

NEWS AND NOTES

GOSPEL MEETINGS:

Plymouth, Ind. Apr. 4-10 Jim Boyd, speaker.
Paulding, Ohio Apr. 6-12 Ray Dillard, speaker.
Mentone, Ind. Apr. 12-19 Foy Smith, speaker.
LAGRANGE, IND. APR. 16-22 James Meadows, speak.

(You may feel that you cannot attend the first three meetings, but don't miss the last one.)

Area singing to be held at East Chestnut congregation on April 12, beginning at 3 o'clock.

Ladies are to meet for tray favor work at sister Hostetler's this Wednesday at 12:30.

Mark's singing this evening at 6 o'clock.

A letter on the bulletin board from Shults Lewis Children's Home asks that some Ladies from this congregation come to the workshop on April 25th. We need to be involved more with the needs of the Home, and this is a way to learn about what we can do. Please sign up if you can go.

A special afternoon service will be held at the Plymouth, Ind. congregation today at 3 o'clock. Bro. Jim Boyd will be speaking. We are invited.

Thanks to all those who helped yesterday in moving Nadeau's. Such willingness is worthy of mention.

Earl Gieseke
Box 46, R.R.#4
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

April 5, 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	If your troubles are
405 South Townline Road	deepseated and long-
Route #4, Box 46	standing, try KNEELING.
LaGrange, Indiana 46761	
Telephone No. 463-3571	

SPRING TUNE-UP

1. Adjust your LIGHTS so others may see your good works.
2. Set your TIMING so as to be in the assembly on time.
3. ADJUST YOUR BREAKES on your tongue; it's in a slippery place.
4. TUNE-UP your HEART and have the peace that passes understanding.
5. ALIGN your DIRECTION that you may be able to steer yourself up the straight and narrow road of LIFE without a wreck.
6. TUNE your MIND so as to think on pure, holy and noble things.
7. For a QUICK START and a SURE VICTORY, be READY always to do the Lord's will; then DO it.
8. RECHARGE your heart. "Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."
9. LUBRICATE your SPIRIT with the oil of gladness; "Rejoice always, giving thanks in everything."
10. RE-TIRE with full assurance of eternal life!

--Selected

In John the 6th chapter, Jesus taught some fundamental truths concerning himself. He is the bread of life (verse 35), he came down from heaven to do the will of God who sent him (verse 38), that he had power over death (verse 40), that he is the only way to God (verse 45), that he would ascend to heaven (verse 62). All of these statements were designed to lead men to God and show the answer to man's spiritual needs. It seems, however, to do just the opposite. Verse 66 says, "From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him." What a tragedy!

We wonder sometimes what it would take to make people like these believe the truth. Would another time have been better for Jesus to have sprung ^{this} teaching? Was it the wrong place? Were his words too harsh? I doubt that any of these things would have made any difference. Probably nothing short of a miracle, forced upon their hearts would make them any different. But God does not work this way. Acceptance must be voluntary.

In addition to the claim of Jesus' truths which he gave them, the world today has historical evidence of his death, his burial, his resurrection and his ascension. Not only the Bible but secular historians verify these facts, all of which should make the whole world "sit up and take notice". But do they?

Jesus did not run after them and alter his teaching in order to keep more disciples. Neither can we. God's truths must be taught, the pure and simple gospel must be preached. The power to save is inherent in the message. If men will turn their backs and not accept it, they have already judged themselves unworthy of eternal life. The invitation of Jesus must cause a person to do one of three things: to change, to follow hypocritically, or to leave.

On that occasion, the multitude chose to leave. But this did not discourage the Lord and make him quit. He knew he was doing the Father's will. And we know we are doing the Father's will when we continue Jesus' work on earth. He gave us authority to go into all the world and preach the gospel and is depending on us to do it.

Almost a year ago I saved a bulletin article written by brother James Meadows (I didn't know that he would be holding a meeting for us. At that time I had not heard of him). The title is GOD IS DEPENDING ON YOU! "S. D. Gordon, in his book, Prayer Changes Things, tells a story we cannot permit to die. He pictures an imaginary conversation between Christ and the angel Gabriel following the ascension. Gabriel asks the Lord what plans he has made to let the world know that He has lived, died and risen from the dead. The master replies, 'I told Peter and James and John and some others down on earth to make it the business of their lives to tell others. And the others are to tell others and those others yet others, and still others beyond, till the last man in the farthest reach has learned the story and has been caught, thrilled and thrilled by the power of it'. But Gabriel thinks he sees a weak point in the Master's arrangement, and voices his opinion as follows: 'Yes, Master, but suppose that after a while Peter forgets. Suppose that John loses his enthusiasm, and simply does not tell others. Suppose their successors down there in the twentieth century get too busy with other things, and some of them good things, church things maybe. Suppose they get so busy that they do not tell the others? What then?' In reply came the quiet voice of Jesus with thrilling confidence: 'Gabriel, I have made no other plans. I am counting on them!'. Yes, HE IS COUNTING ON US! BEYOND ALL POSSIBILITY OF EXPLAINING IN WORDS MUST BE HIS CONFIDENCE IN US!

D.H.

NEWS AND NOTES

The area wide singing is to be held today at the East Chestnut St. congregation in Ft. Wayne. The time is at 3 o'clock.

A gospel meeting begins at Mentone today with Brother Foy Smith speaking. Also, Goshen concludes a meeting this evening at 6 with Brother Borden Higgenbotham speaking.

OUR MEETING BEGINS THIS THURSDAY EVENING AT 7:30. Brother James Meadows will give three lessons, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, directed to the church on the subject of PERSONAL EVANGELISM. We urge all members to attend this. ON SUNDAY MORNING, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, SUNDAY EVENING, MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, HIS LESSONS WILL BE DIRECTED TO THOSE OUT OF CHRIST. As in any of our gospel endeavors, to make the meeting successful, we must invite friends and neighbors to come. Announcements have been sent to 36 congregations and some 60 prospects who have come to our services, have been enrolled in a Bible Correspondance Course or been contacted through Herald Of Truth. Let's each member do his part and strive for the largest attendance ever in this series of meetings.

Next Sunday following the morning service, we will have a pot luck lunch in the new south classroom.

Sister Margaret Tuttle has been in the hospital this past week and is scheduled for surgery the first part of this week. Let us visit and remember her in our prayers.

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS TODAY AND INVITE YOU BACK TO ALL OF OUR SERVICES.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

April 12, 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 To be without some of the
405 South Townline Road things you want is an
Route #4, Box 46 indispensable part of
LaGrange, Indiana 46761 happiness.
Telephone No. 463-3571 --Sel.

