At the Portals of the Opening Year.

How the poetic ever ‘mingles with the realistic as we think of time, of days and years. And months. The poet sings of the portals of the closed year. As if we had been going in and out at these doors and walked through the corridors of Time for a twelve-month, until now they are to swing shut forever. It starts reflective thoughts, just as if we were leaving some delightful mansion in which charming days had been spent. The portals of 1908 we may soon not enter again. So much more of life is forever gone. And as we recall the dreams of a year ago, we may find many of them unrealized. The chime of these vanished and lost dreams sounds dirge-like in our ears. If they have no other lesson, they should sober us as we look at the new door of Time which stands ajar. With Lucy Larcom, how appropriate that our eager footsteps should delay while we devoutly recognize the New Year as God’s, and send a prayer to heaven for guidance to enter it; for direction to win its treasures, and for that divine control that we may not return a year hence in beggary when the Divine hand is so near “with infinite wealth, wisdom and heavenly health.”

Again the New Year becomes “a new leaf.” So a year ago. But as with the careless child, so we probably have spoiled the old leaf. It is stained and blotted, and with many regrets we surrender it to the Giver. Let us however look a little while at the blots of selfishness, of unkindness, of worldliness, of bitterness, of wrong doings to friends and kindred, so that with penitent heart we may hear the Father say, as we receive the clean, new leaf, “Do better now, my child.”

We are told that there exists a very beautiful custom in Germany, which it would be well to imitate everywhere. On the first day of the new year, whatever may have been the quarrels or estrangement between friends and relatives, mutual visits are interchanged, kindly greetings given and received—all is forgotten and forgiven. Let this custom begin with reconciliation to God, then friendship and fellowship may be found that shall be blessed and lasting.

As the New Year changes its number, would it not be wise to remember how few they are, these measurements of years? Looking backward, too, how often, alas! they bring regret at the thought of missed opportunities. In this let us get out of the realm of the poetic into that of the real. Time is of value beyond computation. There is not other of the Father’s gifts in this world so priceless. We look at our friends; our talents, or wealth, or honors; but what are these without time? And so, standing outside the portals of 1909, may we not again pause while we pray that as we walk its corridors there may be no wasted moments, nor missed opportunities in the days to come. There is, of course, first of all the duty of redeeming the time in earnest looking after our spiritual interests. Then there is so much in good words, more in kind deeds. And so as we pass along the way where the needs of our fellow creatures are seen on every hand, let us not forget the words of our dear Master: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me.”

Some years ago we read a New Year’s Hymn, which began, “How beautiful it is to be alive.” It was a new thought to us. We knew it to be a solemn and responsible thing to live. But beautiful! Meditation is fruitful. We soon saw beauty in the grace of God which upheld us year by year that we might sing his praises, making joyous melody in our hearts. We saw beauty in the revolving seasons whose glory is reflected in the maturing of human powers and the ripening of the shock of corn for the heavenly garner. We even saw beauty in the trials, the pains and griefs of life, for do they not teach us to call up the memories of God’s mercies, and thus strengthen us to bear more sweetly these ills in hopefulness of better things to come? There is beauty in a soul in loving harmony with God, developing love for the love that saved it, and kneeling close to him who ever renew his saving mercies. And thus we viewed the soul rising upward to new heights of noble character we kept misting to ourselves, “How beautiful it is to be alive.”

Thus let us enter the portals of this new and untried year, keeping before our minds its realistic character, and determined to make it for our own life the best of all the years. Its golden chain of days can be an uninterrupted series of blessings. In a sense we have never trodden the path of this New Year before. We cannot read the future. We do not know what a day will bring forth. Let the past be past with its scattered seed. We hasten on to fresh labors, anew to sow and reap and thresh. Let us do it with all our vigor, pressing forward, eagerly contending for the right. There is not a moment to be wasted. There is no room for idlers. There can be no time for sin and wrong-doing. May it be a year consecrated to God and the right, to virtue and holiness. And then when God’s angel which holds the curtain shall life it, may we enter into the years of God which only know blessedness—C. H. Forney, D. D., in Church Advocate.
Evangelical Visitor

A Semi-Monthly Religious Journal
For the exposition of true, practical piety and devoted to the spread of Evangelical truths and the Unity of the church.

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EDITORIAL.

Nineteen Hundred and Nine.

Again with this number we change the year date and volume number. The history of the year now closed is made; that which is before us is yet untried and no one knows what will be its record. We know that many, many who commenced the year with us have ceased to go in and out among us. To some of our homes there came a messenger calling away a member of the family, a mother, a father or a child, one we thought we could not spare, but we had not power to say the messenger nay, and so they have gone “Over the River,” and we are left desolate. But God, who is the “God of all comfort,” can console and encourage and heal each sorrowing heart. “Looking to Jesus” is the remedy for broken-heartedness. May every one of our readers who has tasted sorrow’s cup during the year just past find in Jesus:

“Lord, I would clasph my hand in Thine, Nor ever murmur nor repine, Content whatever lot I see. Since ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.”

“Lord, lift me up and let me stand, New heights I’m gaining every day,”

“A fountain ever springing, Since first I learned to love it.”

“While absent we were kept busy doing the day in visiting from house to house and preaching every evening but one, rain preventing a congregation to assemble. The attendance was quite fair and encouraging. The brethren and sisters were deeply concerned about the work, and some had the burden of prayer. We felt that if anything was to be accomplished the Lord must do it because we knew that we had no strength, that we did not know anything; so our eyes were to the Lord. The Lord graciously answered prayer and a number of young persons yielded to the convictions and workings of the Holy Spirit, and earnestly sought the Lord. Others were convicted to almost the yielding point but resisted the gracious invitations. The members stood by the work nobly, helping along in testimony and prayer. As we could not possibly remain longer, and the brethren thought the meeting must be prolonged because of the interest manifested, Bro. S. R. Smith consented to labor there during this week. Our prayer is that many more may accept the invitation and yield to God and be saved.”

In our notes in the December 15 number we told of our contemplated absence from our office for a few weeks in that we had consented to assist in a series of meetings at Air Hill, North Franklin, Pa. If this issue reaches its readers a little later than usual it will be because we could hardly cut out visit any shorter than we did. The meetings started on December 12, in the evening and we stayed with them until December 27 in the evening coming home on Monday morning and finding a big pile of work. We are making every effort possible to get the issue out as nearly on time as possible. The Editor.
home by the end of the year. On account of the unusual interest manifest in the meetings the Brethren decided to continue the meetings yet longer as the Lord may direct. The power of the Lord was greatly in evidence towards the close of Bro. Leaman's time here. The congregations were large, "yet with all the powerful sermons and soul-stirring incidents related by our evangelist, the majority of the convicted ones, as was manifest, held out until the last day of the Feast which was the crowning day of all, then came flocking in as the waters were moved by the Holy Ghost and saints testified of the redeeming power. To God be all the praise. Amen."

All mail for Bro. Leaman should be sent to his home office, Upland, Cal.

Special Notice.

As a special favor we ask all of our subscribers who have recently paid up, or sent us any money, to watch the credit on their address label, and if there is any mistake let us know immediately. While we were at Air Hill quite a number of subscribers in that vicinity gave us money on their subscriptions. We ask them all to watch their credits so that if we miss to credit any it may be corrected without delay. Look also whether your name appears in the subscription credits on page 3.

Bound Volume of the Year 1907 and 1908.

We will have a small number of bound volumes of the year 1907 and 1908, bound in one volume. Any of our friends desiring to secure one should order at once. The number is limited. The price will be one dollar and fifty cents each. Transportation extra.

Are you sure you don't want a nice, suitable Gospel Text Calendar, a text of Scripture for every day in each month, to hang up in your room? You can yet order one if you have not done so yet. Sure you have calendars and calendars given to you, some of doubtful propriety to hang up for your children to see. Fashionably dressed or undressed beauties are not very appropriate for our rooms. Better order one of our Gospel Text Calendars before you for­

There is a strength imparted to the soul through waiting on the Lord in prayer that can come in no other way.

Subscription Credits.

From November 21 to December 29.


How I Ascertain the Will of God.

SURRENDER YOUR OWN WILL.

1. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given subject.

Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Ninetenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what his will is.

Do NOT DEPEND ON FEELINGS.

2. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions.

SEEK THE SPIRIT'S WILL THROUGH God's Word.

3. I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the word of God.

The Spirit and the word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, he will do it according to the Scriptures, and never contrary to them.

NOTE PROVIDENTIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with his word and Spirit.

PRAY.

