister Two can bow his head for prayer and sing bits of hymns. Miss Three, keeping her doll quiet, is learning about motherhood and reverence, too. Sir Five can listen for a new word

(Cont. Page 3)

Let This Be The Year

We usually postpone the very things that ought to be done immediately. As a result, at the end of each year, we find a large deposit of unfinished business on hand. Thus we enter each new year with the same old problems, weaknesses, failures and fears. Why don't we determine that 1969 should be different? Let's make this the year we really "turn over a new leaf" and blaze down the trail of life victoriously. As Jesus so aptly mentioned in Luke 2:49, may we, too, be busy in the Father's service! LET THIS BE THE YEAR. . .

- (1) We maintain a schedule of sincere, diligent Bible study as individuals and families. (I Peter 3:15, 2 Peter 3:18, Heb. 5:12.)
- (2) We develop a genuine, daily, personal prayer life before God. Nothing is needed more; nothing is more uplifting. (Matt. 7:7-11, I Peter 3:10-12, James 5:16)
- (3) We honestly try to correct our faults--whether it be impatience or gossip, tardiness or stinginess--let us make a diligent effort to be more spiritual and less carnal or petty. (Jude 21; 2 John 8; I John 1:7-9)
- (4) We compliment instead of criticize; encourage instead of belittle--and especially within the church of the Lord--Let us do our best to lighten the load of the elders, Bible teachers and others who, at least, are making a consecrated effort to be a Christian! (Heb. 12:12; Rom. 12:10; Psalms 119:63)
- (5) We strive to be cheerful and grateful in view of our many blessings and the heartaches of others. (Heb. 13:15, Phil. 4:6; I Thess. 5:16-18)
- (6) We fervently try to lead some soul to Christ. So many are lost in sin; heaven will be too sweet to miss; it is our task and privilege to work with the Lord in the salvation of lost humanity. (I Tim. 4:16; Prov. 11:30; John 14:12)

- (7) We cease to live beneath our benefits, blessings and responsibilities. IN OTHER WORDS, LET THIS BE THE YEAR WE TAKE THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS SERIOUSLY! (Matt. 25: Heb. 6:1; Rom. 14:12)
- (8) We become truly and deeply concerned with our erring brethren. Let us care so much that they have gone astray that we go out and reclaim them for the Lord. (James 5:19-20; Heb. 13:1; Acts 8:22)
- (9) We once and for all stand up for Truth and never apologize for its penetrating power. May we allow it to correct our faults.
- (10) We purge worldliness from our lives and hearts and affections. May God help us to be "purer yet and purer." (I Peter 1:16; 2 Tim. 2:19; Matt. 5:8).

Yes, let this be the year we become unfettered by timidity in expressing the gospel or stinginess in supporting it. Let this be the year of liberal giving to the cause of Christ and the developing of a greater desire to be with the Lord. May we never forget the propelling nature of Matt. 6:21: "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Let this be the year our triumphant life in the Lord is manifested before the world!

Johnny Ramsey

(Continued from front page.)

(love, Jesus, Heaven), marking it on a card--not rattling paper. Primaries can copy little sentences from the sermon. Small minds are moving toward a goal: Mature Worship. Activity should stop during the Lord's Supper, Bible reading and prayer. All can sing and give. The little child is close to God; let us keep him there.

--Selected--

of school because he thought he had outgrown it. The boy who dropped out of school is now introducing the boy who didn't. --Selected

(cont. from front page.)

an acknowledgement or showing any sign that they are ashamed of their behavior.

Brethren, we ought to hang our heads in shame when we become so neglectful that we say to our Lord by our actions that, your death and suffering mean little to me." Our confession should be just as public as our sins have been.

--Selected

NEWS AND NOTES

Arrangements have been made for the Melody Boys Quartet to present a program here on Mar. 9. The time is scheduled for 3 o'clock. If you have never heard or if you have, this fine quartet, you'll be glad that you came for their inspiring gospel songs. Let's get behind this program and try to have a full house on that Sunday afternoon.

A skating party is planned by Elkhart at Eby's Pines this Saturday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30. Any of the young people who would like to go, see brother Hoggatt. A way will be provided.