MY INFLUENCE

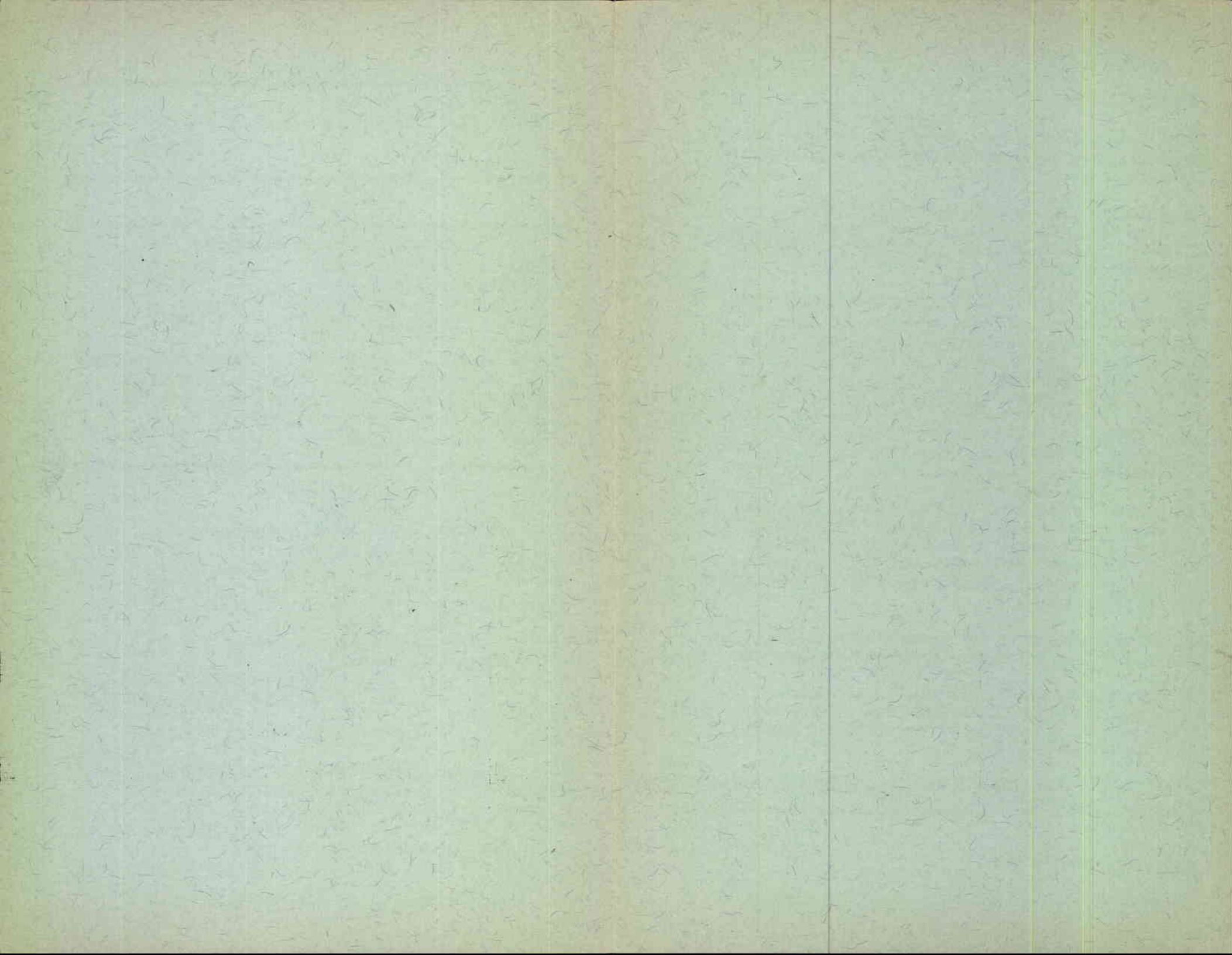
My life shall touch a dozen lives
Before this day is done,
Leave countless marks of good or ill
Ere sets the evening sun.
This is the wish I always wish,
The prayer I always pray,
Lord, help my life help other lives,
It touches by the way.

Contributed by Odessa Tynan
Lafayette, Ind. Bulletin

SUMMIT MEETING

--Selected

A prayer spoken by an old mountain man that might apply to all of us, flatlanders and hill people alike goes this way: "Lord, I don't ask for a faith that would move yonder mountain. I can take enough dynamite, and move it, if it needs moving. I pray, Lord, for enough faith to move me."



NEWS AND NOTES

FOR THE YOUTH - at Glenwood congregation in Ft. Wayne, Apr. 28. Also a two day rally at Donmoyer Ave. congregation in South Bend, May 2&3. See announcements on bulletin board. The Michiana banquet is to be held May 16 at Niles Mich. If you care to go let brother Hoggatt know.

Donmoyer Ave, So. Bend, is having a gospel meeting May 10-14 with James R. Nichols preaching.

Our gospel meeting for the public begins today. We have come to love and appreciate brother James Meadows since his talks began for the church last Thursday evening on the subject of Personal Evangelism. Now, let's invite our friends and neighbors and BRING THEM IN for the next four evenings. The meeting ends on Wednesday evening.

We are sorry that there is sickness in some of the member's homes and they were unable to attend the last few nights. I believe that brother Gieseke has the tapes of the meetings and would arrange to let any who could not come, to hear them.

Sister Margaret Tuttle was transferred to the Parkview hospital in Ft. Wayne this week for further tests. Surgery is scheduled for tomorrow. She asks our prayers, which we should be forward to do, and if you cannot visit her following the surgery, you may send her cards and notes of encouragement. Her room number is 315.

LADIES- Shults Lewis invites you to the workshop on April 25th. Tell sister Hoggatt if you can go, and perhaps a carload can be arranged.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

April 19, 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 MISLEADER AND THE MISLED!

"And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh unto him!"
Ezekiel 14:10

"But Israel had false prophets as well as true; and you likewise will have false teachers among you!"
(NEB) 2 Peter 2:1a

"Even from your own body there will be men coming forward who will distort the truth to induce the disciples to break away and follow them."
Acts 20:30 (NEB)

One of the notable things among the Israelites was the presence of false teachers and prophets. Another thing we note is that there was never a lack of those to follow them. The general excitement they raised by their "new teachings" always appalled to men. Men, then as now, sought everywhere for guidance, comfort and hope, except where it could always be found--the Word of God. They went to the pretentious and deceptive religious teachers or guides of the day who took advantage of their misfortunes to mislead them.

These men were different than Ezekiel and the other prophets of God in that they usually said what they wanted to hear. They uttered smooth sayings. They didn't want to "rock the boat". They disregarded the impending doom as prophesied by God's true prophets. They were thus able to keep the people from true repentance and thus ascertain the nations ruin.

Ezekiel was directed to denounce these misleaders of the nation. "The punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of them that seeketh him." Jesus said: "Leave them alone; they are blind guides and if one blind man guides another they will both fall into the ditch." Mt. 15:14 (NEB) The false teacher and the taught will share in the same retribution. Sin cannot go unpunished. Someone must pay for sin.

Their sin was a departure from God. Those who of all people should have sought God's wisdom and authority had turned aside to follow the ignorant, self-seeking imposters. There pretended prophets knowingly misled the people; for they saw no vision and heard no voice from God. Their aims were directed, not by the living God, but their selfish human policy. The people and the prophets sinned together, and sinned alike. Therefore they must suffer the same consequences.

The evil counsel was given and accepted. This resulted in the people going astray. Their only hope was a general repentance--a returning to God. But they did not return to Jehovah due to the deception being practiced upon one another. Theirs was a mutual encouragement in delusion; therefore they continued in the idolatry, unbelief, and rebellion against God.

They were to share in a common punishment. A common guilt called for a common penalty. Paul wrote: "God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7 The prophets were in no way shielded by their office. There are those today who seem to feel their position as a "clergyman" exempts them from God's judgment.

But this man-made distinction in religion is only economic, temporary, and for this world's service. Before God the arbitrary distinction of "clergy" and "laity" vanishes, and each soul stands before God in its simple human character. God will judge an "archbishop"; a "right-reverend"; a "very right-reverend"; or a "popè"; as a man, not as a dignitary.