5. I ask in God to prayer to reveal his will to me aright.

WAIT.

6. Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly.

In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective—Selected.

Vigilance in watching opportunity—tact and daring in seizing upon opportunity; force and persistence in crowding opportunity to its utmost of possible achievement—these are the material virtues which must command success.—Austin Phelps.
NEWS OF CHURCH ACTIVITY
IN THE
HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS

Addresses of Missionaries.

Africa.
H. P. and Grace Steigerwald, Matopo Mission, Bulawayo, South Africa.
H. Frances Davidson, Adda G. Engle, Myron Taylor, Jesse and Helen Wengler, Christine N. W. Rhodin, South Africa.
Harvey J. and Emma Frey, Elizabeth Engle, Mitsubashi Mission; Levi and Sallie Doolinger, Madagascar Mission, Gwanda, Rhodesia, South Africa.

The following are not under the F. M. B.:

Our City Missions.
Philadelphia, 4325 N. Second street, in charge of Brother Peter Stover and Sister Stover.
Chicago Mission, 5956 Pernia street, in charge of Sister Sarah Bert, Bro. B. L. Brubaker and Sister Nancy Shirk.
Jahkob Orphanage, Thomas, Okla., in charge of A. L. and Anna Eisenbender.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Pm. 08:12:3: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm hath gotten him the victory.
The Lord hath made known his salvation; righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He has remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel, all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Know ye that the Lord is good, it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Glory be to his name; let us enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praises. Let us be thankful unto him and bless his holy name. Truly we have reasons for rejoicing; our meetings are going on and are encouraging. As Bro. Engle is gone and expects to stay in Kansas a few months, we have made arrangements ahead for ministers at the Philadelphia Mission. On December 6, Bro. Wm. Hess, of Trappe, Montgomery county, Pa., was appointed. May the Lord bless the seed that was sown and Bro. Hess be encouraged in the good work. On December 9, Bro. J. B. Lehman, of Upland, California, was with us one night and preached at the Rapho Mission.

Truly he will not be forgotten for the truth he heralded forth. May God lead him by his Spirit and keep him by his power is our prayer. On December 13, Bro. Abner Martin came to stay with us for a week's meeting. Truly the meetings were encouraging; the truth was spoken in love. Bro. Amos Shank accompanied Bro. Martin and was a blessing to us the short time he was with us. The Lord will reward him for the sacrifice he made. Eld. John Smith was with us one night, December 14. We thank God for the truth he brought to us today. God's blessing be on him and may he have many souls for his faithfulness. Truly we are encouraged. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

We have much to praise God for and yet we must acknowledge it is not all sunshine. Sometimes there are hurricanes, but, his grace is sufficient. Praise his name. We mean to push the battle to the very gates by his help. Times are hard, there is much distress on every line. Let us be as one man in this battle: here and there are a few willing to lend a helping hand to help the work along. If we only give a cup of cold water in his name we shall have our reward. May the Lord abundantly bless the readers.

A. L. and Mrs. A. L. and Vera Mesger, Maggie Lulich, No. 6 Sudder Bazaar, Delhi, Lucknow, India.

The following are not under the F. M. B.:
D. W. and Mrs. D. W. Zook, Sripat, Central America.
J. H. and Anna Sparrow, manufactured in China, Ballyare, India.
A. L., Mrs. A. L. and Ezra Musser, Magdalene Mission, Moundsville, West Virginia.
D. W. and Mrs. D. W. Zook, Sripat, Central America.

W. and Harriet Hoover, 51 Edwin street.

Smithville, Ohio.—On October 24, we began a series of meetings. Bro. Menagh, of Des Moines, Ia., and Elder J. A. Stump, of Indiana, conducted the meeting. The meetings were well attended. The brethren came filled with the Spirit, and the meeting was a real uplift to God's children. The brethren brought forth many precious truths from the word of God; they did not shrink to declare the whole gospel to the children of men. While we were under a public confession of Christ, conviction was on the sinners but they were not willing to yield. But we know the seed sown will not return void. May the Lord bless the dear brethren and make them a real blessing wherever they go. The meeting closed on November 13.

M. A. BRENNER.

MAREKHAM, Ont.—The meetings at Markham, of which note was made in last Issue, closed December 10th, and continued over three weeks, being conducted by Brother Shoalts. After the first week Brother John Sluder came to help. Truly the Lord owned and blessed the labors of these dear brethren with an outpouring of his Spirit upon his people and when it closed December 10th. While no one came out openly, we believe good resolutions were formed.

We have to say, with the poet, "Oh what shall I answer to this?" So many protests are made, yet very few accept the opportunities. Our prayer is that the burden of souls may rest more and more upon the hearts of God's children.

A. B. BRUBAKER.

Mt. Hope, Pa.

SOUTHPORT, Ohio.—Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. I do feel to praise God for the pentecostal meetings that were held at Silverdale and Sondberton. Brother John Smith, from Ohio, brought forth the word with power, from heaven above. The meetings were well attended, and we felt the presence and nearness of the Holy Spirit, and we felt love's blessed signals were floating over us, for the sinner out alone on the sea. O that sinners would cry out, "Lord, help me." Then deliverance is nigh. God will bring you into the promised rest.

The brother delivered many a heavenly message which gave us a sweeter taste of heaven, and has left many a heavenly relish both to saint and sinner. We feel as the shepherds after they were encouraged, to praise and glorify God for the things we have heard.

Five asked for prayer, and all seem willing to take the way with the lowly Jesus. One dear sister says, "I am going the whole way," and she looks it too. They all seem so humble and willing for which we praise God.

So there was a rejoicing in heaven and the echoes rang, and we rejoiced with them day and night. We had so much spiritual food that we needed less natural food. My prayer is that God will bless the brother on his way in other fields, and that he will be kept humble at the feet of Jesus, giving God all the praise and glory. Praise God that in the name of Jesus I have entered into the life of Perfect Rest. Pray for us.

SISTER LAURA ZENDT.
deep conviction upon the unsaved. Many
turned to the Lord, confessed their sins,
sought and found pardon, and are happy.
Quite a number of the members sought a
deeper work and got out into the liberty.
The people here live as the Lord gave them utterance
with heart-searching sermons, exposing
truth as the Lord gave them utterance
he was very wicked, he had not been to
borders who used to live close to us and later
in Custer township. The second
that he and Bro. Kitely began the meet-
close this meeting against the wishes of
people as we had another appointment
interest here was good and the attendance
morning we again started and at about ten
west of the church where we
meets commenced No-
Alfred C. Lesher, of the Montgomery
accompanied by Brother Hess, and
Brothers were buried with their Lord in bap-
to come back. The people here live
of forty-two miles from the railroad; they
are poor but very kind and hospitalable. On
December the 7th we turned our faces
and got home the evening of the
safety and found all well. We
we had expected to hold our meeting. The
induce that Be the Lord is
keeping the cross and found peace. May the Lord
have found peace. Among them was our
were able to all. The meetings commenced No-
brothers in special meetings held at the
Elizabeth Hess, of Lans-
 brethren to leave his kindred
the Lord of the harvest should raise up
privileges to the saved. The
was much appreciated. The harvest truly
finds great and many places ripe, but many
workers are needed.
By request wife and I came to Elkhart,
that he and Bro. Kitely began the meet-
the Lord of the harvest should raise up
laborers it is now. Will the dear saints
pray earnestly for us that we may be
to the glory of God and the well-
ship of precious souls? Soon this
year will come to a close, and with it many
closed their earthly career. So far
we are still standing in the ranks of the
living. May God help us to be faithful,
T. A. LONG.
From Africa.
Box 115, FORSBORI,
TRANSVAAL, SO. AFRICA,
Nov. 23, 1908.

To the readers of Evangelical Visitor:
Beloved in the Lord, greetings in Jesus'
name. At the time of our last communica-
cour dear Bro. Levi Doner was with
us for several weeks. How we did enjoy
his presence and fellowship. We would
have been glad to have had him with us
for a longer time. One appreciates to
have others come and get a chance to hear some new voice. The be-
lievers were also glad for his messages,
and we know that the Lord will make it a
blessing for all of them. We pray that the Lord gra-
ciously bless all the brethren and saints in
Rhodesia and give them many souls.
Some time ago the Lord called one of
the native brethren to leave his kindred
and tribe and go far away to the un-
occupied heathen lands in Central Africa.
It was a definite call and he obeyed; was
carefully examined and was recommended
to be sent forward. It was thought best
to have him visit each of our Mission sta-
tions here in the Transvaal and he has
been going from station to station and a
real helpful missionary spirit has been the
result. While he was here with us we
had blessed fellowship and many of the
believers saw their great privileges in this
blessed gospel light, and they expressed
themselves very freely in their expressions of
the dear Bro. Josefa Nyampalele,
saying, "Since he has given up all for
Jesus the Lord speaks to us and tells us
to open his way to go by giving of our
means." Spontaneous offerings were
given.
The Lord graciously reminded us of the
...
Still out of Christ, yet for you there is prayer being offered. When the child of God stood still until Israel had answered in behalf of as many as keep the day of Pentecost, and it will be answered in behalf of his disciples on another occasion, it did not have any power to preach, but we can be a help to each other.