Reports coming back from our members in Florida indicate that everyone is well. The Cox's grand daughter, Paula is improving after a set-back in her accident recovery. We hear that Brother Carl Pieratt is home again from a couple of weeks stay in Missouri.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

February 23, 1969

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

I do not pray for a lighter load, but for a stronger back.

--Brooks

JUST SUPPOSE

Suppose that you leave your family some day by just walking off and staying away for three or four months. You don't help the wife care for the children, you leave no way for them to get by except as they may look after themselves.

You are not concerned whether the rent is paid, there are groceries to eat and other things that are needful are supplied--but suddenly one morning you walk in about breakfast time and inquire where your breakfast is, without making a word of explanation or apology to the wife. You feel no shame for your behavior and do not state that you have repented.

How many wives would receive a husband like that--without a word of explanation? I seriously doubt that any would. And yet, there are many Christians who think nothing of absenting themselves from the services of the church for weeks at a time. They are not concerned whether the Lord's work is carried on or not, and then--suddenly--they return and start to take part without ever making

(cont. on back page)

FORGETTING THE MAIN POINT

A common but embarrassing thing to happen is to be talking with someone on a subject, rather convincingly, and then all of a sudden, forgetting the main point. When that happens, all of that which precedes as well as the rambling which follows, falls flat. I am particularly adept at pulling this trick myself, not only in everyday conversation, but when I'm trying to teach a Bible class. Although this irritating fault can be overcome to a great extent, I do muster some consolation in that nearly everyone has had this to happen and understands with some degree of sympathy. There is hardly anything more embarrassing than telling a joke and forgetting the "punch line", or convincing a verbal argument with a person, raising your fist for the clinching point and then your mind going blank. The silence is deafening.

There is hardly anything more embarrassing than this, except a person who finds himself in a lost condition spiritually with all the provisions that God has made for his redemption. And the embarrassment is only part of the feeling that that person will have when he stands before God to give an account for his life. Coupled with that will be regret, remorse, anguish and eternal torment. It is folly in this enlightened age to live without the hope of heaven. All the real evidence supports the existence of God and the justice of his commandments. It is the wise person who makes obedience to God his main point and does not lose sight of it.

I am convinced that our shortcomings are the result of forgetting our main point in life. We live from day to day without keeping the goal of heaven foremost in our minds. It is hard to conceive of anyone who constantly presses toward this mark, forgetting to study God's word daily (knowing he'll be judged by its contents), failing to assemble for worship (knowing the spiritual value of fellowship with others) or living a sinful life (knowing he shall be judged according to his deeds).

Indeed, it is only when we forget our main point that these sins are so easy to commit. Having the mental picture of heaven before our minds causes us to think, speak and act so that no violation of God's word occurs to hinder our being with him throughout eternity.

The apostle Paul is an excellent example of a committed life. His constant desire was a crown of righteousness, eternal in the heavens. He said, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth into those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus". Phil. 3:13,14. He admonished each of each of us to be "thus minded". His sight fastened upon this prize caused him to be oblivious to the temptations, hardships and dangers that constantly threatened.

To the christian who has forgotten his "main point" and slipped back into the world, his condition is even worse than the alien sinner's. The apostle Peter said that "it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them". II Pet. 2:21. Luke records the consideration of a builder who before he starts building a tower "sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it". Luke 14:28. The lord's point was that of resources, steadfastness, faithfulness, It is not enough or wise to just make a start. We must consider the cost of discipleship and put forth the effort to see it through. Such is the case with our obedience to God. Christ said, "he that endureth to the end shall be saved". Matt. 10:22

D. H.

DOES BIBLE STUDY MATTER? - - A well known preacher of Atlanta was asked to speak to a prison camp. The prisoner who introduced the preacher said: "Several years ago two boys lived in the same community in No. Georgia, attended the same schools, played with the same pals, and went to the same Sunday School. One boy decided to drop out (cont.)"

NEWS AND NOTES

A letter received from Paulding, Ohio indicates they are having a singing this afternoon. (Doesn't give the time, but anyone planning to go should be there by 2:30)

REMEMBER, TEACHERS - Have your class records in by this evening so that we may correlate all the more recent studies and better plan our teaching program.

A letter from the Melody boys states that they are planning a Battle Creek (at 20th St.) program on the 8th of March. in the evening. More information will be given later.

