

NEWS AND NOTES

A letter forwarded by Bro. David Large tells of two brethren in Western Nigeria who has been able to get supplies (money, food, medicine) to destitute Christians (numbering 50,000) in South-East Nigeria (sometimes called Biafra). A full report on this is on the bulletin board for those who care to contribute.

Also a letter received from Bro. Richard Stevens from the South East Church of Christ in Muncie announces a 2 night meeting by Bro. Ira Y. Rice of Nashville. The subject matter is especially for leaders and teachers in the church and they request our presence. The dates are April 25 & 26 at 7:30 each evening.

A tentative schedule of speakers (a different one each week for several weeks) was sent by Bro. Morgan of Garrett. The first is to speak on April 15 (Tues. Eve) If this schedule is confirmed this week we'll put it in the bulletin. Tentative schedule on bulletin board.

Our monthly singing at Mark's Nursing Home will be this evening at 6:00.

Date and time for next Ladies "tray favor" session will be announced this evening.

The Fred Cox's returned home Tuesday from their trip West and South. Glad for their safe return and look forward to their being with us for the rest of the year.

We welcome all our visitors and invite you to be with us anytime that you can.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

April 6, 1969

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

--Brooks

OVERHEARD IN THE TREES

Said the sparrow to the robin,
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."

Said the robin to the sparrow,
"Friend, I think it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.

--Selected

IN DEBT

A sometimes healthy but trying experience is being in debt. It is healthy by keeping us at the proverbial grindstone as long as it hangs over our head, and it is trying because we are under obligation as long as any part of the debt is not paid. We are all familiar with this situation, going in debt for a home, car, business or a host of other things, and it is a wonderful feeling when the last payment is made and we can say "it is mine". Some debts are paid off quickly, some it takes many years. There is one debt that we have automatically incurred that can never be paid off. That is our debt to God. For all that God has done for us, the bill can never be repaid. This thought should not discourage us however.

It is one thing to feel defeated by a debt but another to feel challenged by it. Some of the best virtues can be perfected by our being responsible to someone else. One who has known debt and has shouldered it faithfully is the make of a person that God needs. Punctuality, perserverness, courage, confidence, thankfulness, integrity are a few identifying marks of the child of God who attempts in his daily life to repay God. An ever present gratitude prods the Christian to a continuing service for the one who has done so much for him.

If and when we do all that we can, we are still in debt to God. Luke records the words of Christ in Chapter 17 verse 10, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: We have done that which is our duty to do." We are of profit to someone only when we give more than we get, when we "turn out" more for him than what his expenses are for us. Only a moments reflection will remind us how much God has given to us and we could not in a thousand worlds repay the debt.

We would always be sinful creatures, and the apostle Paul declares that "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Rom 6:23.

Debts arise of different classes but usually they are paid with like kind: money for money, time for time, good for good, evil for evil, etc. This is understood and practiced by people in general. A child of God, however, is called upon to act differently. Instead of evil for evil, he renders good for evil; instead of hate for hate, love for hate; instead of cursing for cursing, blessing for cursing. We thus pay god by acting upon this principle, always exhibiting him in the face of all situations.

For a creditor to reward a debtor after his debt is paid is highly irregular. Usually both are glad to be done with it. God however has promised a reward of eternal life after we have served Him the few short years that we can. It isn't that we merit it, it isn't that our debt is paid. But his grace makes up the difference. Paul reminds us in Eph. 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. A Christian debtor repaying God by the things he can do, and relying on God to do that which he cannot do, can look forward to that beautiful mansion and the wonderful feeling, "it is mine!"

D. H.

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REAL INTELLIGENCE

Real intelligence is a creative use of knowledge, not merely an accumulation of facts. The slow thinker who can finally come up with an idea of his own is more important to the world than a walking encyclopedia who hasn't learned how to use information productively.

--Selected

NEWS AND NOTES

There is to be a singing at the Paulding Church of Christ building at 3 o'clock this afternoon. This is the monthly singing of which we've taken part, so I'm sure that they would appreciate our presenee.

A letter from the Donmoyer Ave. congregation from South Bend announces a Personal Evangelism Workshop to be held this Saturday, Apr. 19th starting at 10 o'clock in the morning. There will be several speakers, speaking on related subjects under this heading which should be informative. The session concludes at 3 p.m. This time is Central standard time.

The Herald of Truth television(over channel 28) program has been moved to 12 o'clock (noon) today. We are generally home by this time, so let's get into the habit of watching it. Tell you friends about it.

Remember this Tuesday evening, Brother Paul Galyan will speak at Garrett on the subject "anger and you". The next Tuesday, Apr.22, Brother Lester Allen will speak. Several other speakers are lined up for each week to follow. We would profit by these lessons and we are invited to attend as many as we can.

Note the bulletin board for several other announcements which are too numerous to place in the bulletin. Also review last weeks news and notes.

Several workers are needed at Camp Indogan next Saturday for general work on the grounds. If you can go please see Brother Hoggatt.

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

April 13, 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
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Forgiveness does not
leave the hatchet
handle sticking out
of the ground.
--Sel.

"JUST CHECKING UP"

A young boy walked into a drugstore and asked to use the phone. "Hello, Dr. Brown. Do you want to hire a boy to cut the grass and run errands for you? Oh, you already have a boy? Are you completely satisfied with him? O. K. then, Goodbye, Dr."

The druggist said, "Son, if you're looking for work, I could use a boy like you."

Thank you, sir, but I have a job."

"Didn't I just hear you trying to get a job from Doctor Brown?"

"No, Sir," said the boy. "You see, I am the boy who is working for Dr. Brown. I was just checking up on myself."

Cont. Page 3

"A FRUSTRATED PREACHER"

Can you imagine what it would be like to challenge someone on a religious issue: go to the Bible to prove your point, and then find that the Bible did not say what you had thought it said at all? The other night I dreamed that I had challenged a preacher on sprinkling for baptism. He said that it didn't make any difference how we baptized; that one way was just as good as another. When I opened the Bible to Ephesians 4:5 to prove that there was only one New Testament baptism it didn't read that way at all. When I turned to other passages they too were nonsense sentences.

When I finally awakened from this "comedy of errors" I was deeply grateful for the fact that I am a Christian--and a Christian only. I do not have to defend any traditions or doctrines of men. I would not want to put myself in the position of doing or not doing something simply because of tradition in a religious group.

I believe that most of us have had similar experiences in which we have been relieved to awaken from a dream and realize that it was, after all, only a dream. But even from dreams we can learn something. I recall a story of a man who was a trader. He had just the same day gone out and had given a farmer a real "skinning" in trading for a bull. That night the man dreamed that he was at judgment. The "big scales" were before him. All his good deeds were on one side of the "balance" and his evil deeds were on the other side. The good deeds were just able to offset the evil deeds and the man felt safe, but all of a sudden he saw a man coming toward the "balance" and he was leading the biggest bull he had ever seen. He took the bull back the next morning.

We can get an appreciation for the unchanging Scriptures from various experiences--real and imaginary. We can appreciate more fully the joy of knowing that our trust is not in the teachings or

traditions of men. In the Lord's church everyone has the same access to the source of authority. There is no distinction in the membership. The authority of the eldership does not exceed the office as set forth in the New Testament.