In an office, job or position in the Lord's church today is a place for service, not a shelter for sinfulness. In the next world a soul is a soul. The rank of office given by man will be left in this world; on this side of the grave. The sinners who had "titles of men" will be judged and treated as any other sinner. The prophet of Bethel was a true messenger from God yet a lion met him in the way and killed him due to his disobedience. (1Kings 13:26)

But as the road signs never reach the city to which they are pointing, so it is with the Christians who are capable of showing another the "way", but are not. In fact some who know better are actually unwilling to hold to the straight and narrow way themselves. A clear conception of the "plan of salvation" will not save a man. A knowledge that is not utilized is worse than no knowledge. To the man who knows to do good and does not do it it is sin. The question is not--"What does one know;" but--"HOW DOES ONE STAND BEFORE GOD?" What we believe is not as important as whether it moves us to obedience. Faith in God must lead us to follow in the footsteps of the Son. We must continue to study to be able to discern the ONE WAY from the multitude of "ways" presented by the misleaders. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
E. E.G.

When you can think of yesterday without regret and tomorrow without fear, you are near contentment.
--Sel.

NEWS AND NOTES

A young people's rally is planned at the Donmoyer Ave, congregation in South Bend on May 2 & 3. Tom Holland and Dan Hoffman will be the speakers.

Also Donmoyer is having a gospel meeting starting May 10 through the 14th. Brother James Nichols is to be the speaker.

Our meeting which ended last Wednesday evening with brother Meadows was well attended by the members here and many visitors were brought as a result of our efforts. We should follow up these leads that we feel are good prospects and put into practice the excellent lessons brother Meadows gave us on personal evangelism.

Sister Margaret Tuttle is still in Parkview hospital in Ft. Wayne and is doing satisfactory following the operation earlier last week. Also Hiram Cotton (Mr. & Mrs. Cotton was here for our dinner last Sunday) was taken to the hospital in Sturgis last Monday. His trouble is thought to be hardening of the arteries. Let's remember these and others who might be sick in our prayers and visit them.

The Ladies fellowship at Adrian, Michigan is scheduled for May 9th. Sister Ida Palmer is to be the guest speaker. See sister Hoggatt if you would like to go.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

April 26, 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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A CHRISTIAN'S CONCERN

-LIFE INSTEAD
OF DEATH-

I WONDER

As a woman, I wonder what I need to be?
A lover of God from the depth of my heart;
A loving wife to help balance up the troubles of
this life,
A needed mother who understands and teaches her
children and trains them up in the nurture and
admonition of the Lord;
I wonder if I have been hospitable and entertained
angels unaware?
I wonder if I am a deserving daughter of two won-
derful people who have sacrificed for me,
An honoured sister who needs to be an inspiration
And a shining light to represent virtuous women,
A visitor of the ill and needy,
A prayerful heart for the world,
A mother to a homeless child and a sympathizer
for the widow.
Am I the kind of woman that other women will be
pleased and not ashamed to name a member of
their sex?

(Continued on page 3)

GIVING OUR SCRAPS TO THE LORD

I once owned a dog. The only food he ever got was our scraps, sometimes Mother would prepare a wonderful meal but we never served our dog first. After we had eaten until we could hold no more, I would fill a plate with what little was left over and whistle for my pup. It is not for the dogs I am pleading.

I have some friends that I love dearly that treat our Lord just like my little dog was treated. If He is ever to get anything from them; it is just the "scraps". Why, some days and weeks they "need" all their time and money and the Lord gets nothing. Occasionally they toss Him a "gnawed bone" or let Him "lick the gravey bowl". I protest such actions! My Lord is not a dog. He deserves more from us than the scraps.

Do you come to the services only if you don't have company? Only if you have no other place to go? Only if you are caught up with your fishing or picnicking? Only if it is not too hot or cold; too wet or dry?

These friends of mine use their check to pay their bills, add to their savings, provide a dozen forms of recreation, and if there is anything left, their Lord gets a little.

The Bible teaches nothing any plainer than that the Lord and the church must come first. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. . . ." (Matt. 6:33) Christ won't even allow us to first go bury our father. He absolutely will not be second, third or fourth in our lives. If He is anything to us, He must be first. I don't serve a Lord who gave me only "scraps", but one who gave His best and His all. In the prime of life, He gave His life and shed His blood. Neither will I attempt to give Him only scraps.

--Selected

Worry, like a rocking chair, will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

--Selected

THE MARK ON THE FOREHEAD

Two brothers, convicted of stealing sheep, were branded on the forehead with the letters "S. T." meaning "Sheep Thief". One of the boys, unable to bear the stigma, tried to bury himself in a foreign land, but men asked about the strange letters, so he kept on wandering aimlessly and, at last, full of bitterness, died and was buried far away.

The other brother said to himself, "I cannot run away from the fact that I stole sheep. I'll stay here and win back the respect of my neighbors, and myself." As the years passed he built a reputation for integrity. One day a stranger saw the old man with the letters on his forehead. He asked a native what they signified.

"It happened a great while ago" said the villager. "I've forgotten the particulars, but I think the letters are an abbreviation for saint!"

It is easy to see from this story that the way to conquer one's problems is not to run away. If we could learn to "cast our cares upon the Lord" (1 Peter 5:7), we could easily overcome the mistakes we make and the difficulties of life.

--Selected--

* * * *

(Continued from front page) I WONDER

Do I have a sealed mouth, that I might be a peace-maker

And a neighbor who deserves to be called blessed?
When I am all of the things mentioned above,
I wonder if I am not just starting to be the kind of woman that God wants me to be?

--Selected

Mrs. Carl Smith,
Lisbon, Ohio

Two feet to walk; my God gave me.
And use them I must; my duty is clear;
Or be condemned to hell for my life wasted
here.

"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord,
we persuade men; . . ." (IICor. 5:11 a)
E. E. G.

NEWS AND NOTES

DATES TO REMEMBER

1. Ladies fellowship this Saturday May 9 at Adrian, Michigan. Sister Hoggatt will be taking as many as would like to go.
2. Gospel meeting at Donnover Ave. May 10-14 with James Nichols preaching.
3. Mens fellowship June 5&6 at Camp Indogan. A complete program will be given later.

This evening at 6 o'clock is to be the monthly singing at the Hurks Nursing Home. These people look forward to our coming and we should just as much look forward to singing for them, or with them (In some cases).

Sister Margaret Tuttle was released from the hospital this week (she is staying with a sister) but is returning to her home today. She would appreciate our visits.

Sister Jesse Pieratt is to be admitted to the hospital at Ft. Wayne the first part of this week. Our prayers and concern will follow her and we hope that her arthritic condition can be helped.

Earl Gieseke

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LaGrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

May 3, 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.

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REVIVAL FOR SURVIVAL

By the time you read this our meeting will be history. Lord willing, brother Meadows will be back home with his family. If we have been rightly influenced by the preaching of the gospel we will have been spiritually "revived". I have a good and wonderful feeling that this is the best meeting we have had. What brother Meadows has said has been inspiring and instructional. He has challenged us, and filled our souls and hearts with his lessons. The first three nights were directed towards the church, and I must say that I feel greatly benefited from them. He has shown a love for souls as he preached each night. He has preached the truth kindly, but firmly.

Now the real responsibility is up to us; it is up to us! The preacher has come, spoken, and

left. Will we accept, or have we accepted the challenge of dedication? It is a serious thing to be responsible for our own soul and where we will spend eternity; yet it is equally serious to have responsibility for others as well. The two are inseparably connected.

Responsibility springs from natural relationships. These relationships vary from the very near to the very remote. We are more responsible for the lost souls in LaGrange County than those in Asia, but we have some responsibility for both. No man, especially a Christian, is completely detached from the world and the lives of those in the world. Every person's life penetrates and influences other lives. It was only after sin had been introduced to strangle out the right relationship that the question was asked "Am I my brother's keeper?" We are not always our brother's keeper---but we are his brother!