The Cox family (whose home burned this week) is still in need of cooking utensils, throw rugs and other items. (check with sister Hoggatt for other needs) NOTE: This is not the Cox family of the congregation here. This is a family of nine.

-
- * Man is the only animal that can be skinned and still live.
 - * All men are born equal - the tough job is to outgrow it.
 - * Did you ever notice how often a narrow mind and a wide mouth go together?
 - * Nine-tenths of wisdom consists in being wise in time.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

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 Route 4, Box 46 LaGrange, Indiana 46761 Telephone No. 463-3571	Hem both ends of the day with a prayer, then it won't be like- ly to unravel in the middle. --Sel.
---	--

"LET HER ALONE"

"Let her alone." This was Jesus' rebuke to Judas when Judas criticized Mary for her prodigal gift of expensive perfume that she used to anoint Jesus. Judas did not understand Mary's motive. He lacked perception of the significance of the occasion.

This rebuke might well be applied to the censorious spirit which leads to condemn actions because they do not understand motives. Jesus compliments the generosity of the donor by saying that what she did was beautiful.

It is so easy to find fault. It is so human to jump at conclusions without all the essential facts. When you are tempted to judge the motives of one who has done a generous act which may seem extravagant to you, remember Jesus' words: "Let her alone."

M. Norvel Young

"A COMMON ENEMY"

Some people are of the belief that, while the world is divided into hostile groups, a common enemy would result in unity. Such things as "Flying saucers" and the periodic sighting of "little green men" is one possibility, according to some observers.

In reality, man has always had a common enemy-- Satan. Our problem is not that we do not have a common enemy, but rather, the ability or desire to recognize the enemy. From the days "in the garden" until now, the devil has opposed at every turn man's attempt to serve God, and thus to serve all mankind and himself for good. Our common enemy thrives on ignorance, superstition and self-esteem. Things have never been so good as when he finds men living in small, hostile groups. Today's America, and the world in general, is a devil's Utopia.

Satan finds the world divided into its social and economic groups according to race, nationality and age groups. He finds even the church of the Lord divided into little groups according to our "own" peculiar notions on babies (where to keep them during services), bonds, cups, classes, homes, radio and T. V. programs, and many other "issues."

Why don't we unite against Satan? Such a plan seems to be too simple a solution, but is true nevertheless. If we would simply forget whether we are black or white, or which school or paper would get the credit, and concentrate on taking the world out of the clutch of Satan, we would be able to make this a "new world".

There are several reasons we do not unite against our common enemy, but I wish to mention only a few of them at this time.

First, people enjoy living in sin. They enjoy the fleshly pleasure of living in sin. No one in their right mind would deny that there is a shallow, fleeting pleasure from indulging in sin.

Secondly, sin is popular. If we consider popularity as what the majority of people are doing then we must surely admit that sin is popular. If you do not drink, dance, smoke or gamble then you are surely in a minority group. If, on top of this, you believe that the Bible is the only rule of faith in matters of religion you are in even a smaller group.

Thirdly, people are ignorantly or wilfully continuing to live in sin. Children are born into families that have little if any concern about worshipping God. Too often by the time they do hear the truth of the gospel their "conscience has become seared as with a hot iron" and their hearts cannot be touched with the simple truth of the gospel. Their hearts are no longer fertile soil.

Fourthly, people do not want to look ahead to the future. Felix, you will recall, trembled when Paul called his attention to the judgment ahead. People today, not unlike Felix, do not want to be shaken out of their apathy. They, too often, are busy building a life; a future; an eternity; without "counting the cost."

We need to rise from our "couches of ease" and put on the "whole armour of God" to war against the powers of this world. We need to face the real issues rather than some "imagined differences" that are in many cases no more than personal opinions.

f We need to consider the price our common enemy has cost already as well as the price that each of us will have to pay in the future judgment. God's Son died because of this common enemy. His blood drained from His precious side there on the cruel cross because the world loved darkness rather than light; evil rather than good. They were facing toward damnation rather than regeneration. They voted in favor of this common enemy by crying out: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him! What is your vote? Upon the answer to this question depends the salvation of your soul and the souls of untold numbers. Choose this day whom ye shall serve. . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the living God."

by doing the same. John Wesley once said, "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, and with all the zeal you can as long as ever you can." Such a behavior makes life rewarding now and secures an abundant life for the time to come.