It makes me feel "sick" to hear people say, "But I don't think it makes any difference which way we do it." If it does not make any difference which way we do certain things, and God doesn't care, then why in the name of common sense did God go to the trouble of having the written word preserved for us? Nadab and Abihu knew that it did not make any difference and offered strange fire. Has God changed? He consumed them with fire. For what? Disobedience. What will He do NOW? Can we really expect God to overlook our disobedience? If I understand the scriptures it appears that we will be judged based on our acceptance and application of the revealed truth. It may be different than this, but as of now no one has given any reason except opinions that it is any different today.

The day of judgment will be a revealing day, yet a terrible day. Millions of people are going to give their traditions--but too late. They must be given up this side of the grave.

E. E. G.

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Cont. from front page

It might do us all good to check up on ourselves once in awhile to see if God is pleased with our attendance, our giving, our worship, and our work in His vineyard. -

Via the Friendly
Messenger

God will forgive those who start late in life to serve Him, but will not forgive those who quit early.
--Sel.

It is well to use God's gift of time carefully. When we consider that time is precious, short, passing, uncertain, unalterable when gone, and that for which we must be accountable, we cannot be too careful with its use. Again, Paul states in Eph. 5: 15,16, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" D. H.

NFWS AND NCTES

--- We note in a Garrett bulletin that brother Robert Page and family are now in New Zealand. He was here at Lagrange speaking for support some time ago. His address is:

R. R. Page
% W. J. Cole
8 Elliott St.
Nelson, New Zealand

--- Dates and events scheduled at Camp Indogan are on the bulletin board in the vestibule. Application blanks for summer camping will be forthcoming.

--- This Tuesday evening at 7:30, brother Lester Allen will be at the Garrett church Building, speaking on the subject, "How To Handle Our Possessions". This would be a profitable lesson for anyone that can go.

--- **LADIES** -- Some ladies from Garrett are planning to attend the Franklin Road (Indianapolis) church building on May 5&6 to hear Sis. Helen Young (co-editor of Power For Today, which most of us get) speak on the topic "The Christian Woman Examines Her Attitudes". Would any here like to join them?
**** Remember HERALD OF TRUTH, channel 28, 12 noon*

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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

April 20, 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	When people enthrone God they dethrone themselves--and vice versa. --Sel.
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THE LORD CALLED FIRST

A call came on Sunday morning . . . "Tell mother not to go to church this morning, we are coming." But mother went right on to church. The daughter came and was furious about it, saying, "I called you I was coming and you went to church anyway." The mother's reply: "I'm sorry, dear, but the Lord had already called". Do you use company as an excuse for not attending the services of your Lord? **DON'T FORGET WHO CALLED FIRST.**

THINK ON THIS-- "A real Christian should be like a good watch--have an open face, be busy, be pure gold, well regulated, and full of good works."

If you are a true Christian, you go about Christ's business as if it were your own.

We will not bring all the world to Christ until we bring Christ into all the world.

Orlando, Florida bulletin

RELIGIOUS CONFUSION

Here is a little story that illustrates the sad condition of the religious arena of our day. A man was walking along the highway in the cool of the evening. He saw a big drove of hogs, with ears pricked up, running first one way and then another, and seeming to be terribly confused. He could not understand what was wrong with the hogs. Presently he came to a little farmhouse and stopped to inquire of an old man sitting on the porch. "Mister, are those your hogs up there in the field?" "Yes, those are my hogs," replied the man. "Well, there is something wrong with them. They are running first one way and then another with their heads and ears up."

"Well, I'll tell you what is the matter," he said. "You see, it is about feeding time. Before my throat got bad, I would take a basket of corn up there and give a call or two, and they'd come rushing to me, but since I've lost my voice, I just take my cane and knock on a tree and when they hear, they come rushing to eat. But for the last week or two, the woodpeckers have been getting out on a dry limb, and when the hogs hear them, they think it is my knock and they come and get confused."

So it is with people today. There are so many conflicting doctrines taught (and none of them in the Bible!) and so many "spiritual woodpeckers" saying, "This is the way," that they have the people confused. The only remedy is to get our Bibles open and see what "is the good way" and then "walk in it!" What do you think about it?

TIME FOR GOD

Someone has said that in an average life of 70 years, the time would be used somewhat as follows:

- 3 years in education
- 8 years in amusement
- 6 years at the dinner table
- 5 years in transportation
- 4 years in conversation

- 14 years in work
- 3 years in reading
- 24 years in sleeping
- 3 years in convalescence

But how much time does a man give to God? If he went to a 45 minute religious service every Sunday and prayed five minutes every morning and evening, he would be giving 5 months to God out of 70 years.

The last sentence begins with "if", which would apply only to the religious in our country. The time given to God by the average American is shamefully lower than this. Even for the religious, we can see how little time out of a lifetime would be given to God. But the Bible suggests that all our time belongs to God. I Pet. 1:17; Eph.5:16; Rom.14:8. How can these two views be reconciled?

Worship and prayer to God must not be thought of as the sum and substance of Christian service. This is a mistake many today make--thinking that religious service is confined to formal worship.

Our worship only prepares us for service that must be rendered during other activities of life. Our Christian service begins after worship ends. The worship to God which is a spiritual feast can be likened to our physical food. Both gives us the strength to perform our work. To worship God and stop short of service is to miss the whole point of our calling. We eat to work. But the apostle Paul says in 2 Thess. 3:10 that "if any would not work, neither should he eat" Similarly, the purpose of spiritual food is to strengthen us for work, and an unwilling worker, God doesn't need.

Time is a precious gift of God dispersed moment, ^{by moment} as it is used. It can be either a friend or enemy. Time takes its toll in the physical realm but cannot even be defined in the eternal. Speaking of the physical, A. J. Foster said, "Time is the greatest of all tyrants. As we go on toward age, he taxes our health, limbs, faculties, strength and features". But the apostle Paul says "though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day". 2 Cor. 4:16.

men. Truth has never been popular. John the Immerser, James, and the Lord died rather than compromise!

Thirdly, I am afraid because of the influence that the torrents of iniquity is having on our society as a whole. We are living in a time when in our own county the Amish cannot drive their buggies down the road without "English" trying to harass, maim or murder them. It is time we were afraid; afraid enough to want something done about the sin that prevails in the world. Our lives are not so good; but they must be for good.

E. E. G.

NEWS AND NOTES

A letter from Brother Paul Hosse this week said that his wife would not be able to come with him if he held his gospel meeting the last week in June as scheduled. He suggested alternate dates when she could come. The brethren here decided that May 29 through June 4 would be the best date considering all things. This is only a month away, so let's start planning now to attend and tell others about it. The Hosse's, having worked in this area before are known by many, so we should have good attendance if we but publicize it as we should.

The Vacation Bible School will ^{be} held the next week after the meeting, June 9 through the 13th.

The Garrett brethren are having Brother Dale Smith as a visiting speaker this Tuesday evening. He is teaching on the subject, "Training Children In The Home". Time 7:30. We urge anyone to go if they can.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

April 27, 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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The more a man says-
the less people
remember.

INSINCERITY

The Friendly Messenger

TWO FRIENDS MET. One said to the other:
"Come and have a round of golf on Sunday morning with me." "Oh, no. I attend church on Sundays," was the reply. "Well," said his friend, "I don't know what your religion is, but keep it to yourself. I've asked you to play golf many times, but you've never invited me to attend church with you."

* * * * *

Some people have more of their own THINK-SO's than of the Lord's SAY-SO's in their religion.

One man with courage makes a majority.

