

Saying that a child must make his own decision as to whether or not he will go to church is shirking parental responsibility.

---Selected---

NEWS AND NOTES

We are sorry to see so many who have been home over this vacation have to go back to their work - the four college girls and Sister Wade - but it must be so, so we wish you all God-speed and pray for you God's richest blessings throughout 1970. We'll look forward to your coming home again in the Spring.

OUR WORK HERE must go on:

This Wednesday at 12:30 P.M. the ladies are to meet at sister Sharon Pieratt's home for making tray favors for the hospital and Nursing Home. For doubling up for rides, contact sisters Hoggatt or Hostetler.

A mens fellowship to be hosted by the Lagrange congregation is scheduled for next Friday evening, January 9, at the Sveden House Restaurant in Ft. Wayne. The location is in the Gateway Plaza, U.S. 30 and 33 West, and the time is at 7 o'clock. It would be good if all the men here could attend this. The subject for discussion is "Improving Congregational Ties", one which is quite challenging for the new year.

Remember the singing at Mark's Nursing Home this evening at 6 o'clock.

Thanks are in order for all the men who worked on the classroom addition over the holidays. We all are looking forward to the time soon when we can put it to good use.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

January 4, 1970

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

CHARACTER, which is made by many acts, may be lost by a single one.
----Sel.

A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

To think that two hours at any movie is harmless for the child, but that two hours of church and Sunday Bible School is too much for his nervous system, is just bad thinking.

Giving him a nickel for the offering and 50¢ for the movies, not only shows a parent's sense of values, but is also not likely to produce a good and faithful steward.

Letting him listen to several hours of radio or TV programs a day, with no time for prayer and listening to God's Word, is criminal unbalance.

Being careful that Junior has his week-end lessons from school and not caring that he knows the church and her teachings will make for spiritual illiteracy and delinquency. (Cont. on back page)

"DANGER IN PROVERBS"

A proverb is a saying, an adage, a motto, an unquestioned saying. Here I am not speaking of the inspired Proverbs of Solomon, but the religious sayings upon which too many people base their hope.

Although proverbs in and of themselves may be good, and in some cases true, they are worthless as far as religion is concerned. Ezekiel quotes two proverbs upon which the Jews were comforting themselves. (Eze. 12:22,27) He plainly tells them they cannot rely upon them. These two proverbs indicated that the people need not worry because the days spoken of would be prolonged and the visions would fail.

Sometimes we feel towards or think concerning the end of life or the coming of the Lord as we do about the horizon. No matter how far or how fast we travel the horizon is still just out there ahead of us. But, if you turn and look back the horizon is no farther behind you than when you started. So it is with life and death in the eyes of God. He is not bound by time. Our life, long though it may be as we measure time, is nevertheless, only a heartbeat in the mind of God.

Knowing that life is short and eternity is endless, we should give ourselves wholly to preparation for it. "Let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (I Thess. 5:6) We ought not to base our hope of salvation on the wise sayings of men. Proverbs are fine to prove a point in conversation, but they are useless as a basis for salvation.

The aptness of a proverb attracts us. We are often taken by the neatness of phrase. A lie may be ably expressed, and a great fallacy may strike us as being well put. Thus the form disguises the substance. Its wide use and acceptance throws many off guard. What "everybody" says or does is taken for granted as being true. Proverbs are supposed to contain wisdom of the ancients". But

as Bacon wrote: "We are the ancients, and those who lived before us belong to the childhood of the race. Other things being equal, the latest sayings should be the truest."

But we must know that aptness of the expression has nothing to do with the truth of the statement. Also, we know that the mass of the people may be in error. The Lord's church has never been characterized by large numbers. God's people have always been a minority. The voice of the people are by no means the voice of God. When a common prejudice becomes a part of the minds they are all likely to be deluded into a common error!

The proverb must be tested. Does it in any way contradict the Bible? Does it say the same thing as the Bible? If so, it is not a proverb, but the Word of God.

The Jews were taking comfort from a proverb that delayed the judgment of God. As with all sinners, the eye for the sins of others was so much keener than for their own. They were, perhaps, unconsciously allocating coming good to themselves and evil for others. Rather than using the delay of judgment for repentance, they took it to mean that the judgment wasn't to come at all. They were trusting in their fleshly position to save them from the terrible judgment that was yet to come. Let us who are enlightened by the Word put our future in the sure hand of God. Let us place our confidence in the inspired Scriptures. Let each of us believe and obey the Word which is able to make us "wise unto salvation!"

E. E. G.

WHEN IS A CHRISTIAN NOT A CHRISTIAN?

---Sel.

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting any seed, and stops harvesting, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a farmer. He is known as an ex-farmer. When a Christian stops attending the services, stops studying the Bible, stops singing and stops praying and stops contributing as he has been prospered, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian.

(Continued from page 3)

Let us determine in our hearts to teach by word and deed according to the true goal of Bible teaching--"love flowing from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith.

E. E. G.

THE PERFECT CHURCH?

I think that I shall never see

A church that's all it ought to be;

A church whose members never stray

Beyond the straight and narrow way;

A church that has no empty pews

Whose preacher never has the blues;

A church whose deacons always "deak"

And none is proud and all are meek;

Where gossips never peddle lies

Or make complaints or criticize;

Where all are always sweet and kind

And all to others' faults are blind;

Such perfect churches there may be

But none of them are known to me;

But, Still, we'll work and pray and plan

To make this one the best we can!

You can't have the unity of the spirit until
you have the spirit of unity.

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

January 11, 1970

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	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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Route 4, Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

Let discouragement
harden your determination,
never your heart.

--Sel.

SHALL WE SURVIVE?

Our society today is plagued with those who insist on their rights, but who are thoughtless of the rights of others. There are those who are so concerned with what they can get out of the government, out of the community, but are totally unconcerned with what they can put into our country. All too common is the philosophy that a man is entitled to what he can put his hands on, to what he can get away with or what he can carry off. Men now live by the gospel of irresponsibility. They say it is a free country, but they practice a freedom gone mad, a freedom that allows them to disrespect the freedom of others. They are self-willed, and know nothing of the greatness of self-surrender. Under the present philosophy, neither democracy nor civilization can survive.

---Selected

"OUR GOAL"

"The goal of our instruction is love flowing from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith." (I Tim. 1:5)

All of us have goals. These may be classified as either short-term or long-term. All of us as adults do teach in one or more ways. The teaching will, if successful, result in a change in the taught. Millions of dollars are spent in teaching in various fields. Advertising has teaching as its goal.