The following are good instructions: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who has will to men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (I. Tim. 2:1-4.) Let us be careful not to mistake the heart, becomes broken, and a broken and a contrite heart, God will be quickly moved. (Ps. 51:17.) Self-ambition is gone when the heart becomes broken, and it opens a place for the Holy Spirit to come in and assist us. (Jude 20.) We should be careful not to mistake petitioning, for praying with a broken heart. A certain Christian learned something about praying, in this way: He happened to hear a Christian friend in whom he had much confidence, praying loudly, and yet his friend was all alone. He was afraid, his friend was going in the wrong way, and said within himself, God could hear the slightest whisper. Some time afterwards this Christian had some important affairs to look after, and did not know what to do, but was not concerned enough to pray fervently in regards to the matter. He went to this friend for assistance in the matter.

If we continue to pray until we have the heart, becomes broken, and a broken and a contrite heart, God will be quickly moved. (Ps. 51:17.) Self-ambition is gone when the heart becomes broken, and it opens a place for the Holy Spirit to come in and assist us. (Jude 20.) We should be careful not to mistake petitioning, for praying with a broken heart. A certain Christian learned something about praying, in this way: He happened to hear a Christian friend in whom he had much confidence, praying loudly, and yet his friend was all alone. He was afraid, his friend was going in the wrong way, and said within himself, God could hear the slightest whisper. Some time afterwards this Christian had some important affairs to look after, and did not know what to do, but was not concerned enough to pray fervently in regards to the matter. He went to this friend for assistance in the matter.

The writer met the man with whom this saint made his home, and spoke about this remarkable spiritual man. The reply was Yes, he is devoted; I often hear him by himself praying. He is a child in some ways, but notice the wisdom in the following letter received from him.

J. D. Powell:

Brother in the Lord: I received your welcome letter with joy and gladness, which is so encouraging to my poor soul. It is with delight to write to you, to let you know that I still enjoy the love of God in my soul. How it touches my soul, to realize the power of God's love in my soul; to be watchful unto prayer, asking such things as I really need for my soul; having such a hungering and thirsting after the righteousness of God; to be filled with his Spirit to be so in love with my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; to love him with all my heart, all my soul, and all my might. It is so pleasing in the sight of God to favor me with such blessings, and to put into my heart, that wisdom, that understanding of the knowledge
of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that wonderful light; to walk in the light; the Sun of Righteousness shines so brightly and clearly in my heart; to see my way so bright and clear before me, getting brighter and brighter, following that light which leads to glory! glory! glory! How glorious to behold the beauty of the Lord, in being partaker of Christ's suffering, that his glory be so revealed, to have joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

I remain your brother in the Lord Jesus Christ.

After we have learned to pray as our Master, (Heb. 5:7), we can also follow his example in praying much; for Jesus sometimes continued all night in prayer.

The apostles did not have time to look after the needs of the widows themselves, but gave themselves "continually to pray and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:2-4.) How much time do you suppose they gave to prayer? It must have been several hours a day, or it would not have hindered them in the business just mentioned. Little wonder that God could work better in the church in those days than he does now, when leaders in the church have time for pleasure, or to carry on large business enterprises, or to work large farms.

We should not do as those who go through a certain routine only, or spend a certain length of time, and then try to feel satisfied because they have the matter off their hands, but we should pray until we have the assurance that God hears us. How can we tell when God hears us? He hears us if our hearts condemn us not. How can we tell if our hearts condemn us not? If we are praying for a certain thing and God gives us a witness, or an outpouring of his Spirit, we know that our hearts condemn us not in asking. (Acts 15:8; I. Jno. 3:21, 22.)

A certain minister's wife was not getting along very well in her experience, and the minister himself had not learned to pray as fervently as was his privilege. The tempter took advantage of that, and greatly tempted them, especially, the wife. The husband began to pray for his wife, but was impressed that there was no use, neither to pray for her, nor for himself; clouds of darkness seemed to settle upon them, and desperation stared them in the face. He put his whole being in his prayer, and cried mightily to God in words about like this: Oh God, we have not done what it was our privilege, or even our duty to do, but we come to thee in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for us. As it is the privilege of a man to come to thee, and have his prayer answered, hear our prayers. As thou wouldst listen to the voice of a man, listen to us now. Oh Holy Ghost, intercede. Oh Jesus, intercede. Oh heaven be moved. Oh Jesus thou great High Priest that sittest at the right hand of God, "a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man," hear our cry. The enemy was declaring that there was no use, but the man did not wave, but continued to send up his petitions. His wife then interrupted him and said, "Can't you get a prayer through?" By that time the husband began to realize that the answer was coming, and in a moment he was rejoicing. We give this to show that if we do not feel like praying or if things look dark, it is all the more necessary that we prevail in prayer. The blessing will come. Any one that does not get the evidence of his prayers being answered when he prays, should see that his motives are pure (according to the will of God), then press his petitions.

If we do what the Lord asks us to do, he will do what we ask him to do. (Jno. 15:7.) The Lord has not asked us to pray for anything which he will not give us. He will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him. (L. n. 3:13.) If there were but one lost soul on earth, we should be praying for that soul. How much more under the present conditions ought we to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." We can have all the help, both temporal and spiritual, needed to carry on the Gospel work. If we obey the word the Lord will also approve of our obedience by giving us the witness of the Spirit.

Note—The writer would not send this article away to be published, unless approved by the Spirit. He had it completed in his own way, but he did not get the assurance that it was approved of God, when he took it to him for approval, so he has been taking out some and adding some to it. Committees on church work ought to have their work approved by the Holy Ghost, and so should also church conferences. (Acts 15:28.)

Brown City, Mich.

Never spend your time in such a way that you would not like God to say, "What art thou doing?"—Morning Light.

For the EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

A Prayer-Meeting Talk.

A. Z. MYERS.

II. Samuel 6:11, 12. (See also the Context.) See also I. Chron. 13:3, 14.

Envy is one of the passions of such doubtful character that you may wonder that I take it into my subject for a prayer-meeting talk. Yet so material are we that only material things stimulate us to secure the blessings God is ever waiting to strew on our pathway.

Paul used the word covet in the same sense as I am using envy tonight when in closing the passage in I. Corinthians on the several gifts of service in the church he exhorts, "But covet earnestly the best gifts." (I. Cor. 12:31.)

David the king was now well established in his kingdom and proposes to bring up the ark of Jehovah, together with the tabernacle into Jerusalem where he had made his capital. For many long years it had remained at Kerjathjearim, whither it was placed after its return by the Philistines. For many long years much at least of the beautiful ritualistic service given through Moses in the wilderness must have been neglected and but very imperfectly conducted and understood, if at all.

Among the special instructions of special interest and import as connected with our story was the manner of moving the ark. It was to Israel a representation of God so sacred that human hands must not touch it and the priest only might see it and that at only special occasions.

The Philistines, however, ignorant of God's way, improvised a more modern way, which worked very well for them. Now after a long time David presumptuously or ignorantly presumes to follow their way instead of Jehovah's way, resulting in the death of Uzzah, who impiously, though well-meaningly, touched the ark. Fear and consternation pervaded the vast assembly that had been called together by the king to do honor to this occasion. The festival is broken up. It becomes a day of mourning and ends in disaster and tragedy.

But every cloud has a silver lining. Happily those who remember this, "turn their clouds inside out and show the lining." The disasters of this day brought blessing into an humble home that we most likely would not otherwise have heard of.
Humbled and chastened before God, David would not go on with the process and the ark was turned aside and for three months found a resting place in the home of Obed-Edom, the Gittite, the home to whose attention we would direct your attention this evening. It was probably a very humble home, we are inclined to think so, though a careful search gives us but very little information. The distinguishing name of "the Gittite" would suggest that he had at one time been a resident of Gath. Possibly one of the famous six hundred who followed David. It might indicate that he was a Philistine. This is however hardly probable, but it is more probable that Dr. Young is right when he says that he was a Levite. If there was any semblance, which is likely in conformity with the directions of the law, David would not have placed the ark in the custody of any other, though I confess there is an air of mystery about the adjective describing him. The same Dr. Young thinks there were five men of this name mentioned in the Bible. I am inclined to think that in several instances they are this same person, without the addition of the adjective here used. However that absence may serve to indicate that they were different men.