D. H.

LET'S HAVE A FULL HOUSE this afternoon at 3 o'clock for the "teaching by songs" program to be presented by the Melody Boys Quartet. We know what's in store for us from the past efforts of this fine young singing group, so we should take advantage of this opportunity to bring others. At this writing, we believe that these four men will be at our services this morning, but it depends on their program at the Michigan Ave. congregation at Battle Creek last night, whether they were to stay there for morning worship. In any case we appreciate their being here in the afternoon.

The ladies of the congregation are to meet at sister Hoggatt's home this Wednesday at 12:30 for making tray favors for the hospital and Mark's.

We were made happy that Sharon Pieratt responded to the Lord's invitation. We want to encourage her to grow in the faith by a dedicated Christian life and faithful study of His word.

We extend our sympathy to Sister Gieseke for the sudden death of her only brother this past week. They arrived home Friday afternoon and we're happy for their safe return.

Earl Gieseke
Route #4, Box 46
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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

March 9, 1969

E X H O R T E R

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	Let us make a new rule of life: always try to be a little kinder than is nec- essary.
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THE ROCK

Immovable, unshaken and indestructible, it stands; the Eternal word of God which shall never fail. "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word by which the gospel is preached unto you." I Pet. 1:24, 25; the earth may be removed and the heavens rolled up as a scroll, yet it shall stand.

With feet planted on this firm foundation, we face the future with hope and assurance. We lift our eyes to the hills for strength and the rays of the celestial sun, lights our pathway to the beautiful City of God.

---Selected---

"Did you know that if all the people who go to sleep in church were laid end to end--they would be more comfortable."

GOOD OR EVIL?

The Lord spoke through the writer of Deuteronomy in chapter 30 verse 15 and said: "See I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil". The Lord was not instituting a new kind of good - evil principle into the life of man but was simply rehearsing the age old decree that was true from the beginning. Never since our foreparents sinned in the garden of eden has man been free from the life-good, death-evil decree that God has laid down.

This decree suggests that much is at stake in the choice that we make. If we choose to live evil, death will follow. We shirk at the thought of death, but the death that the Lord is speaking of (spiritual death) is not to be compared to the death of the physical body as we know it. Spiritual death is an eternal separation from God and everything that is good and lovely. An unprepared life, now, results in this kind of death. Someone has said that if you do that which you should not, you must bear the consequences of what you would not. None in their sound mind would want such an existence, however the Bible holds no hope for those who will not prepare in this life to meet God.

An understanding of evil shows why this is so. In evil, there can be no good. A person living in defiance toward his creator, who shuns his laws, makes his god a god of this world, wastes his time, energies, abilities and possessions on self without concern for others, contributes nothing toward the purpose of man's life. He is as much unlike the Christ of the Bible as dirt is to gold. Christ denied himself the lusts of the world, and gave himself completely to the ministry of others. He always went about doing good. Anyone unwilling to be a disciple of Him and grow in His likeness, is unworthy of a place at His side in the great eternity. Christ said, "He that is not with me is against me" Matt. 12:30. In biblical language then, if we

produce no good, we automatically produce evil. If no good works have accrued to our benefit, it is understood that we have done evil to our fellowman, either by commission or omission.

Too, we must realize that we cannot do evil unto others without doing it to ourselves. The world might be deceived on this point but the christian understands differently. A person who inflicts all kinds of evil against another does an immeasurable amount of harm to himself. He might think that he's getting by unharmed but he is deceiving himself. One who throws mud cannot help but get dirty. In fact the ultimate effects upon oneself, of one's evil actions toward others can be more likened to an iceberg which shows just a small token of the danger that exists. The greater part is hidden. A person that hates in his heart, harbours a grudge, fosters envy and jealousy; complains, resents, etc., often destroys himself before his time.

Even those who do evil that good may come (if such is possible) pays a toll to the devil to let them into heaven. It cannot be done. They're serving the wrong person for the wrong habitation. Taxes gathered from gambling does not justify gambling (such as a person declared to me that it did recently) We must not rationalize that the end justifies the means, but question first, whether the means is justified. Evil ways are no part of the Christian's methods.