The goal of all religious teaching is stated in the verse quoted at the beginning of this article. In order to offset false teaching and false teachers the true scope of the gospel is given here. Practical religious teaching tends to unite men in love. It is impossible to maintain love in the presence of doctrinal differences. This love, which is the goal of Bible instruction, is out of a pure heart, and a good conscience, and of a sincere faith. Peter speaks of Christians as having "purified their heart by obeying the truth".

The good conscience comes from obeying God. Peter speaks of our being saved by baptism the same as Noah had been saved by water. There was no magic in the ark or water then or now, but the answer of a good conscience toward God. This kind of obedience gives reality and power to love, because it is not of faith of pretence, but faith in action.

The root and stem of religious teaching is to lead a person in to the beauty of Christ-like character. Bible teaching is not merely to lead men to a knowledge of doctrine and to ritualistic worship. Ecclesiasticism is not necessarily religion. We can have ceremony in worship without the Spirit of Christ and God being in the midst of us. Bible teaching will lead one to live Christ; and to live Christ is to live in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us. Bible teaching will result in personal faith that will work in the spirit of love.

The heart is the testing place of what we like. "The good man out of the good treasures of his heart brings forth good things!" The true goal of Bible teaching is not merely to teach men to do the right things, but to enjoy doing the right things. The desires of our heart is the index of morality. Tell me what you enjoy and I'll tell you what kind of a person you are. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." "Out of the heart are the issues of life." Good actions do not make a good man; it is the good man that makes the action good. Christ would have us all desire and seek a pure heart.

This is all based on a sincere faith. We must be without hypocrisy. Without sincerity our faith is not real or beautiful. From application of Bible teaching we will come to have an honest, earnest, real faith.

We must believe that in each man there is the ideal of God. We must know that despite the depravity and degradation of character that knowledge and obedience of the Word will transform the person's life and character into the glory of Christ. For man's conscience was made to know the truth, his heart to feel it, and his will to be guided and energized by it. If we view man in any other way we will make no effort to save him.

Our faith must be sincerely grounded in the power of Christ and his cross to save, or we shall not be enthusiastic in preaching them. No doubter can be an effective teacher or preacher. Men know and feel the power of ardent faith. The one great element of success is sincere faith--a faith which says, "I believe, and therefore I do!" Our doing must not be for the sake of position, or to please men. Such a faith will enable us to say with Paul, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Christ Jesus our Lord".

We must live according to our faith. Our faith must be practiced in our everyday life. Ours should not be a faith that is merely dogmatic; which holds fast the doctrine, but fails to translate it into our life. Our faith is not to be a wax-work fruit--something resembling fruit, yet artificial and unreal--but the living vine, of which Christ is the root.

(cont. on back page)

NEWS AND NOTES

Next Lord's Day, brother Gieseke and brother Gary Johnson of the Niles, Michigan congregation will be exchanging pulpits. Brother Johnson and his family plan to leave the Niles congregation this summer and work with the Adrian church, who in turn will help support the Johnson's in mission work in Angola, Africa. We're happy that they can visit here before their leaving.

There is to be a meeting at the Heritage House in Ft. Wayne this Friday evening of all Christians who are interested in the Nigerian Christian schools. If you would care to go, please read the letter which is on the bulletin board. It is headed MEMO TO THE AREA CHRISTIAN MEN but I believe that this is a mistake and men and women both are invited. If you are interested in going let brother Hoggatt know and he will find out for sure.

The dates for our spring gospel meeting has definitely been set for April 16 through April 22. Brother James Meadows will be the speaker. Also a fall meeting is being planned with brother Goebel Music speaking. This meeting with brother Music has been in the works for 6 years. Let's pray and work that these two efforts will bear much fruit in the year 1970.

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 18, 1970

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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PREPARATION

When Ben's master died, they told Ben that his master had gone to Heaven. Ben only shook his head and said, "I's 'fraid he ain't gone there."

"But, why Ben?" someone inquired. "What makes you say that?"

"Cause," replied the old darkey, "I always hear massa talk about his trips. When he go north, or go on any journey he talk about it a long time and do a heap o' gettin' ready. I ain't never heard him talk about goin' to Heaven and I ain't never seen him gettin' ready to go there."

(Continued on back page)

TOO BUSY TO SERVE

Signs of warning to speeders on the highways say, "Slow Down and Live". The Christians of this century need that warning in their lives because more and more they are becoming - TOO BUSY TO SERVE!

It is hard to find a suitable time for a class of Bible study, for there are so many activities to which those interested are already obligated. Even a preacher found himself apologizing because he had been so busy that he had not had time to prepare his sermons properly. Another man was being considered for appointment to the eldership, but he informed the church that he would be so busy in his business that he could not find time to serve. TOO BUSY TO SERVE!

TOO WORRIED TO WAIT

"But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:25). We often are so worried and anxious about the problems and affairs of this life that we cannot patiently wait for the promises of God. A man gets so anxious about his job; a woman gets so anxious about her daughter's social life, that we do not take time to enjoy life together - much less to study patiently the promises that we wait for God to fulfill.

TOO TIRED TO TOIL

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58). One man had been on such a round of work and pleasure from Sunday morning until Saturday at midnight that he was too tired to go to the worship service on the Lord's day.

A life of "pleasure" had become more important than a life of Christian service.

TOO WORLDLY TO WORSHIP

Some have become enamored with the world that they want to wed the church to the world. They are not satisfied to worship God "in spirit and in truth." Spiritual worship, simple and heartfelt, does not satisfy a worldly mind. They want to transform worship into an emotional experience or a ritual or a ceremony. There must always be some kind of drive some special week or day, some celebration or celebrity. We need to be busy, for an idle mind is the devil's workshop, but let us never become so involved in worldliness that we are left unsatisfied by simple worship of God in kGod's way!

--Bill Humble

--via Brookston Bulletin

HOW MANY WORKERS?

If someone asks you how many members there are in the congregation, it would not be difficult for you to give the approximate number. But if someone asks "how many workers have you?" what would you answer?

According to "old math", one church member plus good intentions, minus action, figures zero with nothing to carry. Do you count as a worker in the church, or are you just a cipher?

--Selected

(Continued from front page).

Have those who are nearest to you heard you talking about going to Heaven and have they seen you making preparations?

--Selected

News and notes;

We welcome the Johnson's and appreciate their being with us today. Brother Gieseke, preaching at Niles in brother Johnson's place. This "preacher swap" will allow us to get better acquainted with the Johnson's and hope that throughout the day, they can become better acquainted with more of their brothers and sisters in Christ, at Lagrange. The plans of the Johnson's include concluding their work with the Niles congregation this summer and working with the Adrian, Michigan congregation for a short time after which they will leave for Angola, Africa in a missionary field. All reports from the Niles congregation attest to the good work they are doing at Niles and they are going to be missed greatly when they leave. We bid them God-speed and hope for them God's richest blessings in all their doings.