Though the ark brought death wherever it went among the Philistines, and Uzzah was slain for simply touching it, and David turned it aside into this home out of fear, the record repeatedly states that God blessed Obed-Edom and all that he had. It was a blessing to his whole household, for the record is careful to state that this blessing came because of the presence of the ark.

Such a home is envied. Others look wistfully on and desire to share its blessings. David was quickly to pay the price, but they do envy the household. If there is one member of the family that knows God that member ought to bring the influence of the glad tidings of salvation so real to that whole household that its influence would pervade each one. The head of the house will honor God by family worship. This can beautifully be done, without taking much time in this busy, rushing life, if immediately after the morning and evening meals, one, or better both, some member of the family will read a few verses from the Bible, and some one will offer a brief, heartfelt prayer. It is not necessary, and often not wise, to read a whole chapter, nor need this prayer include the whole creation, nor recount a history of all the past. It is said that the grace of song is being lost in the home. If not each day, at least each week the family ought to get together for a little while and sing some of the grand gospel hymns of which our literature is so wonderfully full and rich.

In God's family which God blesses, and is thus envied, there is love. For love is of God and God is love. Love and home are synonymous. Four walls do not make a home. Nor does a palace and regal furnishings, but love transposes poverty into a palace and brings constant blessing. The presence of the ark in Obed-Edom's home was not more marked than is the presence of that divine thing called love in the home where God is enthroned.

The inference is that the blessing of this home was material. Grant it. So will be the blessing that attends the home in which in these simple things which I have mentioned God is enthroned.

As I look out into the world, madly chasing honor, after pleasure, after wealth, as I study conditions in sociology and note the unrest, the struggles, the hollowness, the sham, the mockery, the heartaches, the wretchedness and misery, in rags and in finery, in hovel and in palace, and all the way between, and then quietly turn from these distracting things and commune with my God and read in his word his plans and designs for his own, how my heart yearns to make men see the blessedness that is in really enthroning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, revealed in the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

The Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom and made it the envy of others, so much so that David soon removed the ark. What of that favored house then? How one would like to ask. Ah beloved, we cannot answer that question, but we do know of God, to-day brings blessing or brings death.

The trouble with most of us is we think that God is a being of wonderful majesty, away, away off in some unknown region. Oh I wish I could forever dispel this idea from the mind of every one of us. God is as present in your and my home as that ark was in the home of Obed-Edom. We are never out of his presence. Jacob looked at Bethel after his wonderful night with a stone for a pillow exclaiming, "How wonderful is this place." In the presence of one of God's mighty works, such as the thunderstorm, or the avalanche, or glacier, or ocean storm we say, "How wonderful is this place." Occasionally, not nearly so often as God would I am persuaded, we feel and even see a wonderful demonstration of the presence and power of God and we say, "Wonderful." But the fact is God is very near to present. The Psalmist had learned this when he intoned the 139th Psalm.

The difference in homes is the recognized presence of God where that presence, is honored and feared and guarded the motive power of life's actions.

In the home of this twentieth century, which God blesses, the Bible has a large place. It is not only found in a beautiful edition on the center table or elsewhere. There are not only beautiful hand Bibles in readable type for each individual, as at least there ought to be in these days of cheap Bibles, but the Bible is lovingly read and studied and fed upon as certainly as the body is nourished at the table with three meals each day.

In this home prayer has a large place. I am not now going to attempt to solve the mysteries of prayer, to answer the oft-asked questions as to whether prayer actually moves God or only lifts us a little higher. I believe both: but this I know, that if there were more prayer there would be more blessed and happy homes.

In this home the word of God is not only honored and read, but it is law. "How can I do this great sin against God?" was Joseph's answer to the temptress that was untrue to the marital vow. If men and women would think of God, and not so much about being caught, and the scandal of society, there would be more homes upon which the blessing of God rested.

You will notice that this blessing included not only one member of the home, but the household. That would suggest that God is enthroned in the household. If there is one member of the family that knows God that member ought to bring the influence of the glad tidings of salvation so real to that whole household that its influence would pervade each one. The head of the house will honor God by family worship. This can beautifully be done, without taking much time in this busy, rushing life, if immediately after the morning and evening meals, one, or better both, some member of the family will read a few verses from the Bible, and some one will offer a brief, heartfelt prayer. It is not necessary, and often not wise, to read a whole chapter, nor need this prayer include the whole creation, nor recount a history of all the past. It is said that the grace of song is being lost in the home. If not each day, at least each week the family ought to get together for a little while and sing some of the grand gospel hymns of which our literature is so wonderfully full and rich.

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that the presence and love and sympathy of Christ in the heart never waves unless we turn our backs upon it. Who that knows the blessing of the presence of Christ in the heart and home would ever do that? Let me close with these few lines from George William Peck:

“When the mind is sad and weary, And the soul is sore distressed; How a word of comfort cheers, From Him who knows us best. It fortifies our courage, It dispels for us our fears. It turns our nights to mornings, It soothes away our tears. Oh wounded heart and dreary! Oh perfect soul of love, God blend them both together, When the skies are dark above.”

For the Evangelical Visitor.

- J. Myers Bosler

“Health vs. Sickness.—No. IX.

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.” “He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.”

- Proverbs chapters 23, 25 and 27.

Many are deluded in mistaking the abnormal, depraved craving for food and drink, for pure bodily hunger. Bodily needs will be knowable well enough when the perverted palate is expressed. When the demands of hunger are met, there is perfect satisfaction; while when the craving is satisfied there is a clamoring and hankering for an indescribable something more. Perverted harmful cooking and rapid gluttonous eating adds harm to the situation.

As aforesaid the body needs daily so much of each of the three elements of food. If more is eaten of one element than needed the result is the surplus decays and creates poisons. Obesity is a disease from over eating. If eating were proper there would be no disease soil formed in the body, hence there would be no disease or fever. Poisons may be accumulating for years until the point is reached, when in great mercy a fever is permitted to ravage the body and remove corruption, lest it completely decompose. Hence some one having had typhoid fever will not take it again until sufficient poison can accumulate again. We conclude that small eaters are healthier than heavy eaters. However small eaters may feed on too much of one element, while the other elements are of course, in quantity, proportionately too small. Thereby the harm will be double.

If the body is overfed, stupidity, and poisons will demand counter acts and stimulants.

If the body is underfed, if indigestion or fermentation exists, then also will there be an indescribable craving for an indefinable something.

If the personal habits are the free use of indigestible foods, highly seasoned foods, and the many condiments used in the wretched cooking system, including baking powders, tartars, soda, salt, pepper, all-spice, mustard, vinegar, nutmeg, cinnamon and sugar; then also is the foundation laid for intemperance. Gas arising from fermentation manifested by belching or eructations, and flatulency of the bowels, is very harmful to the nervous system; this is also a bitter foe to temperance. The use of fresh hot bread and biscuits, improperly made soups, gravies, pastries, doughs, pies, cakes, freshets, candies, sweets, and articles fried in animal grease, not only tend strongly to intemperance in use of intoxicants, but also lay the foundation for youthful vices, by heating and irritating the sexual nature. Improper cooking and feeding has very much to do with the forming of secret vicious habits, and with appetite for alcoholic beverages. Some few with strong will power can withstand all the temptations in body.

With hearts breaking with grief many parents see their sons and daughters go to the bad, and wonder why such should be the case. Many hundreds of children are on their way to an insane asylum or to a premature grave by way of a vicious wicked habit, all unknown to the parents. Sweets, sugars, candies heat hot the sexual nature. Depression of animal spirits by secret habits call loudly for alcoholic stimulants. Beloved if there be any doubt this, experiment on your own body.

Gluttony is a great foe to temperance. The temperance people are making a great mistake by trying to destroy the saloon, instead of the appetite for liquor. People need hygienic education. Dr. Jackson, of James-town, N. Y., says he cured, by the help of the Lord, many drunkards by simply dieting them. He says that the appetite for liquor, after a debauchery would return sooner than when they ate too much. The Ralston Health Club selected one hundred men at one hundred different parts of the world, and placed them in care of high degree Ralstonites, but only in a friendly way. Every one of the hundred men so selected was addicted to the mild use of alcoholic drinks. They were given for four months a very plain and wholesome diet, attractively cooked and abundant in variety. The only drinks were water and the juices of raw fruits. At the end of four months, every man in the hundred had formed a decided dislike to stimulants of any kind.