On the other hand, life and good go together. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:6 Life that is worthwhile is in Christ. It gives direction and meaning to an otherwise aimless existence. And, as is true with evil, so it is with good. He that does good to another, also does good to himself. We become truly great by becoming truly good, and partaking of God's holiness. As Christ went about doing good, we grow in his likeness

NEWS AND NOTES

Our three college girls are back for a spring vacation of a week (Ruth and Mary Wilson and Kathy Hoggatt) so they'll be here over two Sundays. We're glad to have them back and to know that they have advanced in their Christian education. We hope that by next Lord's Day, the Emmitt Herr's will be back from Florida. The Cox's should be here by the first of April.

Sister Sharon Pieratt's father was hurt when he was working at Cain Lumber Co. last week. He is in the hospital, with a couple broken ribs, I believe. Mr. Gray would appreciate our visit to encourage him.

Now that "spring has sprung" we should be getting the fever to get out more and work outside. It's coincidental that more also can be done for the Lord if we get out more. The greater part of His work lies outside our homes, meeting and teaching others in their various walks of life. In our plans to plant this spring, let us not forget to plant for the Lord.

"We all make footprints on the sands of time. Some leave the imprint of a great soul -- others just leave the mark of a heel."

"So far as the work of the church is concerned, there are too many members who like NOTHING better."

"Some Christians are just like Sanka Coffee -- 98% of the active ingredients have been removed from the 'bean'."

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

L A G R A N G E

C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

March 16, 1969

E X H O R T E R

Schedule of regular services

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

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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"The poorest way to judge a preacher is on the basis of popularity. The worlds only perfect preacher was crucified by popular demand!"

ALL VOLUNTEERS

Once, when five volunteers were needed to undertake a dangerous mission, an officer lined up his men and asked that all those willing to volunteer take one step forward. During the process he turned his back. When he re-faced his men, the line was intact. As he expressed his disappointment that not a single man was brave enough to volunteer for the task, a corporal interrupted him, saying, "We all stepped forward, sir."

Think what it would mean to the Church if this were the attitude of our people. In spite of all the good that is being done in congregations throughout the brotherhood, we know that it is still being done by a very small percentage of those who are members. Perhaps, that is why Jesus said, "Many are called but few are chosen." Too many people choose just to be counted as a member of the church. For that reason someone else must carry the load that they should carry. (p. 3)

GOOD EXAMPLE

Last Sunday afternoon at the church building the gospel was presented in song by the Melody Boys, a fine dedicated quartet of young men. This method of teaching is a little different than the usual but equally as effective. We come to appreciate more keenly the gospel presentation of the living, loving Savior of the world.

After listening to many unsolicited comments about the group, I am convinced that they are doing the Lord's church a great favor in filling the gap that exists in our brotherhood by teaching by this method. It should not replace the congregational teaching that every member is admonished to do in worship to God but when specified at a different time for such an inspirational program it is very much in order and can be a stimulus to the Christian endeavor. Not many young men have developed their talents so patiently and effectively as these have and they are an inspiration to hear. It is evident after hearing them that their motivation is that of teaching and edification. Of this, we never get too much.

One person who attended their program at the young people's fellowship in Battle Creek the night before (and who also came to hear them again on Sunday) remarked that their recordings were not nearly so effective for teaching as seeing them in person, for their expressions, gestures and comments added so much more to their effectiveness. In other words seeing and hearing is so much better than hearing only. I can vouch for that statement for we have all their records and even though they are played over and over again, there is a deeper feeling aroused by the personal presentation of the group. This simple statement contains a basic truth which is dealt with over and over again in bulletins, bible classes, from the pulpit as well as visits in the home and that is, in just the same way, a

Christian who is presenting the gospel in word and deed is so much more effective than one who attempts to present it by word only.

Every Christian at one time or another is guilty of this, and when we do it, it lessens our effectiveness for good in the eyes of others. The writer James reasons in Chap. 2, verses 15 and 16, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace be ye warmed and filled, notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" Men judge us by our deeds. So will God. Someone has said, "A life spent worthily should be measured by deeds not years". How many deeds have you lived?

All of the songs that the quartet sang were sermons in themselves. One of the songs however was very impressive to me and its refrain is as sure and true as life itself. It went, "When it's time for me to go, there's one thing I know, I'll regret I didn't give a little more to the Lord." Our regrets then will be because of the now of today-- not doing, not using, not giving the best of service as we could, and when we could. This thought should move us to greater activity while time is on our side.