We invite everyone to stay for the potluck dinner immediately following morning services. This marks somewhat of a milestone for the church here in that it is the first time we have used the new addition (thanks to the help of many "cleaners" yesterday) for our fellowship. We are sorry that the Gieseke's cannot share this time with us as they deserve to (brother Earl has given many hours in the building process) but we hope that they can in the near future and today we hope for them a safe and enjoyable trip.

We received the Emmitt Herr's address in Florida:
1702 13th St.
St. Cloud, Fla. 32769

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

January 24, 1970

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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Telephone #463-3571

Some people drink
at the fountain of
knowledge--others
just gargle.
Sel.

WHICH DISTURBS YOU MOST?

A soul on the way to hell or a scratch on
your new car?
Missing a church service or missing a days
work?
Your Bible being unopened or your newspaper
going unread?
Your contribution to the church decreasing
or your income decreasing?
Your children being late for Bible school or
late for Public School?
Your work of the church being neglected or
your housework being neglected?
Low attendance at a church meeting or low
attendance at a party?
A congregation not growing or a garden not
growing?
Sel.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING

We are now into a new year. Although we may view the past year with mixed emotions, there is nothing to do to change the past; but we can plan to serve more effectively today and tomorrow. Part of the secret to success is a matter of planning. Planning alone is not sufficient—the plans must be carried out. The ability to plan and then carry out the plan is a mark of maturity. I believe that most of my glaring weaknesses can be traced to a lack of planning in my early life.

In other words some of our handicaps are self-imposed! We often labour under the misconception that we have never done a particular thing; therefore it cannot be done by us. If people faced life in general the way they face serving God they would never be able to hold a job. Can you imagine Dale Carnegie saying some time in the past: "Why I can't give a speech because I never gave one before?"

I think one of our problems in the church is that we don't see the necessity of succeeding as we do in material things. We can see the importance of going to work each workday (and sometimes on Sundays) because we expect to get paid for it in a short time. We know that when the money stops coming in that the groceries soon stop, and we will be hungry. We do not seem to see the importance of "working out our salvation with fear and trembling," because we are not convinced we are lost. We do not become concerned with teaching others because we are not aware of our own lost condition.

Some one has said that necessity is the mother of invention. When we see the seriousness of the Christian life; the

salvation of our own soul and our neighbor's, we will find ourselves busily engaged in soul winning. Some will say, "I can't." You can, and not only can you, but you will when you think it important enough. More than one writer points out the sadness of old age without fruit being borne.

Two things I always knew I would never be when I had grown to be a man—a teacher and a preacher! (I think sometimes I was probably right!) As a result of this kind of "thinking I failed to prepare myself in many ways. Fortunately some of the deficiencies could be corrected in later life. But there comes a time when the period to correct any past mistakes is past.

So it is in our lives. The rearing of our children in the Lord must be done at the proper time. The opportunity is never repeated. How many well meaning parents have said in despair: "I was going to take them to church to learn about God as soon as ..." As the tree falleth so shall it lie! How easy to look back and regret; but how hard to look ahead and avoid.

The work of the church must be planned ahead of time. In as much as possible, we must try to anticipate the needs of tomorrow. Let us plan all phases of the Lord's work carefully. Of course, this will include our own life, because we are the Lord's and he is God's. Let us plan our physical and spiritual well-being carefully. We only get one chance.

E. E. G.

HOUSE AND HOME

A house is built of logs and stone,
Of tiles and posts and piers;
A home is built of loving deeds
That stand a thousand years.

--Victor Hugo

NEWS AND NOTES

Don't forget our singing this evening at the Mark's Nursing Home at 6 o'clock.

PARENTS .. Be sure to bring your little children to brother Hostetler's class at 6:30 on Sunday evening. This class meets every Sunday evening except the first Sunday of the month, when we all go to the Nursing Home to sing.

There is a "TEENAGE CHRISTIAN" price schedule in the vestibule for teenagers who would like to receive this publication. There are club rates for five or more subscriptions. If you're interested, get the number together and we'll place an order.

EVERY FAMILY .. be sure to pick up a bulletin and other publications as you leave every Sunday. Many times these accumulate and are not used as they ought to be. If anyone has any article, announcement or any other information that would be of interest to the church here, please give it to brother Hoggatt.

How about a general cleanup work-day within the next couple of weeks for the new addition? Things are shaping up and much cleaning needs to be done before we start to use it. Let's talk it over and decide the best time.

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 1, 1970

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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"I AM DOING A GREAT WORK"

All men want to do great works! Our greatest problem is that we are convinced that only a small number can achieve greatness. Perhaps we may be using the wrong standards to measure greatness. Most people consider the most important thing to be advancement of men's temporal interest; but a few are promoting true religion; diffusion of the gospel; working with and for Christ.

Many things are needful to make a person successful. We must have some foresight. Today is the best time to prepare for the future. We shall be able to triumph in this life in preparation to the extent that we develop our inner life. Men who care only for the passing moment are shallow and

weak. David let his lust rob him of his foresight. Had he taken time to consider the consequences of his illicit affair with Bathsheba he would no doubt have refrained from the "double-sin". We are strong in preparation as we live in the future.

This is not to say that we should not seek a present, temporary reward. We can succeed in the present while preparing for success in the future. The student, while laboring to pass a test today, is storing up knowledge and power. The person who is not looking forward and preparing for a time of demand will never be successful. The psalmist speaks of the sorrow of not producing fruit in old age. The reason for this is that they did not prepare in the past. Paul says we must "redeem the time".

One of the ways we can succeed is by cooperating with others. No man is sufficient in and of himself. The ability to cooperate often means a willingness to take on inferior place; to obey instructions, to give up our own ideas or preference and adopt another person's method. It often means listening and learning, conciliation and concession, punctuality and politeness.

Success to any degree require ambition and perseverance. We must aspire to greater things. We must not be too easily satisfied. We should be content with our lot, but not with our life. There is nothing wrong in trying to improve one's way of living; provided this does not interfere with our service to Christ, and we do it in an honest manner.

Nehemiah chose not to let things of secondary importance detain his labor of love. He recognized the necessity of his presence for the work to continue. We often fail to be conscious of the importance of our physical presence to the success of a

particular work. Our presence at each worship service is an encouragement to the teachers and other people in the Bible classes and worship services. Too many times we may feel that one more or less present at a service is of small importance. But let's stop and think how significant this may be. Suppose you are a teacher and your student hears you discuss the importance of regular worship and service to God. If you fail to show up this may cause that student to adopt a negative view toward attendance. Suppose someone you have casually invited shows up and doesn't see you, will they be likely to think they should return?