After the expiration of the time half of the men were given the usual foods, badly selected, wrong in nutritious value, and improperly cooked, but in all these respects just like the foods and cooking that universally prevails in civilized countries, every one of these fifty men went back to the use of stimulants. They declared that their craving for them was so overpowering that they could not resist it. During all the time the other fifty men were kept on the plainest and most wholesome diet of the book of Ralston Meals, and not one had any desire to go back to the use of stimulants.

Eugene Christian, the great food scientist, of New York City, says in his excellent book of “Uncooked Foods,” that “if cooking were abolished the taste and requirements of the body would very soon solve the temperance question with which misguided individuals, societies, churches, political parties, and state legislatures are vainly struggling. It is impossible to keep alive the appetite for such stimulants as tobacco, fermented and distilled liquors, tea and coffee, when the body is correctly fed. A being who subsists upon clean elementary foods would have no more desire for stimulants and narcotics than a horse or a dog would have for a Manhattan cocktail.”

Dr. Holbrook in his excellent book, “Eating for Strength” says “And now, what are the causes of intemperance, that hideous nightmare, that darkens so the lives of so many of the children of the earth, that blights so many homes with a curse more terrible than an Egyptian plague. The craving for stimulants, aside from the force of habits, hereditary and acquired, is, in a majority of cases, evidence of impaired vitality, and deficient nerve force, the result of defective nutrition, either from insufficient or badly prepared foods, or from a breaking down of the digestive functions by indulgence in excessive and over-stimulating articles of diet. In either case the results are mal-nutrition and deficient nervous energy. If
An Appeal for Workers.

Gormley, Dec. 18th, 1908.

In view of what appears on pages three and five of the December 15 issue of the Visitor, relative to Brother and Sister J. W. Hoover having responded to the call of the Canada Home Mission Board to engage in evangelistic work during the coming Winter, it will readily be understood that the Toronto Mission will be left without anyone in charge during their absence. It is the intention of the trustees to have the work go right on during their absence, and they purpose for the present to secure the necessary help locally, so that the interest may not suffer. The trustees however find it necessary at this time to send forth the Macedonian cry for help of a permanent character, from the fact that Bro. and Sister Hoover have requested to be relieved from active responsibility in connection with the work of the Mission, partly because of their feeling that age is making itself felt upon their system, and partly because of other obligations calling them out of the city more or less. It is their intention however to give all the attention to the work of the Mission when in the city that their strength will allow. We therefore take this opportunity of extending a call to the church at large for some consecrated Brother and Sister to accept the invitation of taking charge of the Toronto Mission, and we just pray that the good Lord will make it very plain to any who have felt their calling in this direction that this is their opportunity, and that an early response may reach us, when all necessary arrangements can be made. We solicit the earnest prayers of the church on behalf of this work.

D. W. Heise,
Secy. Board of Trustees.

For the Evangelical Visiter.

Experience.

Naomi Kern.

Dear readers of the Visitor: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight O, Lord, my strength and my redeemer." (Ps. 19:14.) This is my prayer this afternoon.

I felt impressed several times that the Lord wanted me to give my experience in the Visitor, and this afternoon I felt impressed more than ever I must "trust and obey," for that is the only way to be happy in him. By his help and grace I will proceed.

I gave my heart to the Lord at the age of ten years. I realized that he had forgiven my sins. I went on in that condition for a while, then united with the Brethren in Christ Church. Before I joined the church the Lord showed me something wrong that I had done, but was not willing to make it right, and joining the church did not better my condition but made it a great deal worse. In that condition I made no headway. "He that covers his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Prov. 28:13.) I was in that condition for over two years. I would try to pray over top of it all but my prayers did not rise above my head.

The dear Lord still pleaded with me, but I would not obey. I began to become alarmed. I felt that my heart was becoming hardened. O, that others would become alarmed about their soul's salvation! Finally I became willing and humble enough, by God's help, to take my place before God and the people. As I look back I see it was only the great love of God that spared me. Only those that have experienced it know the real joy of forgiveness. After that sin was out of the way the Lord led me on step by step. Still I realized there was something lacking. But O! I thank God, that less than a year ago he so wonderfully sanctified me, and to-day I am more than conqueror through him that loved me. It pays to obey God.

I would say to those that are still out of the kingdom, or those who have made a start but are not where God would have you be, don't be discouraged, but look to God and obey him, for it is better on before if we obey God, and walk in the light as he is in the light. May God help us to be true to him is my prayer.

"Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 25:13.)

Abilene, Kans.

Tonight I feel I want to write to the glory of God of his goodness and mercy to the children of men. "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." Praise his holy name, oh bless him. While reading to-night in the 107th Psalm I could not refrain from bursting forth with praises in my heart, when I see how God in his mercy and love speaks to mankind in order to draw them unto himself. And when they see their undone and lost condition, and when there is no one to help, cry unto the Lord, he stoops and picks them up. Oh, who is like unto him? Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness toward us.

I often think how reluctant some of God's children are to tell it, even when we have the best of opportunity. (Of course it must not be only of the lips or we cannot receive the blessing of God.) Oh, how can we be silent when he has done so much for us. Praise his name, it pays to serve Jesus. I speak from my heart. I feel I want to come closer to him when I think what he has done, and that he has gone to prepare a home for us, as one writer says,

"My beautiful home! my beautiful home!
In the land where the glorified ever shall roam;
Where angels bright, wear crowns of light;
My home is there, my home is there."

Oh thank God we ever became acquainted with God, whom to know means eternal life. He has done so much for us since we learned of him and his way and are continually learning of him, I feel I cannot excuse him enough with my mortal tongue. Remember us all among God's little ones ever at the throne of grace that we may be faithful to the end as we real in Matthew's Gospel.

From your unworthy sister in Christ,

C. Eibers.

2026 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

LESSON 4.—Jan. 24.—The Lame Man Healed.

Acts 3:1-26. (Commit verses 9, 10.)

EXPLANATIONS AND WORD STUDIES.

(V. 22) Men of Israel: Descendants of Israel, or Jacob, that is, Jews. (V. 23) Devoted: It means that Jesus was surrendered, or given up to his enemies by those who should have been his protectors. It may also be implied here that he was given or surrendered by God to the hands of men. (Jno. 3:16; 1 Jno. 4:9, 10.)

Determine counsel: In Acts 10:22, it is translated ordained of God; denoting his purpose that it should be so. (Vs. 25-28)

For David spitth: From Psalm 16:8-11. (V. 26) My Rest: My beautiful abode, or palace proper. The body separate from the soul; the dead body.

Rest in hope: In confident expectation of a Christian's blessings. (V. 27) Of his descendants: Of the house of David. (V. 28) We are all witnesses: More than fifty thousand men and women. He had given the apostles the strongest evidence that he was the crucified but now risen Lord. (V. 33) Exalted: Raised from his condition of humiliation to the glory which he had with his Father before the world was. (Rom. 8:30; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:12.)

In the porch: (V. 11) In the temple. He set up the temple worship the temple worship he observe the Lord's Supper in his private homes. (V. 47) Such as should be saved: Jesu, Ver. 37. Those that were being saved: Practical Applications. 1. We are witnesses, "living epistles," to bring belief to others. 2. The crucified Christ is now exalted R. W. Franks, the fourth of his address. 6. Jesus only. (V. 47) Breaking of bread: The Lord's supper. (V. 43) Fear: Not terror, but reverence. (V. 47) Possession: By "possession" is meant real estate, and by "good" personal property. (V. 47) Breaking of bread in addition to temple worship they observe the Lord's Supper in their private homes.

LESSON 5.—Jan. 31.—The Man of Talents.

Matthew 25:14-30. (Commit verses 14-30.)

EXPLANATIONS AND WORD STUDIES.

(V. 14) Ninth hour: Three o'clock in the afternoon. (V. 15) In the porch: The Court of the Temple offered prayer while the priests were offering daily sacrifices. (V. 20) What is called Beautiful: Which of the temple gates was called Beautiful we do not know positively. There were ten gates in all. It was probably on the east side, toward Olivet.

For the remission of sins: Revised version should read for the remission of sins. The water does not wash away sins, but the blood of Christ only.