In Psalms 17:5 (New Catholic Version) the writer says: "The sorrows of death surrounded me: and the torrents of iniquity troubled me!" (This is Psalms 18:4 in the other versions.) In the ASV he says that the floods of ungodliness made him afraid. Any one in a rational state of mind can hardly help being made to wonder where we are headed. Few can say that "all is well" who see the torrents of iniquity so much a part of our society. In Isaiah's time he lamented, "Woe to those that call evil good, and good evil; that put light for darkness and darkness for light; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight." (5:20 paraphrased)

Perhaps I am an alarmist or a pessimist, but the torrents of iniquity trouble me too. An ancient wrote--"What before were vices are now right manners." We live in an age where the age is leading the pulpit rather than the pulpit leading the age.

A few days ago the school secretary said to me: "I heard a rumor about "your church" and I want to know if it is true. My children feel so sorry for the children who go to "your church" because you would not allow them to have "special" Easter programs." I never realized how cruel we are here at LaGrange! Of all things; not allowing the children to have programs at Easter and Christmas. (I do not feel too bad since I never actually refused any of them personally.)

I have been accused of being an atheist and not believing in the Ten Commandments since I have been at LaGrange; but being mean to our children at church is one thing I had not anticipated. (At school--yes; at church--no!) What does this have to do with ungodliness? Paul said that whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Easter missed the Holy Spirit endorsed practices of the New Testament by about 295 years. But the point is that this is just one of the departures from the pattern of the Lord's church. Once you step over the line there is no place to stop.

Once society approves of one sin in religion there are a thousand more to follow! When we call good evil, and evil good, we are under the influence of Satan. Our moral standards have decayed in our society until "anything goes." Like the Psalmist, I too am afraid because of the flood of ungodliness or the torrents of iniquity. The prophet wrote, "Your iniquities have separated you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isa. 59:2) The people had spoken lies; none called for justice; none pleaded for the truth; they trusted in vanities, and spoke lies; they conceived mischief and brought forth iniquity, etc. This is the writer from whom Christ quoted to the self-righteous saying: "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Mat. 15:9; Mk. 7:7).

I am afraid for several reasons, but only a few that I will mention in this article.

First, I am afraid because of the influence it will have on our children. We have some of the finest youth here that I have ever met anywhere. They are being and will continue to be influenced by the torrents of iniquity. I am afraid that we might let one of these slip into the world. What an awesome responsibility we have as parents. What a burden we bear as teachers and/or preachers of the word of God. Oh that God might grant unto us the wisdom to know what to say and when to say it to help our youth make the right decisions.

Secondly, I am afraid because of the influence the torrents of iniquity will have on the church as a whole. It becomes harder each year to "hold the line" on things concerning morals. I know that my philosophies and teaching on discipline, and marriage and divorce, as well as many other things are not going to be met with wide acceptance; but to be perfectly honest--I don't care! As long as the principles are based on God's word I will not be anxious to please

the conser-
vatives and too conservative for the liberals.)
I'm sure that if time and space permitted that
much more could be said on this topic. If you
feel that too much or too little has been said
then write an article and we will put it in the
bulletin with or without your name.

E. E. G.

NEWS AND NOTES

Brother Jerry Wier is scheduled to be the speaker
this Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the Garrett church
building. Brother Wier is a former preacher for
this congregation and a very talented speaker.
They again extend an invitation and we would pro-
fit by going if possible.

We are sorry that our brother Fred Cox lost an old-
er brother this week in Kansas. He died from a
heart attack. They have gone home to the funeral
and should be back sometime this week.

There is a n invitation to all the ladies to at-
tend an area wide ladies fellowship at the South
Side Church of Christ in Fort Wayne on May 17th.
Sister Myrtle Overmeyer is to be the speaker for
this occasion. The time is set for eleven o'clock
with a luncheon following at the Atz Ice Cream Rest-
aurant near the church building. Cost \$1.50/person.

Reservations must be in by May 12.

Our monthly singing at Mark's Nursing Home will be
this evening at 6 o'clock.

Earl Gieseke
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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

May 4, 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.

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Ruts long traveled
grow comfortable.

THE CRITIC

A little seed lay on the ground and soon began to
sprout,
"Now which of all the flowers around," it mused,
"shall I come out?"
The lily's face is fair and proud, but just a trifle
cold;
The rose, I think, is very loud, and then it's
fashion's old.
The violet is all very well, but not a flower I'd
choose;
Nor yet the Canterbury Bell--I never cared for blues!"
And so it criticized each flower, this supercilious
seed,
Until it woke one summer hour and found itself...
A WEED. via The Friendly Messenger

From the Preacher's desk--

It was suggested that something might be said as to the "proper" use of the church building. I must admit that this puts me in something of a "spot." Why? Because I like to speak where the Bible speaks; but the Bible doesn't have much to say as far as I know on this topic. I will give some thoughts and try to apply some principles on this subject.

The early church met in homes or other places. I do not know when the first building was erected for the specific purpose of a meeting house. As a matter of expediency we have come to view the church building as essential. The question is--
FOR WHAT OTHER PURPOSES CAN THE BUILDING BE USED?

Let me say again that much or most of what I say will be based on opinion. I hope some of it will be common sense. There is nothing holy about the building. It is not the same as it was with the temple or tabernacle. A tent, brush arbor, garage, kitchen, barn or the shade of a tree could serve equally well as a meeting place. The person who has to be in a building in order to worship God could not worship Him there. Too much emphasis is sometimes placed on the building. In order to compete with the denominations we must have "adequate" buildings. (Please do not ask what is adequate.)

To some this would include many things that are not essential. To some a kitchen in the building is essential. To me it is not. I personally would not vote for a kitchen in a new or remodeled building; but that would not prevent me from going to preach for a church that had a kitchen facility in their meeting-house. I did not vote for the air-conditioner in our own building--neither did I vote against it. I did not feel it was an issue. I think it is for those who are "permanent" to decide if they want the building air-conditioned. (If you can heat air I suppose you can cool it just as scripturally.) A refrigerated water cooler would be in the same category. I do not believe a furnace would be in the same category. Am I being inconsistent?

As you have gathered by now, if I am not "against" kitchen facilities in the building then I am not opposed to eating in the building. I believe the building could profitably be used for a variety of Christian fellowship meetings. It does not have to be a formal "two songs-prayer-another song-sermon-communion-collection-closing prayer." For example the youth group might meet in the building for singing, talking and general fellowship at various times.

What not to do might be determined by a number of things. There are those, for example, who believe it is wrong to work on Sunday. (Between A. M. & P. M. services.) The Bible is silent on this. The rule of expediency would apply, however, in a case like this. Paul said that if eating meat would cause his brother to stumble then he would eat no meat. I don't believe the basement or rooms anywhere should be used for dancing or bingo because these are sinful in themselves. (Hold your hats.) I would not object to roller skating in the basement or fellowship room if space permitted. This is recreation that we go to a less than Christian environment to do. Why not do it in the building without the smoke, worldly conversation and conduct that we often find in skating rinks? I'm almost sure that no one would object to sledding on the church property if space and hills permitted. Is the parcel of land under the building more "sacred" than the yard? Do we also have the outer court, holy place and holy of holies in the back of our minds?

Now if skating or eating in the building would cause anyone to stumble then I would not do either. I had just as soon buy a record or Bible on the church premises as to step across the property to do it. Actually, most all of my own activities that are not done at school are done on the church property. Or at least I don't know where the "holy-line" is between the preacher's home and the building. If you can church in the house then you can eat in the building. If not, why not? (My problem is that I'm too liberal for

matter? The Lord is interested in what you do.