Being a live, active, steadfast Christian is the most important job we can do. Anyone can be successful at it. No special training is required. The talent needed is never more than we have. Let us say with Nehemiah when other things call to us to leave the service of God to join them: "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" (Neh. 6:3)

There are some things that only you can do. Why should they cease? There are things that you must do! If you do not do them they may or may not get done; but the important thing is -- you will receive no benefit from it unless you do it!

E. E. G.

What are you Worth (Physically)?

Sulphur--Enough to rid a dog of fleas.
Fat-----Enough for six bars of soap.
Phosphorus--enough for 20 boxes of matches.
Potassium--enough to explode a toy cannon.
Lime-----enough to whitewash a chicken coop.
Iron-----enough for a sixpenny nail.
Sugar--enough for 10 cups of coffee, if you use it.
The rest-H₂O (water)
Total Value-----\$1.50.

NEWS AND NOTES

This afternoon at 3 o'clock, Garrett is scheduled to have the area wide singing for this month. If you haven't made plans for the day, you should have a wonderful time at this fellowship. It draws from all the congregations in the Ft. Wayne (and fifty miles around) area.

Sister Gieseke is to be the hostess for the ladies tray favor meeting this Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. It will be held in the church building.

Thanks to brother and sister Miller, we have been promised some tables and chairs from the North Central congregation in Indianapolis within the next two or three weeks. They happened to be there at the right time to speak for them. A list is on the bulletin board as to what we can have. It seems the Lord is helping us to equip the new classroom.

Thanks to all of the help (especially the ladies) given this past week in finishing up the new addition. Although it looks done (without close inspection) there still is a lot of work to do. Perhaps there are some who can arrange to still come in on Saturdays to complete this work.

Suggestion: Each Christian make it a point to contact one new family each week and invite them to church services or to study the Bible with you. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a number of new families in our midst?

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 8, 1970

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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Men who never change their
minds love themselves
more than they love the
truth.

--Sel.

THE BIBLE

The Bible is still the best handbook of the worthy citizen, for it teaches us many truths which make nations strong and keep them so. It will teach us in the appointed, inscrutable law of human life, and in the great race of mankind we must hand down to future generations a brighter and ever brighter torch of knowledge and love. It will teach us to know man simply as man, and to regard all men, from the highest to the lowest, as absolutely equal before the bar of justice - equally under the stroke of her hand, equally under the shadow of her shield. It will teach us invariably that the unjust and immoral practices must be put down in the interests of the community, and that the interests of the community are subordinate always to those (cont. P. 3)

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

time

Since the beginning of our building program, much[^] and attention has been given toward our classroom addition. Such time has been well spent providing that this accomplishment does not lull us into complacency. There is no real substitute for teaching the lost and we cannot expect anything that we have to do it--not our commodious auditorium, nor the padded pews, nor the air-conditioning, and yes, not the new classroom wing. All of these are useful and have their purpose but do not at the outset lead men to the Lord. There is no substitute or short-cut for personal evangelism. Teaching, person to person, has been, and will always be the most effective way and nothing can really take its place. I read of a president of one of the largest insurance companies in the world, attributing their volume of business to individual sales. Over a hundred million policy holders in his company, and every one of them was sold one at a time. The prime ingredients were a messenger, a message and a prospect. Such are the necessary ingredients in the Lord's business. He set the example and then directed us to go, teach. For a rather small congregation of the Lord's church in Lagrange, we are fortunate to have such wonderful physical facilities that we do, but let us account these as tools and implements to supplement or encourage evangelism.

There are many outward signs of progress in the church at Lagrange. The faith expressed in our decision to build, the willingness of many to give their time, the readiness of new members taking part in the worship services, the good attendance of the members to all the services of the church, the enrolling of new teachers in our teaching program, the faithful preaching of the gospel from the pulpit, along with the one-ness of hospitality and love among the members, all point to progress in the Lord's work.

It is with grateful hearts that we view this matter. For years the work has been slow and except for a few "ups" along the way, it has been discouraging at times. It does seem now that the church here has the greatest potential than it has ever had for an effective work. This year we should be better able to capitalize on our opportunities. Two gospel meetings are scheduled by very capable preachers. Our new classroom facility can make our Vacation Bible School the best ever. The development of our teachers will automatically strengthen the church toward other areas of the Lord's work. We should pray and work so that it will. Above all, now that the demand for work and time is lessening, on our classroom addition, let us redirect our energies toward personal evangelism.

D. H.

THE BIBLE

(cont. from page 1)

of the entire people; and it will teach us that the true glory of nations lies not in the splendid miseries of war, but in the dissemination of honorable happiness and encouragement of greatness and the suppression of vice; and it will teach us that the true wealth of a nation is not in silver and gold, but in the souls of strong, contented, and self-respecting men; and it will teach us that the true freedom of a nation lies not in the anarchic right of licensed temptation and unrestricted facilities for crime, but in the binds of a material obedience deeply cherished by the good, but inexorably enforced on all the bad.

Selected
--Brookston Bulletin

To err is only human, but when you wear out the eraser before you've used up the pencil, you're overdoing it.

—Sel.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. If an unbeliever, I must "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Belief is expressed in obedience, (Rom. 10:10 Acts 16:30,31)
2. If a believer, I must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of my sins. Having obeyed from the heart, I am assured of the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37,38)
3. If a penitent believer, I must arise, and be baptized," and wash away my sins, calling upon His name. Acts 22:16
4. If a babe in Christ, I must in my faith supply virtue; in my virtue, knowledge; in my knowledge, self-control; in my self-control, patience; and in my patience, godliness; and in my godliness, brotherly kindness; and in my brotherly kindness, love. I Pet. 1:5-7)
5. If an erring Christian, I must repent of my error (or sin) and pray the Lord for pardon. (Acts 8:22; 1 Jn. 1:7,8)

-Frank L. Cox

----- Don't forget to pick up a copy of the bulletin each week, and other literature on the registration desk. This week there are some copies of Action and Gospel Vidette. -----

Earl Gieseke
Route #4 Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

February 15, 1970

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

YOUR CHURCH AND MINE
---Selected

As I read the Sunday paper
I ran across this line:
"Today you go to your church
And I will go to mine."
I've read the Bible o're and o're ;
And never found that line
"Today you go to your church
And I will go to mine."
"Upon this rock I'll build my church"
The Saviour said one day.
And before the dear Lord died
He humbly knelt to pray.
"May they be one as we are one,
And who believe on me,
So that the world may surely know
I'm loved and sent by Thee"
"Yes, you may go to your church.
But let me tell you this:
Your worship will be void and vain
Unless you go to HIS!

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW GOD'S WORD?