That they repented and believed before they were baptized none dare deny. (V. 39) The promise: Of salvation and of the Holy Spirit. (V. 36)](36) Descendants: The same conditions were required of them, namely repentance and faith. That is after all: Shall not be feared. 14. Through the invitations given in the Old Testament. (V. 40) Unearth: Means to bring to light, to reveal, to make known. (V. 47) A murderer: A public wrong. (V. 52) Human: In his human nature. (V. 53) Exalt: By the act of exaltation, or elevation. (V. 55) He will be called Great: By the act of exaltation, or elevation. (V. 55) He will be called Great: The same conditions were required of them, namely repentance and faith. That is after all: Shall not be feared. 14. Through the invitations given in the Old Testament. (V. 40) Unearth: Means to bring to light, to reveal, to make known. (V. 47) A murderer: A public wrong. (V. 52) Human: In his human nature. (V. 53) Exalt: By the act of exaltation, or elevation. (V. 55) He will be called Great: For that reason, he called himself Great.
THE EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

NEWSPAPER OF CHURCH ACTIVITY.

(Continued.)

(Concluded from page 5.)

time when he called us forth into the for­

giend field. Praise the Lord there are some who are hearing the call. Beloved, have you heard the call? Are you willingly re­

sponding to it?

Several months ago, as some who were converted requested baptism, we took up the matter rather reluctantly, knowing the great responsibility at this point but sure we did not make undue haste, giving ample time to have the Lord test them. A week ago Sunday four hours were consumed in examining some twenty candidates. Several were found unfit for this step. These we exorted to earnestly seek the Lord until there were no more doubtful things in their lives. One of them who however seemed very earnest, yet he was still dis­
hposed to have fears of the power which craft, saying he was afraid of it, which in this case meant that he was afraid of being bewitched. We showed him that there is no fear in the Scandinavian practice in the heart of a true believer. “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.” (John’s epistle.) Read it. Another one has two wives, and he was told to wait until he had spoken to them of his desire to follow Jesus, and only the one he took as his real wife; he has however to care for the other one until a suitable husband is found for her. This will give you some faint idea of the many difficult problems that come to the mis­sionary.

On Sunday afternoon we had a very im­

pressive baptismal service when eighteen followed Jesus in this command. Will you pray for them that they will all press on God? We thank God for his blessed word which is effectual in saving lost souls.

Yours in Jesus,

ISAAC AND ALICE LEHRMAN.

In an India Letter.

BRETHREN IN CHRIST MISSION,
6 SUDHOR BAZAR, DILKUSHI,
LUCKNOW, INDIA.

Dec. 3, 1908.

Dear Brethren in Christ: I feel this morn­ing that the Lord wishes me to im­

port my feelings of joy and peace to such as are living far beyond the seas. Before I give vent to anything, I wish first the salts in the Lord with greetings of Jesus’ love. His name be praised now and

forevermore. Amen!

Time is closing fast upon the year 1908 and perhaps by the time this letter is per­

mitted to appear in the Visitor, it will be verging close upon the New Year when, as you know, the world will be busy with the fulness of vanities all over. But we have to acknowledge with gratitude the outpouring blessings accorded to us in every state of our existence and while I say this, I feel all the more grateful to the Almighty Father whose unceasing care and infinite love has brought me safe to the beginning of my birthday this morn­ing.

During this year we have had tests pre­

sented to us in many ways—financially,

spiritually and physically. Nevertheless, the just and the faithful God “Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also, make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I. Cor. 10:13), did bring out all and sundry that form a little band here as the old “River Brethren” to the delightful shade of the mighty cross. There had been a time with us when we were pressed with the climax of hunger for months with almost nothing to re­

spond to its demand; while on the other hand the smallpox and the fever having previously visited us had broken up our Institute institute since January last, leaving us thus with no means of support at times of emergency. In the midst of these—the hunger and support, the devil thought, as he did before when Christ was hungered and tempted, to shake a little of the foun­

dation of our trust in Jesus, but apart from it, the Lord called us to the unity of prayer and fasting and to partaking of the Holy Eucharist and foot-washing. It was one of the most solemn occasions in my life. I felt as the brethren engaged themselves in washing each other’s feet. I felt as if God’s Spirit had moved my very nerves and the blessed oneness of love filled my heart with joys of tears. True, as a Protestant Christian I had been at the Lord’s table many times before, but it never touched my heart in the least. I am thankful this day that I am no more a member of a State church whose in­

clinations are political, but of that whose practice is literal with no gorgeousness with or without.

Our village work is continued along with visitation, prayer-meetings, Bible classes and Sunday services. The Lord leads us to the place where his chosen people are and we have to be thankful for the gathering that pay a marvelous attention to the preaching till it is finished. The villagers give us a very kind reception and when the preaching is over invite us to “Come again.” The sisters then distribute the tracts and the S. S. pictures among the old and the young who greedily receive them. Our old broken accordion helps our singing; when it is played, peoples from different quarters know our invita­tion and they soon make a crowd around us.

My brethren, I earnestly beseech you to re­

member us in your prayers that the labor before us may be crowned with suc­

cess.

Yours humbly.

P. Sen.

THE LITTLE PREACHER.

I am a little scholar,
I daily go to school,
To learn of Master Jesus,
The holy perfect rule;
The scholar’s all do love him,
The school is good and free,
Come all ye careless sinners,
And go to school with me.

I am a little Christian,
My Master made me so,
All over a new creature,
What wonders he can do!
I love the things I hated,
I hate the things I loved,
My Master is preparing me
To reign with him above.

I am a little preacher,
I preach the gospel free,
And all my Master gives me,
I freely give away.
And when my heart gets empty,
I go to Master's store.
I tell him all about it,
He smiles and gives me more.

I am a little watchman,
I stand on Zior's wall,
And when the foe is coming,
I give a sudden call:
I blow my little trumpet,
To let the people know.
Come, all ye saints, take warning. Escape from every foe.

I am a little poet,
I wrote a little song.
'Tis all about my Master,
I sing it all day long.
If any little Christian,
Would wish to learn the same,
I pray the Lord to set his heart
All in a heavenly flame.

From Brother John H. Myers.

Dear readers of the Visitor, I am to-day reminded of what God promised Noah after the flood, Genesis 8:22. Though I am in the southern part of our North American continent, as far as San Antonio, Texas, where we have Winter. A northern blizzard struck this place this morning, December 18, rain and cold winds. Men wear their overcoats, and women shrieked this place today, December 18, rain and cold winds. Men wear their overcoats, and women shrieked this place this morning.

God's creation does not change.
Oh, the love and kindness of our bountiful heavenly Father! Yet when we see man as he passes the busy thoroughfare of our large cities we are made to think of what the prophet Isaiah says, Chap. 1:3. "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib, but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." Oh the vanity of vanities says Solomon, and oh, dear saints, how my heart is made sad when I hear with my ears and see with my eyes its fulfilment. Isaiah 1:4: "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children that are corrupters; they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the holy one of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward." Yes, as we, God's saved children, read the old prophetic scripture, how wonderfully we see them fulfilled in our present time. And then when we observe the signs of our times we feel how true God's answer to Habakkuk, Chap. 2:2, "And the Lord answered me and said write the vision and make it plain on tables, that he may run that readeth it." Yes Christian friends, we need to let our light so shine that men may see our good works and thereby glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Dear children of God, you who have been raised and reared under Holy Ghost influences, what a joy it is yours;
yet let me say that not all of our members have raised their children godfearing or else they would recognize their father's church as theirs, though not a member yet. Oh the vision God gave to the prophet Habakuk! Write and make plain; do like the Lord said to his children Israel when he had delivered them from their bondage, talk about it when you go out and when you come in; when you rise up or when you sit down. Alas, where there is no deliverance there is no victory. The dear Lord said, "Out of the treasure of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Oh brother, sister, let us look up for our redemption draweth nigh.
I am glad that San Antonio has no charms for me. Oh, the vanity of this place; it seems like Sodom. Must have been, oh so nice, and the people so rich, living in lust, and sin, but when Lot, that just person, left the city the judgments of God fell upon it, and the city was destroyed.

Will all of God's children pray for me that I may do my duty by the help of God, to warn the sinner to flee the wrath to come?
San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 18, 1908.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

The Blessedness of God's Service.

CATY A. MYERS.

"How amiable are thy tabernacles O Lord of Hosts! Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed, for a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of Hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee." Psa. 84.