Someone has said that knowledge is power; we might add that knowledge is responsibility too! The light of wisdom, or of science, is entrusted to us that we may diffuse it to others. In proportioned to the practical value of the knowledge is the responsibility to propagate it. Since we know the doom of the wicked, it behooves us to teach them the "Way." Men may be lost or saved simply by whether you will knock on their door or not. THINK ON THIS! Can such a simple thing really save or lose a soul? YES! THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE ON THE NARROW WAY TODAY BECAUSE SOMEONE KNOCKED ON THEIR DOOR!

There are so many things that may seem insignificant. The kind word to someone in distress; a warm welcome when one visits the services of the church; a small favor for someone that you did not have to do;--all these and countless other things do and will influence people. We as Christians have such tremendous and wonderful opportunities to make Christ known! Our problem is that we are spiritually blind ourselves in too many cases.

We need to realize that our responsibilities do not end with hearing a couple of sermons a week,

and attending a Bible class. (If we happen to feel like it.) My responsibilities as a preacher do not end either when I have preached two sermons and taught a class. We must be "full-time" Christians, else we are no Christian at all. God does not accept second place from his people. Our meeting together as an assembly should only "prime our pump," or "recharge our battery." Our influence we possess over others is reflected from every smile and tone and feature. Our temperament, ^{favor} favor, ^{live} live, and earnestness are elements of our power. Our abstaining from sin by self-denial, spiritual-mindedness, fruit-full goodness, and our general walk of life are all positive elements in our influence for good. We have a responsibility to exhibit these qualities or traits in our life. This will encourage others to come to the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

What is our responsibility except our ability to respond? I ask you as a fellow-laborer in Christ to gird yourself for the battle. Put on the whole armour of God.

Some time back I wrote a little poem that may have been in the bulletin before, but I think it expresses in some measure as to how I feel about the wise use of our God-give abilities.

"IF"

If I were a great preacher I would preach great themes;
How Jesus came down that we might be redeemed.
If I were a great writer I would write for all men;
How Jesus came down, and died for our sins.
If I were a great prophet I would shout it aloud;
How Jesus will appear one day in a cloud.
If I were a great singer I would sing a melody;
How Jesus came down to die on Calvary.
If I were a great pilot I would write in the sky;
How Jesus has said: "All men must die."
If I had great wealth I would share it with God;
And tell how Jesus before us has trod.
But I am not rich; I'm not a great preacher;
Yet, one thing I am; in Christ a new creature.
Two hands he has given; my eyes to see;

NEWS AND NOTES

A gospel meeting at Donmoyer Ave. congregation in South Bend begins today. Brother James Nichols is the speaker. The meeting continues thru the 14th at 7:30 ea. evening.

The ladies of the congregation are to meet at sister Hazel Miller's home for tray favors this Wednesday afternoon at 12:30.

The summer schedule for the television program of Herald Of Truth indicates it will be shown at 12 o'clock on Sundays over channel 28, WSJV. Make it a habit to see it if you can, and invite others to see it too. Don't sell this program short. Two recent visitors came as a result of hearing the television program. They indicated much interest.

Sister Jesse Pieratt is in the Lutheran Hospital room 622, Ft. Wayne. Tests and x-rays have been made and at this writing there is no change in her condition. Let us pray in behalf of sister Pieratt and visit her or send cards as we can. We miss her in the assemblies.

The Gieseke's are in Kentucky this week-end and expect to return late this evening. Some of the brethren here will be speaking in his absence.

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

May, 14, 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.

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"TODAY" is the
day of salvation

THE CRIME OF MRS. YAK YAK

A visitor was sitting in our midst
This past Sunday morn
And I wonder if what she saw
Left her quite forlorn.
For there was good ole Mrs. Yak Yak
Sitting up ahead
She didn't hear a word of the sermon
For she was talking instead.
She should have been listening to God's word
And talk at another time
For this visitor now has left our midst
And to the truth is blind.
Now I wonder if ole Mrs. Yak Yak
Knows the seriousness of her crime.
She has robbed a soul of everlasting joy
Throughout eternal time.

--June Horton--

(The following article appeared recently in "Evening World" a newspaper at Spencer, Indiana.)

Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called "myth" in the Bible is true? Dr. Harold Hill, President of Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Md., and a consultant in the space program related the following development:

"I think one of the most amazing things that God has for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists in Greenbelt, Md. They were checking the position of the sun, moon, and planets out in space where they would be 100 years and 1000 years from now. We have to know this so we don't send a satellite up and have it bump into something later on its orbits. We have to lay out the orbit in terms of the life of the satellite up, and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down. They ran the computer measurements back and forth over the centuries and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and it put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong either in the info fed into it or with the results compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out and they said, "It's perfect." The IBM head of operations said, "That's wrong?" Well, we have found there is a day missing in space in the elapsed time." They scratched their heads and pulled their hair. There was no answer.

One religious fellow on the team said, "You know, one time I was in Sunday School and they talked about the sun standing still. "They didn't believe him, but they didn't have any other answer so they said, "Show us." So he got his Bible and went back to Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for anybody who has 'common sense'. There they found the Lord saying to Joshua, "Fear them not, I have delivered them unto thy hand, there shall not a man of them stand before thee." Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy and

if darkness fell they would overpower them, so Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still! That's right, "The sun stood still and the moon stayed...and hastened not to go down about a whole day." The space men said, "There is the missing day." Well, they checked the computers, going back into the time it was written, and found it was close, but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's time was 23 hours and 20 minutes...not a whole day. They read the Bible and there it said "about [approximately] a day."

These little words in the Bible are important. But they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes you'll be in trouble 1000 years from now. Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits. Well, this religious fellow also remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went backwards. The space men told him he was out of his mind. But they got the Bible and read these words in II Kings 20. Hezekiah, on his death bed was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was going to die.

Hezekiah did not believe him and asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah asked, "Do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees?" Hezekiah said, "It is backwards ten degrees." Isaiah spoke to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees backward. Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes! And 23 hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in II Kings make the missing 24 hours the space travelers had to log in the logbook as being the missing day in the universe! Isn't that amazing? Our God is rubbing their nose in His truth! That's right."

via Druid Hills bulletin,
Montgomery, Ala.

COME and WORSHIP with us.

NEWS AND NOTES

The annual East Chestnut congregation in Ft. Wayne is having their lectureship this week, Monday through Friday. The speakers are Paul Hubbard, Phil Dunn, Ted Kingery, G.P. Holt and J.R. Sullins, in that order. The time is 7:30 each night. The theme is "The Christian Concern". They would appreciate our attendance.

The program for the men's lectureship at Camp Indogan to be held June 5 & 6 is now on the bulletin board. The featured speaker for the Friday evening program is E. Claude Gardner, President of Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, Tennessee. His topic will be "What is Relevant Preaching?". On Saturday morning Bro. Gardner will be speaking and moderating an open forum on "Liberalism". Following him, Bro. Gary Johnson of Niles, Michigan will be speaking on the subject "Discipline In The Lord's Church". The lectureship should be one of the best and should profit any Christian.

A note received from sister Margaret Tuttle:
"I want to thank all my friends for their financial help, letters, cards, prayers and visits during my hospitalization and recuperation. I am gaining in strength every day, and hope to be back to normal soon."

We are happy to report that Sister Jesse Pieratt is home from the hospital and is some better as a result of her treatments. We've missed all the sick at the services and hope that they may all return soon.

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

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

May 17, 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
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"THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS NOT ONLY
A GIFT: IT IS A
TASK."

--Sel.