D. H.

(Cont from front page)

But suppose all of our people should step forward at once. The story would be much different. It is our hope and prayer that some day all of our people will desire to be really loyal and work as the Master has commanded.

" . . . always abounding in the work of the Lord."
Have you stepped forward for the Lord?

--Selected

NEWS AND NOTES

Brother Junior Morgan from Garrett announces a meeting that he is holding at Portland this next week, March 23 thru 28 at 7:30 each evening. He invites any here to attend if they can. The subjects for the different nights are listed on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

This Friday evening (Mar. 28) is the monthly fellowship luncheon of Christians in the area. It will be held at the White Chimney Restaurant, 2315 West Western Ave. in South Bend. Brother Glen Martin of Mundelein, Illinois, a former missionary to Nigeria will be the guest speaker. The time is set for 7:00 South Bend time or 8:00 our time. Any would enjoy this if they can arrange to go.

We are happy to have the Herr's back home from their Florida stay this winter.

Our three college girls will be leaving tomorrow for the last quarter of this school year at David Lapscorn, for Mary Wilson and at Michigan Christian College for Ruth Wilson and Kathy Hoggatt. We bid Godspeed to them in all their endeavors for good.

Remember to always pick up your copy of the bulletin, Action, Gospel Vidette and any other printed matter at the back of the auditorium and in the vestibule when you leave. Sometimes no one is there to pass them out and there is a huge stack left. This represents a lot of work, by someone, that goes to waste each time they are forgotten.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

March 23, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

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

Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road
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La Grange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

"Would you like to
have Christ represent
you above as you represent
Him here below?"
--Sel.

GLORY TO HIS NAME

Time and again the Bible teaches us to give all glory to God. Moses failed one time to give the glory to God when he brought forth water for the needs of his People and as a result he failed to enter the promised land. If such a faithful man as Moses was called down for failing to give glory to God it certainly behooves us to be very cautious concerning glory. It is all too easy in times when we achieve long sought goals to deceive ourselves in thinking we have done a great thing. Nothing we do would be possible without the help of ALMIGHTY GOD. In all success then let us give Him the praise and glory.

* * * * *

Men make counterfeit money, but in many more cases
money makes counterfeit men. --Sel.

WHY ARE YOU JEALOUS?

"Let us conduct ourselves properly, as people who live in the light of day; no orgies or drunkenness, no immorality or indecency, no fighting or jealousy."

From the above passage and many like it, we learn that jealousy is something that God does not want his children to have. Jealousy has caused or expressed itself in murder and violence from the time of Cain on, and continues to be a major problem in the world today. We would suggest that a lion's portion of the problems that come up in the Church today are as a direct result of childishness. A child is jealous when another child has a new or pretty toy. Many people in and out of the Church today have not done what Paul said he had done: "When I was a child I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man I put away childish things." (I Cor. 14:20 - see also I Pet. 2:2) Many people today are so selfish and childish that they can't stand for a preacher, elder, Christian of any type--especially a teenager, to receive any praise of any kind. This kind of jealousy is condemned by God, and is a result of a man or woman who simply has not grown up.

When you get right down to it, it is the failure of adults to grow up that causes most of the things that we find repugnant. Pouting, uncooperative, retiring adults are found everywhere. Their hypocrisy and their lack of involvement betrays their basic nature and their basic weakness - a rejection of the Bible and its teaching, and a failure to mature to the point where they can do God's will - rather than just play at Church. We as teenagers need to profit from this pathetic example and gear our lives so that we will be outgoing, mature soldiers for Christ.

--via Views for Youth

BUG SPRAY _____ A tobacco company sent some sample packages of cigarettes to some high school boys and girls with this explanation. "We hope you will use them to your satisfaction, and will want more."

One of the boys used the cigarettes and wrote the company: "I used the cigarettes to my satisfaction. I put them in a quart of water and sprayed our bug infested rose bushes. Every bug died. These cigarettes are a good poison. I want more next year, in case any of the bugs survive."

--selected

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The Bible contains two Testaments. The Old is Law, the New is Love. The Old is the 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 sun shining on the mountain tops. In the New, he is on the mountain top basking in the sunlight of God's infinite love.

--Riverdale Bulletin.