It has been said that most of us do just about everything we want to do. The following article shows how much we can do when we really want to:

"Recently a short notice was published concerning the late Mr. William McPherson. Mr. McPherson had lost his eyes and hands in a dynamite explosion. He found it difficult to face the world of darkness. God's Word became extremely important to him. He wanted to read the Bible, but he couldn't master Braille with artificial hands. He tried the raised letters with his lips, but the dynamite had seared him until he had no feeling in them. One day he discovered that he could distinguish the letters with his tongue. As he eagerly sought to learn the Braille system, his tongue became sore, raw and would bleed. He would stay up all night just to learn one new letter of the alphabet.

Over a period of sixty-five years, spent in darkness, he read the entire Bible four times with his tongue."

And to think that some of us make feeble and lame excuses for not attending Bible Study; for not studying our Bibles.

--Selected

THOUGHTS

"Your morning thoughts may determine your conduct for the day. Optimistic thoughts will make your day bright and productive, while pessimistic thinking will make it dull and wasteful. Face each day cheerfully, smilingly and courageously, and it will naturally follow that your work will be a real pleasure, and progress will be a delightful accomplishment.

--Selected

THE TIME OF TEMPTATION

We are told that the devil roams the earth (Job 1:7) as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8), and that he is powerful (Eph. 6:12), subtle (Gen. 3:1), and wise in the ways of men (Job 2:4-5) but not unbeatable.

He sends the time of temptation at a time when his lies will be effectual. It was after Jesus had fasted forty days and must have been very hungry, that Satan said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Jesus used the same weapon to defeat Satan that we have today: "It is written . . . (Matt. 4)

When a Christian seeks the comforts of this life beyond his power to afford, and gets indebted to the users above his ability to pay, then Satan says, "Steal, rob, cheat, forsake the assembly to work, don't give . . ."

When a wife does not fulfill her duties as a wife, Satan points to the strange woman with the fluttering eyelashes and unholy skirts, and the man sometimes fails to realize that "her feet go down to the death; her steps take hold on hell" (Prov. 5:5)

When the alcoholic turns from his way and becomes a babe in Christ, then fails to have the help and encouragement he needs, or fails to take it, then Satan says, "One drink won't hurt." "But at last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Prov. 23:32)

When a preacher, teacher, or elder does his best, but without results or encouragement, then temptation comes.

Every Christian needs to realize that our labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58) We need to put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11-16) to worship every time the saints meet, to study and pray, both privately and in the assembly, to exhort, reprove, and rebuke (2 Tim. 4:2).

We shall reap if we faint not (Gal. 6:9).

---By Edward G. Hood

THE BIBLE SCHOOL

Think of its value! Very seriously consider
what your attendance will do:

Elevate you
Reverence God
Honor the Cause
Encourage another
Make angels rejoice
Set the right example
Lead others to do right
Keep your soul from error
Assist your teacher to teach
Brighten your hopes of heaven
Keep you out of bad company
Help to form a good habit
Prove your faithfulness
Enable you to conquer
Lighten your sorrow
Lift your burdens
Honor the Bible
Obey the Lord
Build us up.

Very cordially do we invite you. Come and bring
your Bible. Come and bring a friend. Let us study
God's great book. Divine favors will fall.

- Minister's Monthly-

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

February 22, 1970

Schedule of Regular Services

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

Earl Gieseke, Minister	It is wiser to choose
405 South Townline Road	what you say than to
Route #4, Box 46	say what you choose.
Lagrange, Indiana 46761	--Sel.
Telephone No. 463-3571	

K I N D N E S S

I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend,
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.

I would rather have a pleasant word
In kindness said to me,
Than flattery when my heart is still
And this life has ceased to be.

I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true,
Than tears shed around my casket
When this world I bid adieu.

Bring me all the flowers today,
Whether pink, or white, or red;
I'd rather have one blossom now
Than a truckload when I'm dead.

---Selected

FASHIONS DO AFFECT MORALS!

In my opinion, there are many women and girls who do not realize that many young men, and older men, do not appreciate the short skirts that most of them wear. Certainly they have not been an encouragement to those who try to heed the teaching of Jesus that one should not look on a woman to lust after her. If more women were concerned about not revealing so much of their flesh, there might be fewer lustful looks. If Bathsheba had been more careful about where she took a bath, David might not have been involved in adultery and murder. David was sinful in these thoughts and deeds, but she was not without her responsibility. Good people, through carelessness, can contribute to sin.

It is not without significance that, although, in newspaper style, a brief editorial in the COMMERCIAL APPEAL called the forecast of a return to longer dress a "welcome forecast". One of the nation's leading beauty experts has told Memphians that, "tomorrow's girl" is going to cover up her knees and assume a proper look.

This expert, head of the Maid of Cotton Judges, probably does not realize how welcome is his prediction. It may be because of advancing years, but there are many who feel that skirts, like taxes, have been too high too long.

In this matter of dress, as well as many other things, it is easy to be carried along thoughtlessly by the passing fashions of the world.

It is well to observe that when I have mentioned this matter in my classes that there have been young men who thanked me for doing so. All of our ladies and girls should read again and again I Timothy 2, and determine now that they are going to dress as Christians should. If a woman could only know the fact that only wicked men admire them in indecent

BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS CONFRONTS "FAKE HEALER"

During October several denominational groups combined forces to bring to Singapore a supposed "faith healer". They rented a large open theater and did the usual carnival advertising regarding this man's purported power to heal the sick, make the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak and the lame to walk. A group of students at Four Seas College, together with Brother Eddy Ee, one of their Bible teachers, decided to attend

One of the students, Raybestor Loke, is a polio victim which has rendered him crippled in both hands and feet. He and the other students decided to put the "faith healer" to the test. As the call came for those desiring healing, Raybestor joined the line. When he finally stood before the "healer", much praying was done over him and the "healer" tried forcibly to straighten Raybestor's twisted hands. When it was obvious that he had failed, the preacher informed him (Raybestor) that he lacked faith. When Raybestor asked him how much faith the dead son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-15) possessed; he of course, had no reply.

World Radio News

* * *

The man who hungers and thirsts after righteousness will not come dragging in late at mealtime.

* * *

apparel, they would dress so as to appeal to the higher type of men, rather than to the ungodly.

J. D. Bales, Harding
College

to murder and rape are going on under the eyes of a "don't get involved" society. This attitude is fast becoming a part of our religious atmosphere. It doesn't matter what you do as long as it is "approved" by an indifferent society. The people today are "busy here and there." We hear the expression, and even from Christians(?): "My neighbor is a good Christian man, but he doesn't belong to any church. Really? That must be the easy way out. I suppose the next thing will be canned or bottled "instant religion." You simply stir a spoonful into your beer or sprinkle some on the tobacco in cigarettes and one can drink and smoke himself or herself right in through the "pearly gates."