As Christians, we have a tremendous job to do that cannot possibly be accomplished through a merely negative approach. We have been told to "Go into all the world" to spread the good news--preach Christ--visit the widows and fatherless--help the sick--win souls to Christ--give of our time, energy, and money. Satan will tempt you to sit still. DO SOMETHING!

***** --Selected

NEWS AND NOTES ** Our gospel meeting is just 2½ weeks away. Plan now to take advantage of it.
---Singing this afternoon at 3 o'clock at Garrett.
---This Tuesday evening at 7:30, Bro. Jerry Smith from Portland will be the speaker at Garrett. The subject is marriage and divorce.

--- Contact Sister Hoggatt if any of you ladies would like to attend the program planned especially for them next Saturday at Southside Church of Christ, Ft. Wayen. Notice on board about this.
--- WE REQUEST A LETTER FROM EACH MEMBER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMBATTING THE TREND TOWARD BIBLE EXCLUSION IN OUR SPACE PROGRAM. Mrs. Madelyn Murry, an atheist who was successful in having all prayers deleted from public schools, is now attempting to have the reading of the Bible (as the astronauts did in their orbital flight of the moon) condemned. She has obtained 27,000 signed letters to present to the NASA headquarters, asking that the men be publicly censored. Concerned Christians are asking for 100,000 letters commending the astronauts. WILL YOU SEND ONE? Following is kind of letter needed.

NASA officials
c/o Family Radio

San Francisco, California 94134

Dear Sirs: I personally appreciate and wholeheartedly support the recent decision of the astronauts to read from the Bible in space as they orbited the moon. It should be the right of every human to publicly express his faith in God and the Bible without fear of reprisals from the government or any other power. Sincerely, YOU.

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

May 11, 1969

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

It is more important to know where you are going than to see how fast you can get there.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE!

James 4:10-17

Bible Thought: And that servant, who knew his lord's will, and made not ready, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes" (Luke 12:47)

"I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING," said my little boy, "what are you punishing me for? I was just sitting here watching TV. What have I done?" "Nothing," I said, "and that is why you are being punished. You didn't do anything but sit there and watch TV, but you should have been doing what I told you to do."

A lesson many Christians have not yet learned if that neglecting to do the things God has commanded us to do is just as bad, if not worse than doing the wrong things. (cont. on page 3)

WILL I TRY?

A very real and serious question for a person who is considering becoming a Christian, to ask is, "Can I really live the Christian Life?" This question is also foremost in the minds of a few, a very few, who have at one time committed their life to Christ and then turned away, only to sense their uneasy situation. For one to even ask this question reflects his knowledge of the scripture already. God has enjoined certain rules of conduct that touches every phase of our life and we must never minimize the necessity of keeping these rules. To do so would be to degrade the calling of God to a weak, ineffective substitute. The gospel is God's power to save and let's keep it that way. A watered down version of the gospel gives little hope to the man who ponders his resemblance to a perfect Savior. It is a step in the right direction for a person to meditate, "Can I really live the Christian life?"

Concerning religion in general, too many have jumped into "accepting Christ" under false motives. I am amazed how a thinking man can claim to be a Christian and not allow it to affect his life. I have seen a man half drunk, boasting about his women, cursing God, and spilling out almost in the same breath, "Where's the _____ church in town, I'd better go in the morning". I can have nothing but pity for him. He is making a mockery out of religion and the greater tragedy is that he is preaching a sermon for many others to see. The lusts of the flesh are appealing. There are too many content with the label "Christian" when not only their flesh is weak but their spirit also. And it is the half-hearted (or less) spirit of not caring and not trying among so-called Christians that keeps the potentially strong disciples confused and submerged in lustful sin.

For one to ask, "Can I really live the Christian life?" suggest that he senses the defeat that comes by failing after starting. And thus it is true by scripture. Heb. 6:4-6; II Pet. 2:20,21.

His concern is misplaced however. It isn't the mistakes that God will hold against us but the failure to try. We can rest assured that we will make mistakes. This fact we can quickly dispense with. But the important question is "Will I try?" If our attempts match in number, our mistakes, we are in fellowship with God. The defeat comes when our attempts number one less than our failures. I believe that any person who ponders the question, "Can I really live the Christian life?" has a multitude of helps at his disposal in his attempts to try, none the least of which is God himself who promises that we will never be "tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it". I Cor. 10:13. The apostle Paul states that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13) Would not all things include the ability to live a Christian life? Christ said, I am the vine and ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." Jn. 15:15.

The tragedy of many a life is not doing what we can--simply not trying, and our failure to try makes us a failure. Someone has said, "There is only one real failure in life that is possible and that is, not to be true to the best one knows." If we know what we should do and don't, we have little claim on success, as a Christian. Read Jam. 4:17. Many attempts are made at shifting the blame for one's own rejection of the Savior, but these false props will crumble like straw before the great judge who will require an individual accounting in that great day.

D. H.

(cont. from front page) At least the result is the same--it brings condemnation.

So many people view their religion as being a negative thing. A man says with pride, "I don't drink, gamble, swear, steal, lie, commit adultery, or beat my wife. So, what's so wrong with me?" But is Christianity only a negative

NEWS AND NOTES:

Our gospel meeting begins in a week and a half. Start informing your friends now about it so that when the time comes to invite and bring them, they'll be ready. Notice and take advantage of the ads that will appear in the local paper, as well as mailer folders available. Let's put forth effort for a good meeting.

NOTICE - ALL VBS TEACHERS. Let's set 6:30 this evening as the time to go over VBS details. Literature is available and will be distributed at that time. Also, a teachers record system will be explained so that we can have ready reference in time to come as to the material covered in each class. So, ALL TEACHERS ARE ASKED TO COME TO THIS MEETING.

There is to be a four evening lectureship at the East Chestnut congregation in Ft. Wayne starting this Monday evening at 7:30 each evening. A different speaker is lined up for each of the evenings, Brother Morgan of Garrett, will be the first. These colored brethren have been attending other meetings in the area and it would encourage them if several of us would support this endeavor. If you desire to go, make your wishes known and we can get together.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE NASA OFFICIALS AS EXPLAINED LAST LORD'S DAY? NOTICE BULLETIN BOARD FOR SAMPLE LETTER.

Earl Gieseke
Route #4, Box 46
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

May 18, 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

Men have to find truth, not because it is lost, but because they are.

Often we see ads that proclaim the advantages of being in a certain company. In this article I want to tell you about a company I represent. This company I represent has many unique opportunities and benefits that you will not find in any other company. There are some, of course, who will tell you that one company and its product is just as good, but this is common in this life. But any right-thinking person knows that every car: every cigarette; every detergent (even those with little blue or green crystals); every underarm deoderant can't be the best. That is the way it is with the company I represent. One must be the best in the field and the one I represent is the best.

(cont. next page)

First, so you will not think I am prejudice, let me say that I do not own the company. I am not an officer in the main headquarters. In fact, I have never been to the main office. I have never seen the president or his son. You never see them or the main office until you retire.

This company has outlets (or should I say inlets) in thousands of U. S. cities and many foreign countries. This company is not indigenous to the United States.

This company offers a unique opportunity to beginners. You start out with full benefits. There is no period of probation. No one votes on whether to accept you in to the company. No applicant is rejected. You learn and work at your own speed. You can work as much as you desire too and anywhere in the world. This company is an equal opportunity employer. There is no discrimination due to race, sex or nationality. (If any one tells you differently they are not in good standing with the company. In fact they have left the company.)