Dear Readers of the Visitor: I am so glad that it means even me, and that this God of mercy found the way to my heart years ago, changing my heart to delight in the service of my Master. He seems to make it a real love service to me. Well may we say, "How amiable are Thy tabernacles." If we would always see what a mighty God we have about us to shield us from all harm and danger. We read at one place "Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm," and at another place we read, "Provoke one another to love and good works." Should we not then do what we can to encourage our brethren and sisters who are willing to go forth to the front? So let us encourage those who are in the work, and let us all do our duty at home, then we will share together in the great harvest of souls. I am glad to tell you I got on the Rock to stay. I am happy on the way and realize the fellowship of the saints is a happy and blessed enjoyment; and what must it be to be there! What a glorious home is prepared for us with those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. A place where no trials come nor temptations but where all is peace and joy, which will last forevermore. Some would say "How do you know it?" My Bible says so, and I believe it to be true. Read and search. Yes, the glory of God will be the light of it. Oh the place that is prepared for the children of God! Let us take God at his Word and believe his promises and trust and obey. Hallelujah, we will do it!

When I left home in September I attended the ministerial meeting at Harrisburg, which was a soul-chasing meeting. I felt it was an answer to a heart-felt need. The teaching was full of "Thus saith the Lord." We were enabled to rejoice and were made glad over the Bible reading of that day, and were made very hungry to have more of that kind of Bible teaching in every district over the whole church. Would it not be profitable to have more searching of the Word, asking God for wisdom to understand it? I am glad for what I know, but I realize that there are depths and heights I do not know, and as we are not to live of bread alone but of every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, we will not get done so soon. We are to meditate upon His law day and night and it will become sweeter than honey or the honeycomb to us. It will help us to put on the whole armor of God and earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. I am so glad we can follow peace and holiness, for without it no one shall see the Lord. O dear reader, how much is prepared for the true, the pure, the made white, and the tried. Yes, praise God! We don't know whether we can stand anything unless we have trials; but we have a friend who is able to help us bear all the trials of our lives. Hallelujah! Amen.

From here I went to Fairland, Lebanon county, and was permitted to attend a communion meeting which was a season of refreshing to us.
visited in this community and around Palmyra, then to Campbeltown, Lawn, then to Elizabethtown, Lancaster county. Here I visited the bank where brother Aaron Martin is engaged, and while seated there, counting out my money to send to our treasurer, a brother came in. He was surprised to see me there. Then he surprised me with a good offering for the “Rescue Home and Girls’ School” in S. Africa. These are the things that encourage my poor heart, when our dear people are willing to help those who cannot help themselves. I praise God that He has given me a noble work. I am not ashamed of it, and am glad that so many dear ones are willing to have a share in it, helping these poor girls so that we can teach and train them for God. From here I was conveyed to the Conoy M. H., where a communion service was held and where we had blessed fellowship with the saints. I was well cared for. The sisters seemed much concerned about my welfare, providing good places for me to stay over night. I visited here until Wednesday, and attended brother Christian Hostetter’s funeral which was largely attended. I then went on with the good work of telling of the need of giving the Gospel to the heathen until Saturday evening, when we again attended a communion service at the Mt. Pleasant M. H. Here I met with many brethren and sisters around the table of the Lord. We can see much of the plain way here. God bless His children here as well as everywhere.

We read, “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches,” and “he that overcometh shall inherit all things.” I continued my visiting on to Lancaster City to the Mission, visiting many dear ones, and many shared with me the things with which God had blessed them. On October 17 I reached the Philadelphia Mission, in charge of Bro. Peter Stover and wife. They are assisted by their children in carrying on the work of the Mission. Others are also faithfully doing their duty, for the work here is varied, and there is much to do. A lovefeast was held here which we attended commemorating the death and suffering of our Lord. It was surely a pleasant to me to attend these meetings. They seemed to be solemn assemblies. At this place they have some very earnest singers. I believe they have stirred up the gift that is in them, as we are commanded to do. Dear Vissour readers, we can heartily help support the city Missions. This one has many needs to be supplied, and it is not an easy matter to supply the needs to go after souls and to help the poor and the needy, spiritually and temporally. Believe me, it is a blessed life to live for others and not for self. But it takes grace and earnestness in the Spirit. If God calls any one of you into city work, obey, and do what you can. God will help if you try.

Our next stopping place was Sonderton, where we again attended a lovefeast with the dear saints; we enjoyed another spiritual feast. As I had opportunity, I made known the duty of giving the Gospel to the heathen in South Africa, where we hope to establish a “Rescue Home and Girls’ School,” where the poor native girls can be cared for. As it is, they are bought and sold. When they come to womanhood they must be married. However the British Government frees the girls and protects them. This affords a grand opportunity for the missionaries to help care for these girls, and O how I thank God for the willingness the dear people manifest in helping in this work; giving of their means to support them, even when the school is started. Their love seems to widen out, and it encourages me much to receive letters containing from five to twenty-five dollars in support of the work. It looks to me as though God had touched the hearts of the people in order to carry on this noble work. Dear readers, keep on praying. We hope to establish one of these schools at the old Matopo station, and do they not also need such a school at the Macha Mission, where Sisters Davidson and Engle are laboring? I believe they do. Let us put our shoulders to the wheel and help them all we can.

We further visited at Silverdale and Gratersford, where we joined a small company of saints in commemorating the death and suffering of Christ. On November 11, we came to the Mission in Lancaster city, where I met my dear husband, who had made a visit in Canada, attending a number of lovefeasts and had enjoyed many blessings while God had heard and answered my prayers, giving me dear Sister Scholte, of Winfield, Ont., as a companion in my travels. I was glad for her company and for her fellowship. She is a real help and blessing to many. We had a profitable time here in holding forth the Word of Life. I was permitted to tell the people of the needs of South Africa in regard to the Gospel. A free-will offering was given, and at the close brother Hess told me he had another surprise for me; that some one gave him one hundred dollars for the “Rescue Home and Girls’ School” in South Africa. I thanked him for it and said, “Just keep on, get me some more such surprises.” The following evening a lady came to me, saying she wanted to have a share in the school, and to my surprise, subscribed $25.00. So I go on my way rejoicing in the work God has given me to do. We then came on to Harrisburg to the Messiah Home where a series of meetings was in progress. We remained a few days and enjoyed the meetings very much, when we returned to Mechanicsburg, our home, where we were permitted to attend a series of meetings conducted by brother Enos Hess, who shunned not to declare the whole counsel of God. Pray for us that we may live to help others.

Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Poor Fund.

General Conference of 1908 appointed a committee of three brethren as undersigned to formulate plans, rules and regulations to govern a general Beneficiary or Poor Fund for the church. Letters have been addressed to the deacons of the church which if fully answered will enable the committee to know something as to the existing condition of the church at large in the various districts. Those who were present at General Conference and heard the discussion on the subject know that various plans were proposed.

It will be difficult, if not impossible, to formulate a plan that will further the desired end, under all circumstances. However as something needs to be done the committee desires the co-operation of all who have given the subject consideration. Therefore we kindly ask all who are able to communicate with the committee at once so that the work may be properly formulated in time for General Conference of 1909.

John R. Hess
Chairman, Abilene, Kans.

John A. Stump
Nappanee, Ind.

Enos H. Hess
Secretary.

633 Manor St., Lancaster, Pa.

Hearts are very much alike, and all need lots of patience to keep them good and happy.—Louisa M. Alcott.
The Old Year and the New.

The Old Year goes away; her eyes are old,

She talks about eternal sleep.

Snow is upon her hair; gray mists have clad

Her ornaments of grace and pride.

The New Year enters in; a happy child,

Who looks for flowers to fill her outstretched hand,

And knows not fear although the winds be wild.

Soon shall the birds be singing in the land,

On the young leaves the patter of soft rain.

And violets ope—the New Year comes again.

So with this mortal life: now young, now old,

A Spring which never dreams of frost and snow.

Summer and Autumn—then the tale is told.

With tired step, in Wintry days we go.

God grant a wakening on some happier shore,

Where the lost youth and joy come back once more.

—Mary Gorges.

Push—A New Year's Story.

It was late in the afternoon of a mid-October day that an under-sized boy of twelve appeared on the steps of the house Mr. and Mrs. Calderwood had recently taken for the Winter. He had appeared twice before on those same steps, though at different hours; and had been promptly run off by the one man servant of the family.

And here he was again, to the wrath of the man-servant, for this time the master and mistress were going out at the door and he was powerless.

"I'm lookin' for a job," said the boy, looking sheepishly. He seemed not to know how to smile.

"What kind of a job did you want?" asked Mr. Calderwood, kindly.

"And why did you come to me?"

"I come 'cause I heard them that pushed and a-pushin', and then if I couldn't a-see you without. I didn't think up this pushin' business myself," he added, modestly. "Old Uncle Isaac Watson, he told me that pushin' was what we'd found in this world, if 'twas honest pushin'. And he says, 'You keep a-pushin' and a-pushin', and then if you don't get nothin', tain your fault.' And so I've been doin' it two years now."

"Why, how old are you?" asked Mrs. Calderwood.

"I'm twelve now, ma'am." Mr. Calderwood looked at theparticles, unchildish face. There was no work that he could think of to offer, but he said impulsively, "Come tomorrow, my boy, at ten. I'll find something for you to do."

"Yes, sir," was the respectful answer. "I knew you would."

At which Mr. Calderwood half-frowned, Mrs. Calderwood smiled, and the three parted.

That evening the parlor-maid gave warning. "I believe," said Mrs. Calderwood, thoughtfully, after a long silence, "that I will not hire another maid."

"But, my dear, you need one," objected Mr. Calderwood. "You will be so interrupted at your writing without one."

Mrs. Calderwood smiled. "Phil, you don't think much of fads, do you?"

"Hum!" replied Mr. Calderwood, cautiously. "What fads?"

"Don't hedge, Phil. You know you don't believe in fads. But here is a fad for you—to dress a little boy appropriately and keep the child to wait at the door. Society ladies have been doing this for certain afternoons. I think I shall put little Push in the parlor-maid's place, not temporarily, according to the fad, but permanently."

Mr. Calderwood sighed in relief. "I was wondering what to do with him," he said, simply.

"Thanks to the fad, you know," laughed Mrs. Calderwood.

The next day Push came, accepted without a comment the suit provided for him, with its many buttons, and entered upon his duties.

When New Year's day dawned, Mrs. Calderwood said to her husband, "It shall be a part of my work this year to make life as new as possible to poor little Push. He is such a painfully solemn child."

The morning was not far advanced. Mrs. Calderwood was seated at her table, and her husband was walking up and down the room, when Push came to announce a caller. Mechanically he set the door wide, and looking straight before him, if possible more solemnly than ever, said: "There's an old man down stairs to see you, sir."

"What is his name?"

"Tommy Simpson, sir."

"What does he want?"

"Some money, sir."

"Do you know him, Push? Shall I give to him?"

"Yes, sir, I know him. And then paling a little, he said, "I don't think you had ought to give to him, sir, because he'll spend it for drink."

A second longer he looked straight before him and then he burst into tears. "I had to tell you the truth when you asked me," he sobbed, "and old Tommy was good to me once when I was sick."

Over the unconscious head of the child the childish husband and wife looked at each other, and a New Year had indeed begun for poor Push.

"Gratitude for a kindness," said Mr. Calderwood softly.

"And faithfulness to duty," added Mrs. Calderwood.

In later years Push understood how these two qualities had made him Mr. Calderwood's adopted son, and given him, under God, a good place in the world.—Sabbath-school Visitor.

"To be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars; to be satisfied with your possessions, but not contented with yourself until you have made the best of them; to despire nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice; to be governed by your admirations rather than by your disgusts; to covet nothing that is your neighbor's except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manners; to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and every day of Christ; and to spend as much time as you can, with body and with spirit, in God's out-of-doors; these are little guide-posts on the footpath to peace."—Henry Van Dyke.
Rev. I. J. Ransom.

The new Pastor of the Burks Falls Baptist Church, who was Ordained on Tuesday.

[Many of the readers of the Visitor are personally acquainted with our whilom brother, I. John Ransom, and more by his contributions to its pages a few years ago. No doubt the following clipping from a Canada paper in reference to his present activities will be read with no little interest. We publish same by request of Bro. J. W. Hoover, of Toronto, Ont.]

On Tuesday afternoon a council met in the Baptist church here for the purpose of ordaining the pastor, Mr. I. John Ransom, to the Christian ministry.

According to the Baptist custom the council meets to advise with the church and if the council deem it wise, the ordination is proceeded with. The afternoon is taken up with an examination by the council of the candidate as to his conversion, call to the ministry, and views on Christian doctrine. On all these points the candidate gave great satisfaction. Mr. Ransom set forth clearly the great fundamentals of Christian belief. This was followed by questioning by the council with the answers to which they expressed themselves as highly pleased. The council voted unanimously and heartily to fellowship with Mr. Ransom and to proceed with the ordination service the same evening.

Eight o'clock before a well filled church the evening service began. The evening session commenced with devotional exercise by Rev. Dr. Norton, Mr. Holman of Bracebridge taking up the Scripture lesson and Mr. Munt, of Huntsville, led in prayer. An able and eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. H. B. Coumans, of North Bay.

The charge to the church was delivered by the Rev. J. Elder, of Barrie, and was an eloquent and masterly effort. The word "H-E-L-P-S" was of the pleasing features of the evening "session" was an exceedingly well rendered quartette by Mr. Walter Knight, the Misses Linda and Laura Knight and Miss Munt.

The benediction was pronounced by the newly ordained pastor, Rev. I. J. Ransom, who enters upon his duties under pleasing and auspicious circumstances, and who is undoubtedly a preacher of more than ordinary ability and merit.

MARRIAGES.

GISH—HOSTETTER.—Married at the home of the officiating minister, Elder Jacob N. Engle, December 17, 1908, Bro. Joseph K. Bish, of Allhene, Kans., to Sister Susan Hostetter, of Ramona.


SOLLENBERGER—BRECHBILL.—On December 22, 1908, Elder J. D. Wingert officiating, at his residence there occurred the marriage of Harvey S. Sollenberger, of near Culbertson, Pa., and Miss Mary S. Brechbill, daughter of Rev. Henry Brechbill, of near Duffield, Pa.

WINGER—STECKLEY.—On December 23, 1908, Bro. L. W. Winger, son of Bro. and Sister Levi Winger, of Ridgeley, Ont., and Sister Louise Steckley, daughter of Bro. and Sister Joseph Steckley, of Bethedsa, Ont., were united in holy matrimony at the home of the bride's parents, Bro. Peter Steckley officiating.

OBITUARIES.

WAGNER.—Harvey Byron Wagner, son of Bro. Daniel and Sr. Emma Wagner, was born March 11, 1877, died, December 3, 1908, aged 31 years, 8 months and 22 days. He was united in marriage to Katharine Hesler, January 5, 1897. He leaves a wife, two children, father and mother, and two sisters, as also many friends, especially his shopmates, who shared their fortune. By his financial aid during death and burial, to mourn his loss. His death was due to an accident, which occurred while he and a shopmate were out hunting. While in the act of crossing a stream it is supposed he embraced himself with his gun, which accidentally discharged, the contents lodging in his right side. When his shopmate who was a short distance away, came to him he said, "I am shot. I believe I will die." The accident occurred about three-fourths of a mile from Medway, Ohio. He was carried to Medway, where he died in less than an hour. Funeral services were held at the home of the deceased, conducted by Elders A. M. Engle, and Rev. G. Mahlon Miller. Text, Psalms 103:15, 16.

HORNERBERGER.—Mary Hornerberger, wife of Henry Hornerberger, and daughter of David and Elizabeth Dohner, was born in Lebanon county, Pa., January 10, 1838, died in El Reno, Okla., December 19, 1908. She was united to the Lord, and of all her friends expect to leave the love work over to the Trustees after New Year's, and are going in Evangelistic work under the Canada Mission Board, all contributions should be sent to D. W. Heise, Gormley, Ont.

Yours in Christian love,

J. W. AND HARRIET HOOVER.

51 Edwin St., Toronto, Ont.

Chicago Mission.

Report for month ending December 15, 1908.

DONATIONS RECEIVED.

B. S. Herr, Cambridge City, Ind., $5; Andrew Snively, Hope, Kans., $2; Louise Bougue, El Reno, $1; F. J. Sollenberger, Polo, Ill., $3; Laban Cimenhaga, Detroit, Kans., $2; J. Engle, Ashiene, Kans., $1; Sister Engle, Newbury, Kans., 50 cents; Barbara Shelley, Ill., $1; Belle Springs, Kans., thanks offering, $44.25; V. P., $8.60; balance on hand, $26.60. Total, $79.95.

S. Sollenberger, Polo, four lbs. butter, chicken; Jesse Martin, Morrison, Ill., chicken and one gal. honey; Henry Troubtz, El Reno, Kans., five lbs. butter and apples.

EXPENDITURES.

GROCERIES, $2.25

GAS, 1.60

EXPRESSING, 1.50

Total, $11.45.