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RECIPE FOR CHARM--"A dear old lady, distinguished for her youthful appearance, was asked what she used to preserve her charms. She replied sweetly: ' I use for the lips, truth; for the voice, prayer; for the eyes, pity; for the hands, charity; for the figure, uprightness; and for the heart, love!'"

--Sel.

* * * *

"When we say we haven't time for something, we usually mean that it is not of much importance to us."

FOR THIS WE STAND

The churches of Christ stand for a complete restoration of New Testament Christianity. They believe that the divisions which exist in the religious world today are contrary to the will of Christ who prayed for all who believed on Him, saying, "That they may all be one" (John 17: 20,21). They plead for people to be simply Christians, members of the body of Christ, which is His church (Col 1:18). They are not a denomination and have no headquarters on earth and no governing board of men. They have no human creed or church manual. They plead fervently and constantly for the name of Christ, the word of Christ, the authority of Christ, unity in Christ and consecration unto Christ.

YOU ARE URGED TO INVESTIGATE!

QUOTES

These who say that "God is dead" remind me of the fellow in a cave who decided that the sun had quit shining.

A man may go to heaven without fame, without wealth, without a great name, without learning, without earning, without culture, without friends, without a thousand other things, but he can never go to heaven without CHRIST.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

March 30, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	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

You are happier when
you try giving people
a bit of your heart
instead of a piece
of your mind. -Sel.

A SEARCHING QUESTION

Christian, where is your Bible
When did you see it last?
Since you sat and scanned its pages,
Say, how many days have passed?

You have read your daily papers,
And with novels regaled yourself,
But when did you read your Bible,
That lies untouched on the shelf?

Christian, where is your Bible?
What is the place that you give
To the book you say is your hope in death,
And what teaches you to live?

Don't say that your life is too busy;
Full many a soul is dead
Because the book of eternal life,
Lies somewhere unused, unread.

--Unknown

"Saints In Caesar's Household"

When Paul wrote the letter to the church at Philippi the throne of Caesar was occupied by Nero, a monster rather than a man. If there has ever been an atmosphere that would be uncongenial for Christianity this would surely be it. But Paul tells us that the gospel is God's power unto salvation. That power is not limited by tyrants or kings. The redemptive power of the gospel is not according to class. It knows no limits imposed by race or nationality. Only man can keep the blood of Christ from redeeming him from sin. The gospel knows people only as sinners. To some, preaching is foolishness; to others it is the power of God. In the history of the Lord's church we find fishermen, lawyers, slaves, doctors, soldiers and saints in Caesar's household.

The gospel is unhindered by prison walls or king's palaces. The teachings had penetrated to the household of the feared ruler at that time. This was probably the last place one would expect to find Christians. We can see from this that Christianity is not a thing of locality--but of character. What is said of places can also be said of people's occupations--unless a man's business is sinful he may serve God in any profession.

We must test a man by what he is rather than where he comes from. Consider the tragic mistake that Nathaniel nearly made because he thought Jesus came from Nazareth. He asked, "Can any good thing come from Nazareth?"

We can also learn that we can not use our job or environment as an excuse for not living a Christian life and not sowing the seed at every opportunity. Where we are is not so important as what we are. We too often hear someone say, "It is no use trying to be a Christian where I

work, or where I live." But it is never necessary to do wrong, or to refrain from doing right. Sin is a voluntary thing. No external force can constrain a man to commit sin. Sin must originate in the heart. David said, "Create in me a new heart and a right spirit." (Paraphrased) Therein lies the secret--as a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.

We often give excuses for the church not growing. We mention certain hardships under which we labor, but can you imagine a greater hardship than being imprisoned and having death staring you in the face?" It was this type of situation that Paul found himself, but it did not hinder the gospel. He felt that death was of no consequence. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." He also wrote, "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Both of these statements were written while Paul was imprisoned. Do they sound like it? Troubles and temptations were not strangers to Paul. He endured hardness as a good soldier of the cross. He is our example in many things. He anticipated the things a Christian would have to suffer as he wrote, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecutions."

Let each of us take heart. Regardless of our lot in life; our environment; we can overcome. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." Paul labored for the cause and wrote, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." If Christians were able to survive in Caesar's household then we should not have any great difficulty doing so in a land like ours.

E. E. G.