There are no seasonal layoffs. No one is ever discharged. They may leave, however, whenever they choose. In fact you may leave the company for some reason, and then decide to return again, and the president and those in the headquarters not only welcome you but actually rejoice when you come back. (I left the company, and returned, and am receiving even greater benefits than before. However, I do not recommend leaving; you might die while away from the company, and if you do the life insurance (or should I say fire insurance) is no good.)

Let me tell you about some of the people in this company. The best people who have ever lived and who are living now have been a part of this company. Now you will find one once in a while that may be a little hard to get along with, but there is a chance that they may actually be "self-employed". There is room for differences of opinion where the company policy is not clearly stated; therefore slight differences of opinion

may be found. But where the company policy is clearly stated there will be no deviation or substitutions allowed.

There is no particular policy on dress, but any type of dress that is modest and in good taste is acceptable. (Long hair is recommended for women only.) All dues are voluntary. You simply pay your dues according to the benefits you get from being a member of the company. (Usually the longer you are in the company the more dues you will want to pay.) Most of the employees of this company are working at other jobs so our payroll is quite small. We send money to the other branches of the company who are engaged in good works--- both in the U.S. and abroad.

No previous training or experience is necessary. Our training programs are carried on in the homes of the employees and after you become an employee. There are usually only two or three required meetings each week. The rest of the time is used as the employee sees fit. No special talent is required. There are no physical or mental tests given to determine fitness for employment. There is no trial membership. As stated previously there is no probation period. No one votes on whether you are to be accepted into the company or not.

Most jobs are in teaching and public relations. There are some jobs of leadership available for the men who stay with the company for an extended period and who meet other qualifications which you and I do not have to meet. These jobs are never overfilled. Therefore they are always available for those men who can qualify.

The fringe benefits and retirement benefits are available to all members in good standing. Our retirement benefits are the best part of the company, but you must become an active member to receive them.

E. E. G.

Many people would have attained wisdom had they not already assumed that they had it. --Sel.

NEWS AND NOTES

There are gospel meeting announcements in the vestibule, which should be passed out to as many as possible and especially to YOUR friends. Take as many as you need and use as many as you take. One of the best methods of having several visitors has proven to be personal invitations. Let's do our part in making contacts so that when Thursday evening comes, we can start off in good attendance.

It was decided that the building should have a general cleaning before the meeting. It appears that Wednesday evening would be the best without conflict with other things. Let's decide this today.

This Tuesday evening at 7:30 the last speaker of the Garrett lectureship series will be G. P. Holt of Indianapolis. He is well known, especially among the colored brethren, and has appeared on several lectureships. I'm sure that anyone who can arrange to hear him will be glad that they took the chance. His subject will be "Christian Attitude In Facing Problems".

All those who would like to have the Hosse's for a meal, please sign your name on the schedule in the vestibule. A suggestion was made that we have a basket dinner on the grounds next Sunday. I'm sure they would enjoy this so as to be able to visit with several here and the visitors who might come on that Sunday because they remember them.

TEACHERS * Be sure to take your VBS material and be prepared for a good start. Several others who are not teachers will be needed for various jobs, so if you would like to help and don't know what needs to be done, just mention it to one of the teachers. All of us can enroll young people to attend.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

May 25, 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
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LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

We only truly teach
God's Word when we
are still learning it
ourselves.

--Sel.

WORRYING??

One little worrier said to another little worrier: "I have so much on my mind today, that if anything bad happens, it will be two weeks before I can get around to worrying about it." Maybe he, like the rest of us should heed the elderly black woman's advice: "When I works, I works hard; when I sets, I sets loose; when I worries, I go to sleep." Along with this, how about turning to Matthew 6:25-34 and reading the words of our Saviour about being worried sick over things?

--Selected
The Friendly Messenger

"FISHING WITHOUT BAIT"

I can recall going fishing as a youth. Preceding the trip there would be a diligent search for worms, or the preparation of other bait. Sometimes when I had my fill of fishing I would dangle an empty hook in the clear water to see if any fish would take the hook. Rarely, if ever, would a fish do more than inspect the empty hook. Occasionally a curious small fish might actually take hold of the hook and try to swim away with it. But I have never caught a fish worth taking home without using a well baited hook.

Sometimes I wonder if we as professed Christians aren't a little like the fisherman who tries to catch fish without bait. We wonder why we aren't "catching men for Christ" when in reality we may not be using a baited hook. Or in some cases we are using the wrong bait. The experienced fishermen never goes fishing without taking several kinds of baits. If one kind doesn't work he patiently tries another and another until one works; or he decides finally that they aren't biting. He may then move to a new area, or he may go home; but one thing you can be sure of--he won't quit fishing. The fisherman is a born optimist.

I wonder if we could not learn a few lessons as "fishers of men" from these men. If we studied our "fishing guide" the way the fishermen reads Sports Afield, etc. I believe we could become as effective as he is in our role. If we showed the patience and ingenuity in trying different baits and approaches as the fishermen we would soon be winning many to Christ. I have seen and heard men discuss methods of fishing for hours; sometimes with complete strangers. They share ideas and successful methods freely.

We become discouraged after our first "cast" if someone doesn't immediately "grab the bait". Sometimes our approach might be like a fishermen dropping the stringer into the water and waiting for the fish to attach itself to it. We build a building and wait for the "fish to come swimming

in". Occasionally we might even call out: "over this way fish!" We schedule a gospel meeting without much effort to bring others in. This would be like a fisherman getting the skillet hot without any fish to fry. We just "refry" the same old "fish!"

We've got the bait brethren, but we're not getting the bait where the fish are. In fact, most aren't even getting their hooks wet. How long since you sincerely talked to someone about Christ? We are not going to take the world for Christ unless we take Christ to the world. When Christ lives in us we will present him to the world in our daily life. We must present a living, meaningful Christianity to the world. We must be willing to go where the "fish" are. No fisherman expects to catch any fish in his living room watching TV.

Too many Christians are born pessimists. They know they aren't going to get any results even before they try. They may say: "If you don't have anything else to do we are having a meeting", or "I don't suppose you would want to go to our meeting one night!"

Every time the fisherman throws his line out he is "going for a record catch." Sometimes when a Christian invites someone to services and they accept they are so surprised they are speechless, what makes the difference? Why will the fishermen keep going back time after time while the Christian may make one feeble attempt and give up? Is it the reward? Is there more joy and thrill to pull in a "large mouth" than to bring a soul to Christ, (you can forget about the large mouths--we have a sufficient number of those in the church now. Try to catch more "small-mouths").

Let's examine our "fishing for men". Are we trying to "fish without Christ. Remember--Christian without Christ leaves IAN", or "I aint nothing." So let's go fishing for men! Bait your hook with faith. It will surprise you what you and the Lord can do working together with all the other "fishers of men."

E. E. G.

NEWS AND NOTES

ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART IN GOING "INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE"? ARE YOU EVEN GOING TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF LAGRANGE? Or perhaps even a better question would be "Have you asked your neighbor to come to the gospel meeting with you? God has given us the opportunity to put out some extra effort for him during the next few days. Our gospel meeting is half over and time is slipping away. May we be diligent about inviting people to the meeting, which will continue through this Wednesday evening. BROTHER HOSSE'S LESSONS ARE PRIMARILY FOR THE UNSAVED. MAY WE "BRING THEM IN" AND SUPPORT THIS GOSPEL ENDEAVOR. THE LESSONS ARE OF GREAT WORTH.