Every person must be involved in their local program of work. There is much teaching that needs to be done. This does not all consist of classroom and pulpit teaching. Paul taught the Ephesians "publicly, and from house to house." The main reason any church grows is because of personal work done by the members. Christians must be convinced of their convictions. The prophet wrote: "My people perish for a lack of knowledge." America does not suffer from a lack of knowledge; the problem is, we have the wrong kind of knowledge. Our duty is clear--"we must make known the manifold wisdom of God."

If we are found faithful in Christ it matters little whether we achieve fame or fortune as the world counts these things. If we are unfaithful in Christ, it matters little how many great things we do. The writer wrote: "My people doth not consider." The people of old, as the people today, were not willing to walk in the "old paths." Faithfulness was not the popular thing then either. Let us, though a minority group, "stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where is the good way," and be "faithful unto death" that we might receive the "crown of righteousness. E.E.G.

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

MARCH 1970

Schedule of Regular Services

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

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

Know what you believe
Believe what you know
-Attend Bible School-

F A I T H F U L N E S S

Sometimes we get the idea that all that is needed to be faithful is to be baptized and believe that everyone else is going to hell. I would be the last one to belittle the importance of baptism; but this is not the end of salvation, but rather the beginning. Just going into the water and getting wet is not enough. This is only the form of the real thing. Our baptism must be of the heart as well as the flesh.

Some do not like for preachers to be emotional. But for a lack of emotion a local church will die. Love is an emotion; but many do not want any member to show any emotion either. If someone were to say "Amen" in the worship service nearly everyone turns to see who the religious fanatic is!

I believe there are two extremes in this, as in all things. We "white folk" (and that is just on the outside) now have a "cut-n-dried" kind of religion. If someone should say "Amen" I would

probably walk back to the door and start shaking hands thinking I had preached through the closing prayer! If the preacher preaches too loud or long, or displays a little emotion, he would probably be "cooled off" by some "satisfied-with-the-old-way" elder or elderess. (In my dictionary that is a woman who can not hold the office of elder, but who still assumes the responsibility and authority.)

I never hear a preacher criticized for preaching too short a sermon, but I do hear a tirade of remarks about "long winded" preachers. When a preacher hears a sigh of relief when he says: "Now in conclusion:" he can hear Satan laughing his fool head off. And why shouldn't the "old devil" laugh those people are closer to him than they are to God and Christ.

Like many preachers, (at least I imagine that most do) I have felt the urge to preach a "marathon" sermon sometimes. Wouldn't it be interesting to see who would wake up first and go home?

Have you ever heard a preacher say, "My time is up:" and wonder where the time had gone? If you have you were not just "nibbling" at the "bread of life" you were feasting! Oh that we had those who wanted to feed themselves spiritually the way they do physically! If you have never experienced this I feel sorry for you. How long has it been since you complained to a preacher that his sermon was too short? How long since you mentioned the length of a sermon--even in a joking way? How long since you complained to Mom or wife about having too much food on the table? How does your soul prosper?

It is said that one man rode a horse many miles to hear A. Campbell and then complained that he only preached about three hours! Of course, I realize I am no Alexander Campbell. (For which I am glad; can you imagine calling some one a "Giesekeite?")

Faithfulness is a difficult thing to define. It is not the same thing for each individual. Some have more talents than others, and therefore, more

is expected. The talents ere given to the various servants according to the ability of each. We have to be faithful as individuals; not as groups. Your "good works" as a member will not be added to my account, nor mine to yours. We tend to think too much in terms of "the church" instead of ourself as an individual.

We have the same attitude concerning standards of dress and conduct. As a result we say, "Well, everyone else is doing it; therefore it must be o.k." "Well," we often hear, "If so and so can do it why can't I?" Some will say that their dress is longer than so and so. That may well be; but your dress may be 8 inches longer than some of the girls where I teach and still be pretty short! The simple truth is: "Every man (woman, youth) must bear their ownburden."

I'm glad this is true. I do not want to try to justify the actions of every Christian I have known. I do not feel I could answer for all the busybodies, the gossips, the backbiters, the in-different, the social drinkers, the smokers, and too many other things to mention. There is only one person's sins that I must answer for personally. There is only one light that I must keep shining. There is only one path for me to trod.

Paul wrote: "Moreover, it is required of a steward, that he be found faithful," To Paul, being faithful meant doing the best one can with the talents given. It meant suffering wrong innocently; being ready to go to prison, even die for the cause of Christ. Paul seemed to have the idea that one was either a full-fledged Christian or he was a reprobate. (Unequal to the test.) There was no middle ground. This did not mean that all were at the same level of spiritual maturity. Some were babes in Christ while others were spiritually mature. The need of exercise is pointed out by--"exercise thyself rather unto godliness."

We must be involved in those things that make for godliness. We are living in a "don't get involved" world. Crimes ranging from penny pitching

NEWS AND NOTES

Ladies! This Wednesday afternoon at 12:30 is time set for making tray favors. Place: Sister Jesse Pieratt's home

All teachers who teach students through age 11 are invited to a teacher training workshop to be held at Niles this Saturday and Sunday afternoon March 14 & 15. Sister Gerri Little, a very able teacher in this area of teaching will be presenting the lessons which will be very helpful to any of the women who can arrange to go. We have many who have been or are preparing to be teachers who should plan to go. See sister Hoggatt to arrange for a ride to Niles.

There is a teachers meeting scheduled here next Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. Many things must be discussed and decided relative to our teaching program and the up-coming VBS. All teachers and those who plan to teach be sure to attend.

Our gospel meeting is a little more than a month away but should be pressing on our minds, so that when the time comes, we can be better prepared to do our part in making the meeting successful.

Brother Gieseke is scheduled to have a tonsillectomy tomorrow. We hope for him somewhat of a rest and a speedy recovery.

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

March 8, 1970

Schedule of Regular Services

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

Earl Gieseke, Minister	RAIN DROPS
405 South Townline Road	Raindrops, Flowing down a
Route #4 Box 46	Window pane are as tears,
LaGrange, Indiana 46761	Trickling down a young
Telephone No. 463-3571	Child's face.

WHO LOVED HER BEST?

A little boy with ruffled head
Leaned in the doorway worn and gray.
"I love you, Mother," he kindly said,
Then turned and ran aside to play.

His mother, tired with labors long
Continued working till at last,
His sister with a smile and song,
Slipped gently in, and wandered past.

"I love you, Mother," she whispered low,
Then turned aside to leave her there,
With eyes that could not see her woe
And heart that could not feel her care.

Then last of all there came that way
Her other brother, kind and true.
He had no words of love to say,
No noble speech of praise to do.

(cont. on page 3)

Great Works Today

No doubt the thought has come to many a Christian that to have lived during the time of Christ and heard his teaching and witnessed his miracles would have been a wonderful experience. Just think! The Son of God in person! Seeing his power, his miracles, his authority!