THE ORDER OF OUR LOVE

"And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; and I will not go out free: " (Ex. 21:5)

This verse gives us the right order of our love. If we think of Christ as the Master mentioned in this verse we have the logical order of our love today. Whatever, or, whoever, is a man's master will receive his first love. There is no conflict between a man loving his wife and children, and loving God. There is, however, a conflict when "things" become a man's master. These will not only rob God, but they will also rob a family and his wife of the headship and love of a devoted husband and father. In order to truly live the Christian life we must love God and our family.

The Christian's allegiance is clearly defined in the New Testament. The kingdom of God is to come

first in our life. In Matt. 10:27 and Luke 14:26 the cost of true religion is pointed out. True religion has never been cheap or easy. In Heb. 11:32 to the end of the chapter evidence is given of the price paid by the prophets of old; even to the point of being sawn asunder.

People have said to me that they don't see how I can work at teaching and preaching and find time to do both. I must admit that I do not do too good of a job at either, but one thing I have learned--people will find time to do the things they feel are important. It does mean some "giving up" of things I normally like to do; but my Lord gave up so much for me. Actually I feel sometimes that I am doing so little in this life. My feeble efforts are so little compared to the amount of sin and sinners in the world. Time is passing so swiftly, and I find so little good that I have done in this life.

I believe of the things I have or will accomplish, the most important must be the influence I may have on others to serve Christ. Even here I feel like weeping at times as I observe the indifference in those whom I have exhorted and taught over the past six years. If I were to observe only the indifferent I would soon despair; I would feel my life a total failure. But thanks be unto God, for I do see those whom I have influenced for good--from these I receive strength. Some of our young people have personally acknowledged my influence on them as they have grown up here with us. I also see those who have become Christians since I have worked with you here and I am renewed again to fight the "good fight of faith".

But even though I may become discouraged at times--there is no quitting place! I love my Master, my wife, and my son. If I am responsible for the saving of three souls--my wife's, my son's, and my own--can any man say my life's efforts have been in vain?

Our lives as Christians are so important in this world as examples. Where else can my son look for examples to follow except to you my dear brothers and sisters in Christ? Where can he turn for companionship, except to children reared in your home environment? Are people going to heaven because of your life, or in spite of your life? This is a question each of us must give an answer to in eternity! Is our life a channel of blessing? Is the community better because you live in it, or are any of your neighbors aware of the fact that you profess to be a Christian?

We need to know the value of a soul! The eternity will be forever, and all souls will spend it somewhere. If you and I can be responsible for leading souls to Christ it will be the greatest thing we can do. If we love our Master, our wife and children, in that order, we can lead others to Christ. "Lead me to some soul today. Teach me Lord just what to say. Friends of mine are lost in sin; and cannot find their way." Let us sing this short song with the spirit and the understanding. Get in the habit of humming it while you work. Breathe it the first thing in your prayer after you rise in the morning. It will help you to keep in mind your mission in life.

E.E.G.

* * * * *

People who claim their prayers are not answered forget that the answer is sometimes "No!"

* * * * *

A nickel isn't supposed to be as good as a dollar, but it goes to church more often.

* * * * *

Prayer of the modern American: "Dear God, I pray for patience. And I want it now."

(continued from front page)
into my office will receive the job as wireless operator."

Do we listen to God? Do we listen for opportunities? Are we alert to the needs of His cause?
--Selected

NEWS AND NOTES

Our Vacation Bible School begins June 8 and continues through the 12th, from 9 to 11:30 each morning. Let's all get behind this effort and enroll as many as we can to come. There are classes planned for the very youngest to the Junior age level.. Anyone willing to have a part in it (transportation, refreshments etc.) please contact sistor Hoggatt.

The Garrett congregation wanted us to announce a going away party for the Ralph Smith's today at the Grange Hall, one mile south of Garrett from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. They are moving to Gallup, New Mexico.

Remember men! The lectureship at Camp Indogan June 5&6. The program is shown on the bulletin board. Let brother Hoggatt know concerning your reservation.

Summer Camp application blanks are available now. Children planning to go, please send application to director shown on form.

Watch HERALD OF TRUTH TODAY - Channel 28 at 12.

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 24, 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 Remember the clock! It
405 South Townline Road passes the time by keeping
Route #4, Box 46 its hands busy.
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

ARE WE TOO BUSY TO LISTEN TO GOD?

The room was filled with applicants waiting to be interviewed for a job as wireless operator. They were talking so loudly that they did not hear the dots and dashes being signaled over the loudspeaker.

A man sitting quietly on the other side of the room snapped to attention. He walked into the private office and came out a few minutes later with the job.

"How did you get in ahead of us? We were here before you," said the talkative applicants.

"One of you might have had the job if you had listened to the message from the loudspeaker," he replied.

"We heard no message," they answered.

"Well, said the man, "The code was saying, "The man I need must be alert. The first man who gets this message and comes (continued on back page.

AN UNQUALIFIED PREACHER

The church was in need of a preacher. One of the elders was very interested in finding out just what kind of a minister the church wanted. In order to do this he composed a letter as though it had been received from an applicant and read it to the pulpit committee.

Gentlemen:

"Understanding that your pulpit is vacant I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications that I do think you would appreciate. I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer. Some say I am a good organizer. I have been a leader in most places I have gone . . . Some folks, however, have some things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. In some places I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of my wrong doing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. I have had to work at my trade to help pay my way. The churches I have preached at have been stall, although located in large cities. I have not gotten on too well with religious leaders in different towns where I have preached. In fact some of them have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget even whom I baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you, even if I have to work to help my support."

The elder read this letter to the committee, and asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that he would never do for their congregation. They were not interested in any unhealthy, contentious, troublemaking ex-jail-bird; and were insulted that this application had even been presented. But one of them did ask the preacher's name, and the elder replied, "The Apostle Paul!"

There was once an oyster whose story I tell
 Who found that some sand had come into his shell!
 It was only a grain but it gave great pain,
 For oysters have feelings in spite of tough skin.
 But did he berate the harsh working of fate
 Which had brought him to such a deplorable state?
 Did he curse out the government..cry for selection,
 And claim the sea should have given him protection?
 "No," he said to himself as he lay on his shelf,
 "Since I cannot remove it I will try to improve it!"

Now the years rolled around as the years always do.
 And he came to his ultimate destiny--STEW.
 And the small grain of sand that had bothered him so,
 Was a beautiful pearl all brightly aglow.
 Now the tale has a moral. For isn't it grand,
 What an oyster can do with a morsel of sand?
 What couldn't we do if we would only begin
 With some of the things that get "UNDER OUR SKIN!"
 --Selected

A NEEDY CHURCH

Said the complainer, "It seems to me that the church is always needing something. . . ."

"Yes, you are right," replied one of the elders. "It is always in need. I had a little boy once who seemed always to need something. Shoes, shirt, lunch money, bus fare, spending money. I thought he asked for too much and I told him so. He hasn't asked for anything now years. You see, he died. But there are times when I would rather hear his voice asking for just one thing than to hear any other voice in the world.

"Perhaps you have never missed the church. It has been here and you have come to take it for granted. How would you feel if the church were removed from the community and from your life as my boy was? I confess--I did not realize how much he meant to me until it was too late." MORAL--A dead church is one not needing anything, and cannot offer aliving hope to a dying world. The church that has no need fills none.

SELECTED

He told the people on the day of Pentecost that it was for the remission of sins. (Isn't that silly when even "doctor Billy Graham" doesn't know that it is for the remission of sins?)

They know of no other church. That's right! They knew no other church. Paul wrote that there was one body then; nowhere does the Bible mention one being established later than the writing of the apostles. Do the modern day "clergy" know more than the inspired apostles. Paul said there was one church, body, or kingdom. Which one will you believe God's way may not agree with men, but it is still right and true. Paul wrote: "Yea, let God be true and every man a liar".

They were strengthened by the Spirit of God. Zeh. 4:6. Paul wrote: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength". The same writer says in Eph. 3:20 that our power is ready to work whenever we are ready to use it. E. E. G.

NEWS AND NOTES

Our VBS begins next Monday, June 8 and will continue thru the 12th., 9 to 11:30 ea. morning. There are enrollment slips available for every member to use. We now have the room, two teachers for each class and others willing to help out with transportation, refreshments etc. Let's set our goal for 100 this year. We can!

A personal work class will be starting next Sunday evening (6:15 p.m.) for all who would like to improve themselves in this vital area of the Lord's work.

Brother Clayton Pepper, a recognized person for his books on "personal work" will be at the So. Side congregation soon. Particulars on this will be given in next bulletin.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
EXHORTER

May 31, 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
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THE SOURCE OF SUCCESS

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." Zech. 4:6

Burke wrote: "Our antagonist is our helper." Each obstacle we are able to overcome strengthens us. Difficulties are our education. It is not ease but effort that makes men. We are constantly being tested. These tests are designed to separate the chaff from the wheat.

From whence cometh the power to meet these conflicts? On what does Christ's cause depend? What will keep the people of God from being successful?

First I would mention some things on which the success of the cause of Christ does not depend. The church has never depended on the majority. It has never sought the smile of the ruling powers. No sooner did the ruling power smile on the New Testament church, and give it support, then its spirituality and "beauty of holiness" quickly disappeared. The storms of persecutions never did half the damage to true religion as the secularising

spirit introduced by Constantine, and afterwards extended by the Roman hierarchy. This led to corruption and eventually to the Papal system known today as Catholicism.

The church of Christ does not depend on human force, or the power of arms. Nearly all earthly kingdoms have lived by the maxim: "Might makes right!" This is not only unnecessary, but unlawful, in Christ's kingdom. Force of arms may subdue and terrify people, and even achieve a passive acceptance of rule; but it will never convert one soul to Christ and his cause. Force makes hypocrites, and tinsel professors, but it will never make the genuine spirit of true discipleship.

Christ's church does not depend on carnal policy or wisdom of men. This is the base of the throne of Antichrist. The cause of Christ is inseparably connected with truth and simplicity. Truth is the watchword; the defense is truth; and her success is promoted only when the truth rules. Our only source of truth is the Words of the Bible. Christ said: "Thy Word is truth." Jn. 17:17.

Neither does the cause of Christ depend upon money (riches), learning, or eloquence. All these things when properly applied are useful in the kingdom; but not essential. Look at the selection our Lord made. He did not choose the rich, the eloquent, the rulers, the great Bible scholars; he selected fishermen; tax collectors; men without "learning". They were not influential men in the high places.

But these men went forth preaching a message hateful to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks. They turned men from darkness to light; from self to Christ; from man-made doctrines to a God-given gospel. Truly the "goodnews" snatched men from the clutches of Satan and hell, and set them on a road leading to God and heaven. How were they able to do this impossible task?

I wonder if they realized that the church was not important? (At least that's what most people tell me today!) I wonder if they didn't know that

everyone could be saved outside the church? Didn't they know that one religious group is just as good as another? Didn't they know that all a person needs to do is to believe something, and be sincere? I don't understand why they went to so much trouble to baptize 3,000 on the day of Pentecost when baptism isn't essential to salvation! I wonder why they didn't just "Baptize" by sprinkling a little water on their heads as so many do today? I wonder why they didn't do as my friends (?) do today and say piously: "You go to your church and I'll go to mine?"

Quite frankly (and that is the only way I intend to be) I'll tell you why they did not say these things--because these things are no more than an "unvarnished lie" that leads people farther from God and his Word. Only one who is ignorant of the Bible would say these things to begin with. Is this being too harsh? Can we tell anything besides the truth and be pleasing in God's sight? Are we seeking the favor of men or of God?

The early disciples ignored the majority and forged ahead. They had their commission to "preach the gospel". They knew the reward was to come according to whether they had "kept the faith;" not whether they had been popular with the people. They knew the church was important. They had seen their Lord die on the cross to purchase it. Three of them had heard the voice of God say: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him!"

Their lives were counted as nothing for the cause of Christ. They knew that sincerity, & even a good conscience, was not enough. (Acts 23:1) Peter had traveled some distance to preach to a sincere man named Cornelius. Paul had himself been told to be baptized to have his sins washed away. (Acts 22:16) Paul wrote that we are baptized into Christ. He wrote that it is in baptism that the old man is put off; planted forever. He wrote that a new life starts as we are raised from the waters of baptism. Peter wrote that baptism saves us. (1 Pet. 3:21)

7. Does dancing make me delight more in reading the Bible? (2Tim 2:15).

8. Does dancing lead me to want to pray more to God? (James 5:16)

9. Does dancing increase my zeal for the growth of the Lord's church? (Matthew 6:21)

10. Can I honestly say that dancing helps me to be a better Christian? (Matthew. 6:24)

Copied from McGregor Blvd. Bulletin, Fort Myers.

NEWS AND NOTES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL begins tomorrow. Have you enrolled the children of your friends and neighbors? A program is being planned for Friday evening so that the parents of the children can come. Let's encourage them to do so.

Singing at Mark's Nursing Home this evening at 6 o'clock.

The first personal work class will be held immediately following services this evening. If you are interested in learning more how to do this and willing to do it, we urge you to come.

Brother Clayton Pepper will be at the South Side church building in Ft. Wayne presenting lessons on the subject of personal evangelism each evening through Wednesday at 6:30 each evening. Another qualified man in this area on this important subject.

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

June 7, 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
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Telephone No. 463-3571

WHAT ABOUT DANCING????

The Christian belongs to Christ. "Ye are not your own." I Cor. 6:19,20). He is vitally concerned with excluding "the works of the flesh" from the life. He is concerned with filling the life with the "fruit of the Spirit". (Gal. 5:19-23). The Christian's ideal is Christ and he strives to be as much like Christ as it is possible for him to be.

Many Christian young people, especially this time of the year, are tempted to dance because of the "prom" and activities of other groups to which they may be invited.

What must the Christian do? Each one must examine himself. (2 Cor. 13:5). Will you make such an examination by facing the following questions squarely and refusing to be satisfied with superficial answers?

1. Does dancing incite me to unlawful thoughts and desires? (Matthew 5:28).

MIXED MARRIAGES

I believe mixed marriages to be one of the biggest problems the church faces today. I feel I can write about it with authority because I'm living with it. Preachers don't preach on it, teachers don't teach it; but members do defend it and practice it.

In the light of II Cor. 6:14-18, this is very strange. I suppose if I could not read, I could plead ignorance of this command, but I can read and so it is only left for me to say that no older, responsible person ever mentioned it to me.

People try to explain away II Cor. 6:14-18 by saying it applies to business and friendly associations. True, it does, but what is more of a yoke than marriage? What could be more unequal than a child of the Devil as stated in verse 15.

Even if this command were not in the Bible, to marry someone who isn't a Christian would still be wrong because of the danger in which it puts his soul. We assume, of course, that the Christian is determined to live a Christian life.

Problems could arise as early as the honeymoon, especially on mid-week service night! Later, there will be family picnics on Sunday that last into the late afternoon with pressure from the family "not to leave, yet!" the strain that develops is unbelievable. It even hinders him from enjoying his family not to mention his worship. Then comes the fellowship with the church that makes the unbeliever aware that he is different and out of place in many cases. The believing mate will naturally be defensive for him and there will arise another problem sometimes involving most of the congregation.

However, all the previous problems will be nothing compared to what arises when children come along. Who ever heard of taking a baby to church and expecting it to be quiet? Of course, they can be dragged all over town on a shopping spree, but to church?

Discipline, a problem anyway, can turn out to be a family battle, involving grandparents, aunts, etc. The Bible lays down ground rules for raising children but if one parent doesn't accept the Bible, that leaves the door wide open for a very confused and unhappy child. There is nothing more heart breaking than to hear a child say, "Daddy, please go to church with us," and to hear the reply, "Oh, not today, I have a headache."

There are a thousand little things that happen continually but space hinders mentioning but a few. Social activities are also a bone of contention. Whereas a Christian has to be careful with whom he is seen and where, the unbelieving mate has no such worries. Social drinking can be a problem. So can the mode of dress. Most women like to dress to please their husbands but this may not be possible for the Christian.

I could go on and on, but I think this is enough. Every young person contemplating marriage should be warned of these everyday dangers along with II Cor. 6: 14-18. The burden that mixed marriages puts on the church will weaken it and lessen its effect in the community. Should any child of God take such a chance with his soul? Even if the unbelieving mate "goes along" with the Christian, their marriage will lack the fulfillment and bliss that a marriage in Christ brings.

--Judy Thompson, Marion, Ill.

--Via Donmoyer Digest

(Cont. from page 1)

2. Does dancing provoke such thoughts in the mind of my partner? (I Cor. 2:11)

3. Does dancing serve to arouse emotions which God intends to be aroused only in marriage relationships? (I Cor. 7:9--Heb. 13:4)

4. Does dancing serve as a stepping stone to baser things? (Col. 2:20)

5. Does dancing increase the respect which good people have for me? (Matt. 7:16--Matt. 7:20)

6. Does participating in dancing increase my love for God? (Col. 3:1,2).

NEWS AND NOTES

The Vacation Bible School conducted last week was successful from various standpoints. First of all, more teachers were involved in it than any VBS previously. We had the room, which we haven't had before this year, and we had record highs, 87 for two days and an average of 85 for the five day period. Also several parents came for the Friday evening program and new acquaintances made. All of this is secondary, of course, to the main purpose of the school, that of teaching the children more of God's word. The teachers, helpers, and all who assisted in any way are to be commended for their work. They may rest assured their labour will bear fruit to God's glory.

A special note about Pearl Bozell - She has a birthday the 18th of June. She will be 88 years young. Let's have a card shower for her. Her mailing address is RR#1, Lagrange, Ind. 46761.

Next Sunday afternoon at 3 is to be the area singing, to be held this month at Paulding, Ohio.

The Gieseke's are planning a trip to Kentucky for a few days this week. Brother and sister Hoggatt are planning to attend the Lipscomb lectures and the Carl Pieratt's are planning to go to Missouri the latter part of this week. May all have a safe and enjoyable trip.

Earl Gieseke
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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

June 14, 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
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Not the length of life
but its breadth & depth.

IMPORTANCE?

THREE REASONS

Practically everything we do or say is motivated by three things: (1) To be like others; (2) To be different from others; (3) Because God wants us to. We, in our social structure, tend to classify all into two groups--"the establishment", or "the anti-establishment". I, however, believe the Christian will be unable to fully identify with either group.

The "establishment" will certainly endorse things which Christians cannot endorse in good conscience. By the same token the "anti-establishment" endorses some things which we can agree with and endorse. What we must do is to take the things from both groups that are in harmony with God's Word--that is, right and good--and incorporate them into our lives, and glorify God.

When we allow our lives to be directed by Scriptures we can be assured that it will not be (conn.)

misdirected by the world. Some things, in and of themselves, are neither right or wrong. The things that determines this is our motive. My son, at nine years of age, is already asking about sideburns. There is nothing right or wrong about sideburns on a person. Our motive for wearing them might make the difference. If I had worn sideburns as a youth to rebel against my parents or school, then they would have been wrong. If neither my parents or the school where I attended had objected, then they would not have been wrong.

Wearing a coat while preaching is neither right nor wrong, but the motive for wearing or not wearing it could make it wrong. If, for example, I wear a coat just to be "dressed-up" my motive is wrong. If I don't wear one just to rebel against the "code" set for preachers, (which we say we do not have in the church) then not wearing one is wrong. If I preach in my shirt sleeves (and pants of course) because I am more comfortable, and I violate no Scripture, then it is right.

If we attend worship services because we love God and want to serve him, and worship with other Christians at every opportunity, then it is right to attend. If we attend because people "kinda expect it," then it is wrong. I am speaking here in respect of adults. I don't believe children reared in a Christian environment should even wonder if they are going to worship services or not! It should be as automatic, and more so, than going to school five days a week; or the father going to work each work day.

I do not expect my son to ask each morning if he should consider going to school or not. If it is a school day, and he isn't sick, he knows he is going to school. Neither do I expect him to ask on Sunday morning or evening, or Thursday evening, if he is going to church services or not. As long as he is my responsibility he can expect to go.

The reason school is automatic is because everyone else is going; and it is required by law. Suppose we pass a law requiring everyone to attend some church three times a week? Some would immediately

say: "But that is violating a person's freedom." Doesn't the fact that the state requires the Amish child to attend school until he or she is sixteen violate their personal right? Is school more important than religion? We are willing to abide by a state law that we must attend school and violate God's law that we are to assemble as saints regularly?

Is three times a week too often? If so, let's cut it back to twice a week. If that is too often we could meet once and please nearly every person in the land. All that I know believe we should attend services once a week. Are we leading people to sin my meeting too often? (I'm assuming that some who read this believe missing two-thirds of the meetings to be a sin.)

Many say that we don't read of a mid-week service in the apostolic church. That is correct, as far as I know. As I read the book of the Acts of the apostles it seems that they might have been meeting daily. What was their motive for meeting? Because God wanted them to! They were meeting in spite of opposition and persecution. Finally they were scattered abroad; but they did not "tuck their tail and run"; rather they went everywhere preaching and teaching the gospel. Why? Because God wanted them to! We need to "examine ourselves," and see why we do the things we do. What are the motives for our action, or lack of action? We must constantly evaluate our effectiveness as "workers together with him". We need to take inventory of our growth in Christ. Maybe the reason we often are unsuccessful is because the motives are wrong.

E. E. G.

Will YOU be responsible for leading one soul out of darkness into light; from eternity in hell to eternity in heaven? God does not require more than we can do, but has promised that he will help us; the Holy Spirit will help us; Christ has promised to be with us always, even unto the end of the earth.

IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TALENT TO DO GOD'S WILL,
BUT IT TAKES ALL WE HAVE! E. E. G.

NEWS AND NOTES

There will be a teacher's meeting this evening to discuss the beginning of the new quarter of teaching material. Time will be announced during announcements this morning.

The area singing is at Paulding, Ohio this afternoon at 3:0'clock.

The Carl Pieratt's are in Missouri today. They plan to be back in about a week.

Ruth Wilson will be leaving for college tomorrow for the summer quarter. We extend the best to her in every way.

Remember if you are going home after services to listen to the Herald of Truth television broadcast at 12 o'clock on channel 28, WSJV.

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

June 21, 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
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The brighter the light
The farther it shines
CHRISTIANS are
the light of
the world

"SPIRITUALLY UNEMPLOYED"

According to some of the "experts," when unemployment reaches a level of 6% our economic "health" is in danger, and is even close to a recession or depression. What about the spiritual health of the church? If we are "spiritually unemployed" to an excess rate are we not in grave danger? I believe that if we are as concerned about the welfare of the church as some are about the nation we had better push the "panic button"!

I hate to think what the "unemployed" would number in the Lord's church. In any congregation the number of people who are actively engaged in anything besides "pew-packing"; teaching a class; leading prayer; and the other "expected" things is pitifully small. Any "extra" work that is done is usually done by a very small minority.

If we are making no effort to lead others to Christ, then we are "spiritually unemployed". The way the Bible reads these same people will be rejected of God and Christ. "Every branch in me" (cont.)

that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. Brethren, (and sisters also) these are sobering words! We must examine ourselves, and try to "plug" the holes in our Christianity through which our "good works" are leaking out. There is surely more to Christianity than attending services three times a week. (And some do not even do that--but God will recompense!) How fast would the New Testament church have grown if they had taken this attitude? I would guess they would have grown about like we have! They went everywhere teaching the Word. They ceased not in teaching and preaching Jesus Christ.

If they could, and did, preach and teach under these unfavorable conditions, then why can't we do it under favorable conditions? If it can only be done under unfavorable conditions then we had better pray for unfavorable conditions. At the rate our country is decaying morally and spiritually we perhaps will soon have unfavorable conditions! We must become conscious that faithfulness in religion is more than "just keeping house". Our meeting house has become the greatest deterrent (besides indifference) to the spread of the gospel of our Lord!

Now I am not against having a decent place to worship as the church, but that is not an end, but rather a means to an end. I hardly need to tell any who read this that we won't convert many if we wait for them to wander into the building to be converted by sermons. We will get one once in a while, but they will be few and far between. If we are to meet the challenge of the great commission we must go where the people are.

Our Lord, nor his apostles, did not wait for the people to come to them. Jesus went about doing good. Paul traveled many miles during his work for the Lord. He struggled against great odds, but always kept the proper goals before him.

Isaiah used the parable of the vineyard to condemn those who rejected God's love and mercy by bringing forth wild grapes rather than what God

designed them for. Isa. 5:1-7. One of the most startling facts we see in the Bible is God's love and concern for mankind, and man's lack of response. In the world which God saw was good, man was given "all privileges". He was protected by God from everything except himself. The only limitation was that he was not to eat of the tree that bore the "forbidden fruit".

What more could God have done? Yet, soon man was not content to live with God. His one rule was too binding. Man was cast forth from the perfect living place. Soon God looked upon the earth and saw that wickedness was great upon the earth; every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually.

Following the "cleansing" of the earth from wickedness by the flood, God chose Abraham from among those that walked upon the earth to be the "father of the faithful". In time his descendants, the Jews, were led by providence to a promised land of great richness. They too became negligent in their duty towards God. Eventually Jesus looked down upon Jerusalem and cried: "Behold, thy house is left unto you desolate". Mt. 23:38.

God then sent his only Son to the cross to remove all sin from those who would turn to him through his Son. He had sent the last thing he had in his "treasures of good things," and mankind not only rejected him, but crucified him. Still, in loving mercy, God sent the gospel of his Son on the day of Pentecost that man might still be saved, even those who had cried out; "Crucify him, Crucify him".

Oh what a debt we owe! How hopeless is our chance to pay it! But again, God in his concern for mankind does not require that we make full payment, but only that we obey his Son. Is this too much for One to ask who has given so much? His Son has given us the opportunity to teach the lost and dying about a cure for their sickness, and an antidote to death. If we fail in this there is no promise for a further chance. Now is the day of salvation.

NEWS AND NOTES

STARTING OF LADIES BIBLE CLASS THIS TUESDAY EVENING AT 7:30 AT THE CHURCH BUILDING.

This class will fill the need that has existed in uniting the women of the church and the visiting women unto greater recognition of their God given responsibilities. We commend them unto this work and know that it will enrich their spiritual life to the glory of God. If any of the ladies does not have a book of study, "In The Hands Of A Woman", please see sister Hostetler who will be teaching the study.

There are two more Saturday's for work days before the camp opens this summer. I would encourage all who could arrange to go over, to do so, and help get things in order, for this vital work.

TWO GOSPEL MEETINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO ATTEND

1. June 29-July 5 - Jimmy Allen of Searcy, Ark. in a meeting at Adrian, Michigan
2. July 8-12 - W. A. Bradfield in a meeting at New Castle, Indiana

REMEMBER - Personal work class this evening at 6:15 ----and application of things taught the rest of your life.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

June 28, 1970

Schedule of Regular Services

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

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THE SECRET OF TRUE GREATNESS

In my childhood days I saw a picture that greatly impressed me. It was the picture of a young woman clinging desperately to a rock where she had been cast by the angry waves of the sea. It was supposed to represent the security of Christians. This, however, is a rather narrow conception of what it means to be a Christian. Personal salvation should not make us unmidful of the lost condition of others, and of the needs of the less fortunate.

Several years ago I saw another picture. It portrayed the same sea, the same angry waves, the young woman holding to the rock, but with only one hand. The other hand was extended to help another who was struggling to reach the

(cont.)

to reach the rock. This is the real purpose of life. True greatness is found only in service to others. True success does not consist in arrogantly dominating others for selfish purposes, but in serving others.

When we transfer our thoughts from ourselves to the needs of our fellow-men, we begin to discover the meaning of true greatness.

Adair P. Chapman

It Isn't Easy . . .

God's Love

To apologize.	We can see only a little of
To begin again.	the ocean,
To admit error.	A few miles distant from
To be unselfish.	the rocky shore;
To face a sneer.	But out there--beyond, be-
To be considerate.	yond our eyes' horizon,
To endure success.	There's more--there's more.
To keep on trying.	We can see a little of
To profit by mistakes.	God's loving--
To forgive and forget.	A few rich treasures from
To think and then act.	His mighty store;
To keep out of the rut.	But out there--beyond, be-
To subdue an ugly temper.	yond our eyes' horizon,
To make the best of little.	There's more--there's
To shoulder deserved blame.	more.
BUT IT'S WORTH IT.	--Anonymous

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

I baptized a ten year old boy. Soon thereafter his father was baptized. The father told me that his son was largely responsible. At meal time the little boy would bow his head to give thanks and invariably close his little prayer by saying, "And please, Lord, take the devil out of Daddy." This happened at Prosperity, W.Va.

My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me;
I may not choose the colors. He knows what they
should be;

For He can view the pattern upon the upper side,
While I can see it only on the, the under side.
Sometimes He weaveth sorrow which seemeth strange
to me;

But I will trust His judgement and work on faith-
fully;

'Tis He who fills the shuttle.

He knows just what is best;

So I shall weave in earnest and leave with Him the
rest.

Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease
to fly,

Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason
why.

The dark threads are as needful in the Weaver's
skillful hand

As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He
has planned.

He knows, He loves, He cares. Nothing this truth
can dim.

He gives His very best to those who leave the choice
to Him.

--John Bannister Tabb

THE POWER OF EXAMPLE

Not long ago a Hindu woman was converted chiefly through hearing the Word of God read. She suffered much persecution from her husband. One day a missionary asked her, "When your husband is angry and persecutes you, what do you do?" She replied: "Well, sir, I cook his food better; when he complains, I sweep the floor cleaner; and when he speaks unkindly, I answer him mildly. I try, sir, to show him that when I became a Christian, I became a better wife and mother." The consequence of this was that the husband, while he could withstand all the preaching of the missionary, could not withstand the practical preaching of his wife, and he became a Christian with her. The foregoing is a real incident. It happened.