There is to be a area wide singing at the East Chestnut St. congregation in Ft. Wayne next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The increased association and fellowship with other congregations since these singings have begun have proven their worth. Let's go and promote it if we can.

A gospel meeting is scheduled at Coldwater, June 11 through the 18 at 7:30 ea. evening. The building is located at Grand and Clarke Sts. The speaker will be William Rogers of Flint, Michigan.

OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS THE WEEK OF JUNE 8 (the 9th through the 13th. to be more exact). Enroll as many as you can, ages 3 through high school, and perhaps doors of opportunity will be open to us for future work with parents.

Earl Gieseke
Route 34, Box 46
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

June 1, 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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LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

Nothing is opened by
mistake more than
the mouth.

--Sel

THE POTTERS WHEEL

(author unknown)

I took a piece of potter's clay
And gently fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded to my will.
I came again when days were past;
The bit of clay was hard at last;
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day;
And molded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielding heart.
I came again when days were gone;
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that first impression wore,
And I could change

KEEPING THE CORRECT ORDER

This past week another "spectacular" was recorded on the pages of history. Within another two months, man will hopefully set foot on the moon, an accomplishment which was but a dream a century ago. The newspaper coverage, the television time, the big to-do which will be given these successes all will attest to the glory of man's accomplishment. It is a tragedy that these "spectaculars" focus no attention on man's "first" needs. If these events are framed in the right perspective, they are a big to-do about nothing. Ironically, the space ventures into the heavens have not taken us closer but farther away from God.

All this surely attests to the mixed up values of our generation. We are now engaged in a life saving gospel meeting, hopefully to bring some souls to the Lord. It is doubtful that if and when this happens, it will make the headlines of even the local paper; notwithstanding the fact that there is joy in heaven over even one sinner that repents. Only the most dedicated to the Lord feel the joy and radiate the happiness of a soul being won for God. A slightly greater number might be just indifferent to such an event, but by far, the majority, couldn't care less. In view of the Lord's teaching of the value of a soul, worth more than the world (and the moon too) it only points up our misplaced values, when we herald the "space" successes and ignore the soul saving" successes.

If the erosion of real values continue the next 50 years as it has the last 50 (if the world stands) what will be the result? Those who "come to themselves" will wish that they could push time back 100 years. The last state is worse than the first. It is nice to have the comforts, conveniences and leisure that comes with the technological discoveries that man has made, but if we are worse off spiritually for it, it is too high a price to pay.

There is a story told of a little town tucked away in the secluded regions of our great country. It was a peaceful place, where everyone knew, visited and was concerned about his neighbor. There was time for Bible study and worship to God. People were content

happy and carefree. Then one day prosperity loomed at the door. Prospectors began invading the area, factories began springing up, boasting of improved conditions and living standards. The increased need for labor brought in migrants with an eye on good wages. The local work force was unionized, demands began to be made. Seeds of advantage and distrust were sown. People were caught up in the hub-bub. Everyone was out to get all that he could. Bigger cars, finer homes, more security, was the order of the day. Hardly any time for neighbors, for Bible study, for God. At this point would anyone dare say that these people were now better off than they were in the beginning? I'm sure the Lord wouldn't and neither would any Christian who put his values in the correct order.

Too many times this story is repeated on a smaller and on a larger scale. When we individually get "caught up" on the merry-go-round of life and cannot get off, we fail to put, and keep, first things first, the latter end is worse for us than the beginning. And this great country in which we live, which just a couple of hundred years ago was founded on faith in God an allegiance to his ways, is running headlong into disbelief. The story is clear and so is the end.

The Christian who is wise will keep his values straight, will place his trust in God and not man. The apostle Paul warns, "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the preaching to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:19-21. And so we preach and continue to preach, so that the world might believe. We appreciate brother Hosse, brother Gieseke and all the others who have shouldered the job of preaching the gospel, in the face of increasing unrighteousness, to proclaim the kingdom of God "first" in our order of things.

D. H.

NEWS AND NOTES

The gospel meeting which was concluded last Wednesday evening was well attended and much interest was shown by some in the community. Although there were no visible responses, much good was done in the strengthening of the church here and there are some prospects which will keep us busy in our visitation and teaching program.

The Vacation Bible School starts tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Several are already enrolled, but there is room for more. Contact and bring if you can, those children in your area. If you can't bring them, let brother Gieseke know and one driver will be dispatched to pick them up. **THER IS STILL A NEED FOR SUPPLIERS OF COOKIES AND KOOL-AID. LET SISTER HOGGATT KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP OUT IN THIS RESPECT.**

The area wide singing is at the Chestnut St. congregation in Ft. Wayne this afternoon, at 3 o'clock. You would enjoy this fellowship if you can arrange to go.

Gospel meeting starts at Coldwater this Wednesday evening at 7:30 E.S.T. Brother Bill Rogers is the speaker. Let's go up and support that endeavor as much as we can. Meeting continues through the 18th.

As always, we are glad to have the college girls back with us for awhile. Mary and Ruth Wilson are planning to go to summer session, so they will be leaving in a couple of weeks. Kathy plans to go again in the fall. Also we congratulate Marcella Ritchie and hope that she can continue her education at a Christian College in the fall.

Earl Gieseke
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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

June 8, 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
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LaGrange, Indiana 46761
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Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence or learning.

WHAT HAVE YOU LOST?

The question is often asked professional people what they have lost by being Christians and living by different moral codes and standards than other persons in the same area. Let us look at some answers that we might get from people who are Christians.

Some might answer that they have lost bad companionship; a cigarette cough; a possibility of ulcers; the possibility of becoming an alcoholic or some might say they have lost a husband or wife who was unreliable. Others have lost a husband who beat them; or one who would not support them. Many have lost the fear of death and the grave. All have lost the wages of sin.

(Cont. on page 3)

Men naturally trust in something. Some trust the word of God, some the word of men. The Jews were trusting in the words of prophets and priests in the days of Jeremiah. He wrote, "Behold, ye trust in the lying words, that cannot save." 7:8. The leaders in Israel had become corrupted and indifferent as to their relationship to God. They were crying, "Peace, peace when there was no peace."

Today preachers and religious groups are propagating a doctrine of peace in their social gospel. Mankind has a craving for peace. They will grasp the teaching which offers the most at the least cost. Those who are interested in gaining large followings will usually teach the things that the people want to hear. They will flatter the pride of the people. They play up the good points and ignore the weak. They promise pleasant things with no hard requirements for the people to meet. They preach an easy "gospel" with no stern or threatening language.

Today's propagators of the modern "gospel" call for no reformation of character or repentance from past sins. This is like a doctor who would tell a cancer-ridden patient that all is well, there's nothing to worry about.

This kind of teaching can trace its origin back to the garden where the serpent said, "Thou shalt not surely die!" These teachers are convincing men to rest their salvation on morality, respectability and self-righteousness. I would be the last to belittle the great importance of these, but God requires more than this.

There are those who preach a "faith only" doctrine. This makes salvation even easier than the morality-respectability doctrine. Those who believe in "faith only" are no better than the devils. They too believed and trembled. Men are beguiled by deceitful teachers who teach such things as; the infinite mercy of God; death bed repentance; I am no worse than some professed Christians; I will repent and turn to God--some day; I am baptized and take the Lord's Supper; it doesn't matter what you

believe as long as you are sincere; etc.

Suppose I would tell a person bitten by a rabid dog that instead of using the old traditional method of 14 shots to prevent death that he should simply fry and eat the liver of the dog that bit him.

Or, suppose I would tell an experienced jumper that instead of using the old-fashioned parachute that he should just hoot like an owl and have faith all the way down. Do you think anyone would give up the proven ways for "ways" that might work?

Would you surely answer, "Of course not. How silly can you get?" Well, people are willing to try anything "new" that preachers come up with as a way of getting to heaven. There is a way revealed in the Bible; there are alternatives given by men. The day of judgment will be the time that "Do-It-Yourself-Religion" will fall, why trust something as valuable as the soul to chance. Jesus said, "I am the Way!" Based on faith, repentance and confession of his name any person can be baptized into his body. Those who are erring children can come back by public confession of sin. What doth hinder you?

E. E. G.

WHAT HAVE YOU LOST? (cont. from front page)

The question is : "What have you lost that makes you a happier and better person since you became a Christian. Are you an easier person to live and work with since you began to walk the "ways of pleasantness, and the paths of peace?"

E. E. G.

* * * * *

Character give splendor to youth and awe to wrinkled skin and gray hair.

much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed,
not I who robbed." --Selected.

NEWS AND NOTES

The Donmoyer Ave. congregation in South Bend is having a five night class taught by Brother John Clayton on the subject "Does God Exist". Brother Clayton is a science major and taught this subject from a scientific viewpoint. Following the lecture each evening there will be a 30 minute question and answer period. It would be well worth our time if we could arrange to attend. Dates, June 16-20; Time, 7:00 p.m.; Place, 718 East Donmoyer Ave. Church of Christ. There will be a supervised nursery for those who have small children.

The gospel meeting in Coldwater continues through this Wednesday evening. Brother William Rogers preaching. Remember, the time is 7:30 E.S.T.

Many thanks to all who volunteered and helped make our VBS a success. We feel that several new contacts were made during the gospel meeting and the Bible School which will need to be followed up on in time to come. Let's continue to work and pray for souls that they may be won for Christ.

We wish the Gieseke's a safe and enjoyable trip to Kentucky. They are leaving tomorrow morning and plan to stay for about a week and a half. Some painting and carpeting is to be done in the preacher's house while they are gone. Don't forget, men!

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

June 15, 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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Sin has many tools,
but a lie is a handle
which fits them all.

CAN A MAN CREATE LIFE?

An old professor of biology used to hold a little brown seed in his hand. "I know just exactly the composition of this seed. It has in it nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbon. I know the exact proportions. I can make a seed that will look exactly like it. But if I plant my seed it will come to naught; its elements will simply be absorbed in the soil. If I plant the seed God made, it will become a plant, because it contains the mysterious principle which we call life principle." This Bible looks like other books. We cannot understand altogether its marvelous power. Planted in good ground, it shows that it has the life principle in itself; it brings forth spiritual life; it bears fruitage. --Selected.

WHERE THERE IS NO VISION

At the graduation exercise the other night the speaker tried to emphasize to the graduating seniors that they are looking at the world through very limited vision. He pointed out the general feeling towards minority groups. He mentioned the fact that being graduates of a high school put them in a minority group. Also being Caucasian put them in a minority group.

I think this concept is all too common in our world. We see limited vision as one of the major causes of strife, disappointments and failures today. As he pointed out we tend to think of anyone who is not like us as being in a minority group. Actually, our world is being torn asunder by minority groups. I wonder why the minority group who are New Testament Christians don't create as much excitement for Christ and God as some of our small groups are doing for their "cause"? Our cause is for God and good while theirs is for the devil and evil. What is the motivating factor that is causing these people to expend so much time and energy. Is their motive stronger than ours? Do they want to destroy, pilfer and rampage more than we want to go to heaven?

We need vision! We need to pray for vision. We need to launch out into the deep! We who profess to be followers of Christ are often letting the denominations outdo us until it is pitiful. There is a great need for dedicated Christians: for those who are not ashamed of the gospel nor ashamed to it.

As we study the history of God's people, as well as the history of mankind in general, the big problem has always been the fact that man has been unaware of the fact that he must give absolute account for his deeds and misdeeds. How different the lives of many would have been if they had truly realized that they would stand before God at the judgment bar and give an answer for all things done in this life.

The church has failed to prosper in areas where the leaders have not had vision, and the faith to act on their vision. We can always look back and see what might have been.

Often people that I talk to about the importance of obedience to God's word will say that they don't see that it makes any difference. They feel good inside and to them that is all that matters. If only they would read the warnings contained in the Bible about those who have failed to render obedience. Nadab and Abihu were two of this disposition. They didn't think it made any difference what kind of fire they used. People today say they don't see that it makes any difference whether we baptize, sprinkle or pour. The only real difference is that one is from God and the other two are unheard of in the Bible. The same thing is true of many other things that men take for granted. Easter, Christmas and Lent are man-introduced--not Bible taught.

Soloman said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12) Jesus said that many would say to Him in that day, "Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Then His most important answer came: "I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Mat. 7:22-23)

Let us be ever mindful of God's message and our responsibility to respond in a positive manner; whether we see the reason or not.

E. E. G.

Giving thanks for all things: A thief broke into a modest dwelling of Matthew Henry, the Bible scholar, and stole his purse, but the busy, cheerful gentleman, far from being downcast, turned to his diary and entered this cheerful observation:

"Let me be thankful first, because he never robbed me before; second, because although he took my purse, he did not take my life; third, because although he took all I had, it was not (cont.)"

THERE'S A CHURCH YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ...

This Church pleads for the restoration of the New Testament church; practices the unity of all Christians on the basis of God's Word; has no creed but Christ; and preaches no "isms."

This Church seeks to present Christianity as intelligent as science, as appealing as art, as vital as the day's work, as intimate as home, and as inspiring as love.

Our Foundation - "Other foundations can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11.

Our Creed - "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matt. 16:16

Our Rule of Faith and Practice - "Every Scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." 2 Tim. 3: 16,17

Our Name - "The disciples were called Christians, first in Antioch." Acts 11:26. "The churches of Christ salute you." Rom. 16:16

Our Worship - "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers." Acts 2:42

Our Mission - "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matt. 28:19,20

Our Prayer - That the disciples of Christ may be one that the world may believe God sent Him. John 17:21

Our Invitation - We earnestly invite the cooperation and prayers of all who endorse these principles

News and Notes; The ladies are to meet at Sister Hostetlers at 12:30 this Wednesday afternoon for tray making favors. The church is invited to the Hostetlers next Sunday for a basket dinner. Brother Stewart of the Chestnut St. congregation in Ft. Wayne will be exchanging pulpits with Brother Gieseke. We bid farewell to Mary and Ruth Wilson who leave for summer school at DIC.

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

June 22, 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

We only truly teach
God's Word when we
are still learning
it ourselves.

B A R S

How many times have we heard the expression, "It's dangerous to let the bars down?" This saying has a farm and country origin. Let the bars down for one animal, and it is quite possible that all will rush through. The world is saying to the Christian, "Let the bars down for a game of chance, for only small stakes . . . for revelry, for loose talk, for the lowering of your standards--just this once." But the Christian cannot afford to let down the bars even once. One time is enough to destroy his good influence. The world is an alluring temptress imploring the Christian to renounce his righteousness. As for the fallen Christian--the world holds him in utter contempt. We must not let the bars down.

--Dan Harless

"Another 'open letter' To our Youth"

Dearly Beloved;

Some 27 months ago you were written an "open letter" through the bulletin. Many things have happened since that time. Millions more people have been born into the world since that time. Unfortunately, almost as many have died. The Majority of those who died were unprepared to meet Their God. Telling you this will not affect their destiny, but if we can convince you of the importance of a soul perhaps we can cut the number down in the future of those who die without Christ.

In the previous letter we pleaded with you not to judge the older generation too harshly. You were also asked not to wait until you were older to begin your work for the lord. In a sense we are saying, "Don't do as we do but rather do as we say." It is so much easier to say than to do. Those of us who are older have the ability to see the wasted time in our past, but it is too late to change things.

In this letter we want to inquire about your spiritual health. How does your soul prosper? Now that more than two years have passed, do you feel any closer to God? Are you rendering a more effective service? Some of you have "left home" for the first time. You are no longer a child but an adult. Are you preparing yourselves well to be an effective Christian? Are you more dedicated to the Most High?

Do you feel that there is a "generation gap" in the church as there is in the world? If there is then those of you who are older should be able to serve as a "go-between" for those who are involved in this "communication gap."

Don't wait until you are older to get involved. Don't wait until you finish college to start saving souls. You will never be better able to work for the Lord than you can now! One of the problems we as the older generation have is that we have always waited until something was finished before

getting involved. First it was finishing high school; then college; then a family to rear with college to save for; then a little salted away for retirement. By that time if one or both are not dead we are too tired to serve God. By then we have seen the truth in the verse which says it is good to serve God in our youth!

You should have the confidence necessary to serve God. If you have the faith and zeal you will find time. This may sound funny coming from us; but to be perfectly frank---we have always found time to do those things we really wanted to.

Never has the world needed to have Christ preached to it than now. Never have people had more ways and ability to preach Christ than you have. The only thing that will keep you from being successful is if you do not have the desire. Pray for zeal! Pray for wisdom! Pray for us as older people! Our time may be rapidly running out, but we can still add our bit to the tremendous need of preaching Christ to all the world.

"O Lord, grant us the time, talent and desire to give thee our time and testimony and devotion. In the name of Christ--A-men.

Sincerely yours,
The "Older Generation"

EEG

PRESCRIPTION FOR THE BLUES:

One day when I was worried, and feeling very blue, I read a small prescription, that I will share with you.

It said, "When you're discouraged, Don't sit down and fret and frown,

Just get a peice of paper, and write your blessings down."

I thought that there was nothing, for me to write about But long before I finished, My fountain pen ran out!

God permits me to retain what little mind I have. I do not confess to have all the answers, but at least these thoughts express some of my thoughts in regard to this. I appreciate the interest and the opportunity to be able to give some ideas on this topic.

E.E.G.

NEWS AND NOTES

The congregation here is happy to have brother and sister Stewart and family visiting us today. Brother Stewart is the regular preacher for the East Chestnut St. congregation in Ft. Wayne, and he will speak to us this morning. Our brother Gieseke is taking brother Stewart's place at the East Chestnut St. congregation today. Some other "pulpit swaps" are in the making in the future by brother Gieseke. We appreciate getting to know the Stewart's better as well as other ministers in the area, and this seems to be a good way to do it. We welcome them today.

The Gieseke's returned from their Kentucky trip Friday afternoon, refreshed and tired (Aren't all vacations that way?) We are happy for their safe return.

There will be a basket dinner at Camp Indogan this coming Friday (July 4th). There are plenty of things to do (work, talk, eat, fish, providing you get your work done). Come bring the whole family for an enjoyable and safe day.

Earl Gieseke
Route #2, Box 46
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

E L H O R T E R

June 29, 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

MODERN DAY MIRACLES--From God or Satan?

One of the good ladies in the church handed me a couple of papers from an "evangelistic group" and asked me what I thought about him. Since I do not personally know the man I would like to comment on this total movement in the religious world. This is a type of "faith-healer" movement. Since we see and hear so much of this I would like to take this opportunity to comment on it. I want to do this in this way instead of (or in addition to) in a class or sermon. The sermons stay with us so little at best, and even the materials we may discuss in class is hard to remember. If there is any reaction to this article I would appreciate hearing what you think on this matter.

Let me say first of all that I do believe in miracles. Every time I see a new-born baby I see

the handiwork of a Divine Creator. I see the works of one that I can in all good conscience call Reverend each time I gaze up into the heaven, or examine the intricate embryo of a simple flower under the school's microscope. I try to point this out to my students without getting "preachy" in our classes.

Each time I see a penitent sinner confess Christ as his or her Saviour I see the miracle of God. "When I think that God His Son not sparing, sent Him to die I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin." It is certainly a miracle that one could die for me almost 2,000 years ago that I might have my sins remitted through obedience to the Word.

I must confess that I do not believe that men are able to do miracles as they profess to do through the power of God. By this I do not intend to imply that God could not do the miracles if He so wanted to do. The miracles of the first century were done with a very definite purpose in mind--that of leading people to believe in Christ as the only Son of God. John said that this was the purpose of him writing his gospel account. We have the words of the inspired men to tell us of the mighty and wondrous power of God. Therefore, if it takes miracles to cause me to have faith in God and in His Son, then I do not believe in Him who died for me, but the miracles.

There are two powers at work in the world today: God and the devil. All mighty works are done under the influence of one of these personalities. In Mark 3:22-23 Jesus infers that Satan has the power to do mighty works if he so desires. In the book of Job the devil is shown with miraculous powers. In 2 Thes. 2:11 it is expressed that Satan would come with power and lying wonders to deceive those who would not obey the truth. (The love of the truth) Is it too hard to believe that Satan in his cunning craftiness could not, and would not, do many things to keep people from obeying the simple truth of the gospel of Christ. Certainly this sounds and looks good, and will draw large and gullible crowds.

Everyone wants something for nothing.

If these men can heal as they say they can why are they not in our mental institutions and other hospitals raising the dead, healing those who are lame or possessed with devils? I will tell you why--because they don't have this power from God. Why would God limit this power to a few "select" people? Is God a respecter of persons? I believe these men are false prophets; servants of Satan, who are leading millions of sincere people into eternity without obeying the pure and simple gospel of Jesus Christ. Satan offered the world to Christ on a platter if he would fall down and worship him. Is it too hard to believe that he would help a few do a "miracle" now and then to lead millions into the grave and hell. It would be a small price for Satan to pay to cast out a few of his helpers (if indeed people are today possessed by demons) in order to gain multitudes. Satan's "gospel" is a gospel of "feeling" rather than truth to be saved. He wants them to believe that they are healed by God so that they will do nothing to obey God. Why should a person go through the Bible plan of gospel obedience when they are convinced that God has indeed touched them in some special way.

The devil is cunning and wise. He has tricks that men have never even thought of yet to use, and he deals them out as they are necessary to deceive men. It is difficult to teach one who has had an "experience" that it may have been Satan working in the disguise of good. Paul speaks of this in 2 Cor. 11:13, 15. Read this carefully and see if the very appearance of Satan's helpers might not be as a servant of God.

But we need to keep in mind that their end will be according to their works. Let us continue in the well-defined path of the Word of God. Let those who would, follow men, but let us follow Christ. If anything can save man that is not revealed in the Bible, then surely that which is revealed in the Bible will save. Therefore we have nothing to lose by sticking with the Pattern as revealed in the Bible--and this I will do if