We stand amazed at the display of miracles which he did. He could speak the diseased back to health, touch the mutilated bodies back to full usefulness. He exercised command over the elements and even defied the power of the grave by resurrecting the dead.

On one occasion when giving consolation to his disciples, who vaguely understood his leaving them, he said "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father". Jn. 14:12. In view of Christ's great works, how could we, his disciples, possibly do greater works than he did?

First, let's note the primary purpose of his work. It was to make believers. John records in chapter 20, verse 30, 31, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Although the Lord performed many wonderful works, they in and of themselves were related to this life, a life which is both preparatory and transitory. The miracles of the Lord gave a temporary satisfaction to the receivers, but this was of little consequence compared to the lasting satisfaction obtained by belief in Christ and hope in an eternal life. All his works were aimed to bring men unto belief and obedience in Him.

It is difficult for man whose experiences are limited to fleshly life to comprehend the magnitude of God's redemptive plan, the salvation

of our soul in a never ending eternity. This plan took priority from man's earliest existence and unfolded down through the ages to the coming of a savior in the world. We today, as followers of Him have been given the power and authority to continue his teaching and reach every soul possible with His saving message.

In speaking about our ability to perform greater works than He, our Lord must have visualized our usefulness in delivering souls from eternal death. James writes in chapter 5, verse 20, "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins". The greatest miracle of all can be accomplished by a disciple of the Lord in lifting a sinsick soul from the pits of hell unto a realm of "spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus".

Think of the appreciation and thanksgiving given to our Lord when he healed fleshly bodies that were to be of short duration at best. Can we visualize a convert thanking us throughout eternity for bringing unto him the saving knowledge of God's message?

D. H.

Cont. from page 1

But quickly took his Mother's broom,
So she might sit and rest awhile,
And cleaned and tidied up the room
And rocked the baby with a smile.

Though not a word of love was said,
How do you think their mother guessed
That night when all were safe in bed
Who was the one that loved her best?

--Selected

NEWS AND NOTES

ALL TEACHERS Remember the teacher's meeting scheduled this evening at 6 o'clock. This is an important meeting, so be sure to attend. The children's class will meet at 6 this evening also so that all parents who are teachers can attend.

The men's fellowship is to be this Friday evening at the Heribage House in Ft. Wayne. Brother Jim Smith, minister of the Donnoyer Ave. congregation in South Bend is to be the visiting speaker. The subject is "Vacation Bible School".

The Michigan Christian College chorus is scheduled to be at the Garrett congregation building on Tuesday evening, March 24 at 7:30. Everyone is invited to attend.

There is to be a Personal Work Clinic at the Donnoyer Ave church building on April 4. Several noted speakers are on the program. We'll have more on this later.

GOSPEL MEETING is just one month away. Brother James Meadows of Jackson, Tenn. is to be preaching. Remember---- Keep Dates April 16 to 22 open to attend every evening. Also plan ahead to bring others with you.

We are glad to have our college girls back home with us for a few days. They have to return on the 23rd.

Thanks to those who are pinch hitting for brother Gieseke in the pulpit today. We wish brother Gieseke a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

March 15, 1970

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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LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

"Do what you can today,
you may not be here to-
morrow."

Selected

I gave something away today.
That cannot come back to me;
It was something only I can give.
But I can never see.

It cost me such a little bit,
I think I shall give more;
For though I give away a lot,
I will not exhaust my store.

I'll give more away tomorrow,
To each one that I see;
For when I give a smile away,
A different one comes back to me.

E.E.G.

GIVING AS A SIGN OF CHARACTER

Giving As a Sign Of Character

The exact translation of this verse suggests not occasional giving, but constant and systematic giving. The natural feeling for riches is to love them for their own sake, and to hoard them because our rejoicing is in them. The Christian's triumph over riches is to regard them as they are; a trust of God, and to use them in his service.

A person goes wrong when he, like the rich farmer, says: These are mine! A Christian stays right when he understands that it is "required of a steward that they be found faithful." The Christian is like a spring fed river that runs into the desert and is used up, and yet there is always an abundance of water at the source. The unfaithful are like the sea into which pure fresh water flows; but having no outlet the water stays. All that is lost is that which of necessity, must evaporate. The remaining water becomes like the water already present--salty and stagnant, and unfit for use for any purpose.

Our giving is a sign of our service to God. It is not the largeness, but the abundance of the gift that is important. It is not so much the amount of the giving in a lifetime, but the conditency of the giving. It is our way of working for God. God, in whom we live and move and have our being, surely has some expectation from his own. We can not expect the giving to be a one-way street! We look to God for air, water and light; should we not give some regard to his receiving from us?

Our giving is a sign of our sympathy with the poor. We may sometimes feel that we are not too "well-off" in relation to many; but we do not answer to God for the multitude, but for ourself. The Bible

tells us that "the poor we always have with us." Our civilization tends to make the rich richer and the poor more poor. This gives us the opportunity to practice the art of giving without expectation of receiving something in return. If we only "give in order to get then our purpose is wrong.

In our world we are of all nations most blessed. Yet, even in our own nation it is no hard thing to find people living in the squalor of poverty and distress. Men are born with physical and mental handicaps; others are brought on by various things. If you have been blessed with good health, be thankful. If you or your children have never known the pangs of starvation--then be mindful of the fact that it is only due to the mercy of God that you are an American instead of a Nigerian starving due to a civil war.

Giving is a sign of a limited hold on the world. Compare the Christian and the man who is possessed by his possessions. The Christian is "passing through this world" on his way to an "upper and better kingdom." The worldling grips this world's riches hard; but God will say, "Thou fool, this night thy soul will be required of thee!" Which one of these men would you rather be? The choice is yours to make!

Giving is a sign of a man's like-mindedness with God. He giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. When we have learned to give beyond measure of our time, talents and money we have attained a little more of the character of God. When we do these things without "sounding a trumpet" our giving will be a blessing to us.

E. E. G.

* * * * *

Why grumble because roses have thorns? Be thankful the thorns have roses.

NEWS AND NOTES

It is good to have the Herr's back from Florida and we hope that they can attend services regularly. Also we enjoyed the visit of the college girls for the past week. We wish them God's blessings as they return to school.

Several important meetings are coming up:

1. Our gospel meeting with James Meadows Apr. 16 through 22nd. The report we get from those who know him say he is one of the best.
2. A Personal Work Clinic at Donmoyer Ave. church building on April 4, time, 10 to 3 p.m.
3. VBS. The teachers met last Sunday evening and plans are being laid for the best Vacation Bible School Lagrange has ever had.

Remember that this Tuesday evening the Michigan Christian College chorus will present a program at the Garrett church building at 7:30 p.m. If you've never heard them you'd be inspired by their performance.

Sister Margaret Tuttle has been ill with the flu this past week. Also DeeDee missed some days of school. Also Brian Hoggatt is home with a cold. Perhaps the sunny days which we see occasionally will get to be the rule soon and we'll have everyone back to services.

Glad to see brother Gieseke getting back to normal healthwise and preaching again. Thanks to all the men who gave good lessons in his place.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

March 22, 1970

Schedule of Regular services

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

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THE MAN IN THE GLASS

by Dale Wimbrow

When you get what you want in your struggle for gain
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say!

It isn't your father or mother or wife
Who judgment upon you must pass;
The one whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the man staring back in the glass.

He's the one you must satisfy beyond all the rest,
For he's with you right up to the end;
And you will have passed your most difficult test
When the man in the glass is your friend.

You may be the one who got a good break,
And think you're a wonderful guy;
But the man in the glass says you're only a fake
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

(cont. page three)

GOD'S WILL OR MINE?

I once read about a son who had received an inheritance of farmland from his father. Before his father died, he instructed his son how he wanted him to build a home and some other buildings on one particular area of land. His will included building a home with a garage next to it, a large barn right back of the house with other necessary buildings clustered around the barn. His will also stipulated the buildings be situated on an acre of ground exactly in the center of the farmland. After the decease of the father, the son set about to build the buildings. The son reasoned, "the placement of the new home with the garage next to it, the barn out back and the other buildings clustered around them all sound. Like a good idea to me, so I'll position them this way. But, I don't see the need to place the buildings on the center acre, so I'll just plan to build all of the buildings on a corner acre of land." So he did.

The question we might ask is, "in how many particular instances did the son obey the father's will? The answer is none. The son obeyed his own will in all instances. The fact that his will, agreed with his father's in most details was purely coincidental and was not done simply because the father said so.

When a person desires the approval of God, his motives become all important. Do we obey God because he is God and we believe His will is best for us? There are untold millions of people that live respectably because it seems that that is the best way to live and get along with other people. A much smaller number might profess a belief in God and give respect to his word as long as it's understandable and agrees with their thinking. But how many are motivated from a pure desire to obey God because "he said so"? According to God's

word these are the only ones that He regards as His faithful children. All others are simply making a fair show, doing their own thing, getting nowhere.

The apostle Paul said this in a similar way in I Cor. 13 when he stated that all of our good works must be done from a pure motive of love. If any other motive is behind our good works, they will not be credited unto us by our Father in heaven, "we have already received our reward". The motive of "love" and "because God said so" are really one in the same. Jesus said, "if ye love me, keep my commandments. Jesus was God's son sent to do God's will and to communicate God's message. If we truly love Jesus, our Savior, we'll obey God just as Jesus did.

When we obey God because it is God's will, we put complete trust in him. We believe that we have forgiveness of past sins, because he said so. Acts 2:38. We have the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from daily sins because he said so! John 1:7. We have the promise of his presence Heb. 13:5, victory over temptation, I Cor. 10:13, and above all, the promise of salvation, John 3:16. The trust we place in God and the work we do for him will never be in vain. The apostle Paul gives encouraging words when he said, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. I Cor. 15:58.

D. H.

(Continued from front page)

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass;
But your final reward will be the heartaches and tears,
If you've cheated the man in glass.

NEWS AND NOTES

We are having a dinner in the new classroom (south classroom) following services today. If you didn't know about this or didn't bring anything for it, please come anyway. We desire the wonderful fellowship of the get-togethers first and foremost. If there is not an abundance of food (Which I doubt) it will keep us from getting hungry until we get home.

Some leaflets of the coming gospel meeting are in the vestibule. Please take as many of these as you need and distribute them. April 16th is getting close and much is to be done in the way of advertisement.

Notice that the leaflets give April 19 thru 22 as the meeting date. This is because a decision was made to use the first three nights for a church message only, the subject of Personal Evangelism. Brother Meadows has written some books on this subject and should challenge us in this vital area. Let's not miss a single night. Much is in store for the interested Christian.

The Huntington church wanted us to announce a meeting beginning there April 1 through the 5th. The guest preacher is Pat Andrews.

Remember the Personal Evangelism workshop next Saturday at South Bend, Donnoyer Ave. Begins at 10, concludes at 3:15 p.m.

An announcement from Kendallville says that the Sacred Selection Quartet will present a program at the church bldg. at 2:30 p.m.

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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

March 29, 1970

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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WHERE DOES THE LORD COME IN YOUR BUDGET

First, second, third, or last? Many people are honestly seeking a plan by which they may give to the Lord with confidence that the amount they are giving is acceptable. May we suggest some practical ideas which we believe will help??

1. First, this principle must be understood and believed: "But seek ye first the kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.
 2. Secondly, the Lord does require a plan, "Let each man do according as he has purposed in his heart." 2 Cor. 9:7.
 3. Decide on a definite percentage. Do this before figuring everything else.
 4. Set aside that money every time you get paid. The Lord comes first.
 5. Give it every Lords day. If prospered anything, the Lord must receive something. I cor. 16:2.
 6. Give regularly whether sick, out of town, or any emergency.
- May God help us to give this matter prayerful consideration.

"The True Meaning of Church Membership"

By Carl Spain, Professor of Bible
Abilene Christian College

The ideal description and true purpose of membership in the Church of the New Testament is found in Paul's words, "We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Romans 12:5).

Ideally, the body of Christ has but one soul (Acts 4:32) and one mind (2 Cor. 13:11). The phrase "one another" is a divine key to the meaning of membership in the Church for which Jesus gave, and continues to give, himself.

Read closely as he speaks to us about our involvement with each other in the evangelistic, edifying and encouraging fellowship called the Church of Christ:

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another. . . . even as Christ forgave you" (Col. 3:13); "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2); "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (Jas. 5:16); "speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19); "be subject one to another, and gird yourselves with humility to serve one another" (1 Peter 5:5); "and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. . . . But exhorting one another" (Heb. 10:24-25); "Greet one another with an holy kiss" (Cor. 13:12);

"Seeing that ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:22); "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye

have love one to another" (John 13:35).

In light of the above, listen further: "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light" (1 John 2:10); "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Finally, brethren, "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27). This is the meaning of fellowship in Christ, "from whom the whole body fitly framed and knit together by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love," and "in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 4:16 and 2:21-22).

* * * * *

THANK GOD FOR LITTLE THINGS

Thank you, God
for little things
that often come our way--
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we pray--
The unexpected courtesy,
the thoughtful, kindly deed--
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need--
Oh make us more aware, dear God,
of little daily graces
That come to us
with "sweet surprise"
from never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice