The Earth Shall Be Full of the Knowledge of the Lord as the Waters Cover the Sea.—Isa. xi. 9.

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."—Psa. 10:7.


Evangelical Visitor.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL—
    The Chief Temptation, 2
    Special Mention, etc., 2.3

POETRY—
    Nearing—Frank Brechbill, 6
    Is it 17?—Frank Brechbill, 15

CONTRIBUTED—
    A Meditation—F. K. Bowers, 1
    The Holy Spirit—Geo. S. Grim, 6
    The Early and Latter Rain—S. Reichard, 6
    The S. S. Teacher and Absent Pupils—H. L. Stump, 7
    From the Michigan Field—Mary J. Long, 12
    Cleansed—Aaron Ebersole, 9
    A Testimony for Jesus—Ada M. Hess, 9
    Testimony—Elizabeth I. Tracy, 10
    Testimony—A. Elizabeth Winger, 10
    A Voice from the Ozarks—Noah Zeoh, 12
    Home Again—J. B. Lehman, 13
    A Letter—A. C. Higgins, 14
    My Conversion—Mrs. Dimick, 15
    Testimony—Amelia Myers, 15
    Experience—Ina M. Newtsonerl, 15

NEWS OF CHURCH ACTIVITY—
    ETC., 4, 5, 12

REPORT OF FUNDS, 16

OBITUARY, ETC., 16

For the Evangelical Visitor.

A Meditation.

Fred. K. Bowers.

While we have snow and ice without, and the cold wintry storms are howling around our houses, how we ought to praise God for this warm love of God in our hearts. Ira Sankey would often sing, "Tis the old-time Religion: it makes soul and love of God in our hearts. Ira Sankey would often sing, 'Tis the old-time fire that burns out every dross and makes us love everybody, for in I. Peter 2: 17, we read, "Love the brotherhood." Also in verse 27 of the first chapter of Peter, he tells us that by obeying the truth through the Spirit we would have our souls purified unto unfeigned love of the brethren. The German version reads (Ungefarbter Liebe) meaning, not painted over or dyed, or as some call it, a put on love, with a Judas kiss. But we are to love one another with a pure heart, having no grudge against any one. Hebrews 13: 11 tells us that we should continue in "Brotherly love," that by it the world shall know that we are God's children (John 13: 35), and this love should be toward all saints. (Col. 1: 4.) Even Jesus commands it in John 15:17. Also in II. Cor. 7: 8. Paul praises the Brotherhood for the love they had toward the ministers, and if we love our ministers and bishop we will pray for them too. Read I. Thess. 5:12, 13. In the first epistle of John we read about six times that we can not help but love the brethren, if we love God. In Matt. 5: 44, we are commanded to even love our enemies and in Rom. 12:10, Paul tells us that we should in honor prefer one another.

Now I praise God that he directed me in a vision to this body of believers, and how many dear saints did I meet during my six weeks' evangelistic trip and truly enjoyed Christian fellowship. And with flowing tears I bade farewell to many; and I praise God for the conversion of dear ones stepping into the ranks, and others making application to unite with the Brethren. Now pray for me for I need your prayers.

Yours in the fold.

Show the evil-doer something better; he will change his course of his own accord.
The Chief Temptation

As to where the chief danger for a lad or young man to go wrong lies the following from the pen of Dr. Richard Arthur, in Purity Advocate is clear and to the point.

What is the chief temptation of the average lad or young man? Let us be honest about this; a thing many of our teachers and preachers have not been in the past. The chief temptation of the young man is not drink or gambling; although these two sins are being constantly denounced as the cardinal temptations. It is neither of these but impurity in its various forms and a little reflection will show that it is so.

Not one man in a hundred is born with an inherent crave for drink or gambling. If it were so we should have thousands of drunkards below the age of twenty, while I have met only one in all my experience. And a vice which legislation could go a long way towards stamping out.

But things are totally different in the case of impurity. Impurity is simply the expression in forms interdicted by moral and social law of one of the two great instincts of human nature. The first instinct is that of self-preservation, the desire to preserve the life of the individual; the second is the matev instinct, by which the continuance of the species is insured.

Let us begin then by realizing that the temptation to impurity lies in the roots of our nature, and from the age of puberty onwards every healthy man has within him an instinct which, with ever-increasing, and sometimes with almost irresistible force, prompts him to the commission of acts which may be sinful. When this instinct is thoroughly grasped, the truth of the saying, that impurity is the special temptation, exceeding a hundredfold all the others, will be manifest.

Special meetings were commenced at the recent Rock M. H., North Franklin, Pa., on January 9. Brother Noah Z. Hess, of Lancaster county, Pa., is laboring therein in the interest of the kingdom of God and the welfare of souls. Our prayer is that the effort may be blessed of the Lord in many precious souls being rescued from Satan's power. We also learn of a series of meetings being held at Fairmyra in which Brother J. N. Martin, of Elizabethtown, is being used of God in bringing souls to Christ. We are glad to learn that a number have turned their faces Zionward.

Renewals have been coming this way quite satisfactorily for the last six weeks. However, we can stand a little more of it, so keep on sending in your money.

While our being absent from the office previous to the issuing of our January 1 issue was one reason for its being a little late in reaching our readers, that was not the only cause. We would have been ready to have it mailed the last day of the year had not the press caused a further delay of two days. We regret the delay.

After having gotten the last number of the Visitor ready for the printer, we returned again to the Air Hill meeting on December 31, and remained until January 5. Brother Smith was there two evenings when four made a start in God's service. Later one more was added to the number.

This issue is unavoidably a little late. Sickness among the operatives of the printing department accounts for it.
D. H. Bender. This quarterly is especially through the VISITOR as to what the ar-
completed we expect to make a full report
the Committee to proceed with the work.
large would do so it would not warrant
rangements are.
up the matter at once and report so that
As it is going towards the close of the
ments could be made with the Mennonite
ning, hereby kindly request that each
Sunday-school throughout the Brother-
tin. The Imperial Bank, W. G.
Eshelman, Henry Lenhart, Mrs. Fanny
J. B. Knupp, N. B. Cassel, H. E. Bohen,
Chas. W. Moll, Mary E. Lauver, Anna
Laura Lagore, Geo. Riest, Cath. Niess,
atin, Melvin Sider, A. Ebersole, Susan
Rodes, Sr. Mary Lewis, A. H. Book, Len
Fisher, Mrs. H. Ebersole, Mrs. J. U.
Metz, Catherine Blocher, Mary Castell,
Louder, Anna Wingert, Levi K. Markley,
S. Ehleman, Walter Engels, I. L. Brubak
Baker, L. H. Hoffman, J. N. Engle, Isaac
Eshelman, Horace Lenhart, Mrs. Farr
A. Ida Diehl, J. Ino, Witter,
I. N. Heisey, Levi Wingler, Saml. Wing
Bert, Sherly, Levi sider, Carl Shillingua, Andrew
Melvin Michael, The Imperial Bank, W. G.
Petrow, S. E. Brehm, Jos. Ginrrich, Harry
Shillingua, Andrew W. Wingert, L. H. Boffer, Amos S. Wolgemuth, H. O.
Musser, Danl. B. Brubaker, Eli Wolge
muth, Katie Haldeman, Levi H. Martin,
C. O. Lehman, Danl. B. Wolgemuth, Saml.
Young, Allen B. Brubaker.

Special Notice.

We, the Committee appointed by General Conference of 1908, to see what arrange
ments can be made with the Mennonite Brethren to publish our Sunday-school literature, hereby kindly request that each Sunday-school throughout the Brotherhood report to us through their Secretary whether they would use our literature if so furnished, for unless the Brethren at large would do so it would not warrant the work to proceed with the work. As it is going towards the close of the Conference year every school should take up the matter at once and report so that the committee can proceed with the work satisfactorily. When the work is com
pleted we expect to make a full report through the VISITOR as to what the ar
rangements are.

The following is descriptive of the diff-
rently arranged classes. Among the special features we
name: Lesson Approach, Questions and
swers, Lesson Talk, Lesson Lights, Les-
Teacher's Lesson Quarterly. Written by
Daniel Kauffman and D. H. Bender.
This quarterly contains all the features of the Advanced Quarterly with an additional page added to each lesson, especially for the teacher's help in teaching the lesson—how to take up the lesson, manner in which it may be presented to the class, leading points to be brought out, etc., etc. A valuable help for teachers. This quarterly contains a page on which the Class Record may be kept.
Price: 6 cents a quarter; 20 cents a year.

German Lesson Quarterly. This quar-
ry is translated from copy written by
D. H. Bender. It is prepared especially to meet the needs of the primary and intermediate classes. Among the special features we
name: General Outline, Lesson Dictionary, Halftone Illustrations, Map and Song. Price: 3 cents a quarter; 12 cents a year.

Primary Lesson Quarterly. Written by
D. H. Bender. While this quarterly contains some of the features of the Advanced Quarterly, it is so arranged as to meet the needs of the primary and intermediate classes. Among the special features we
name: Lesson Approach, Questions and
swers, Lesson Talk, Lesson Lights, Les-

Lesson Picture Cards. Written by D. H. Bender. On the one side of this card is a picture illustrating the story of the lesson. On the other side is a short story of the lesson and a few questions and answers. These cards are for the infant class. Price: 25 cents a quarter; 10 cents a year.

Bible Picture Roll. This is a large roll
that may be hung before the class. It contains the same cards that are found on the Lesson Picture Cards. Price: 75 cents a quarter; $2.50.

World of Color. Edited by A. D. Mar
This is an illustrated weekly paper for the Sunday-school and home. It con
contains interesting and helpful articles es
pecially written for this paper as well as a number of choice selections from other papers. He last pace is devoted especially to the Boys and Girls. Price: Single copy, 10 cents a year; in clubs of ten or more, 7 cents a quarter; 25 cents a year.

Beams of Light. Edited by A. D. Mar
This is a little paper especially prepared for the small children. The reading matter is simple and instructive and contains a number of pictures. Price: 25 cents a year.

The Model Sunday-school Record. For
secretaries and treasurers. Price: In
manilla covers, 35 cents; cloth, 75 cents.

Class Book. Room for 17 names on a
page. Space for marking attendance, col
lection, lesson, etc. Price: 4 cents each.

Tickets and Reward Cards. We carry in
stock a large set of these cards. A sample package will be sent for 10 cents.

D. W. Heiss, Chairman.
J. A. Stump, Secretary.

As to Church Hymnal.

The committee is informed that the Hymnal is in press now; it hopes to be able to announce in next issue of the VISITOR that the Hymnal is ready for dis
tribution.

The Bible School Committee is not able as yet to make any definite announcement but hopes to be able to do so soon.

An Aged Sister's Letter.

Dear brother in the Lord: Greet
ing in the precious name of Jesus. Enclosed find one dollar for the re
newal of my subscription to the VISI
or. I love to read it. It is food to my
soul. It helps me on the way to glory, praise the Lord. I do praise the Lord to-night that I ever found Jesus precious to my soul. When I was willing to say, good-bye to the world and the devil, Jesus took me in and washed all my sins away with his precious blood. He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness and make us happy and keep us happy—not only in sunshine but when the clouds come thick and heavy. Sometimes it goes through fiery trials, but we can have joy and peace in our souls. I am so glad for this full and free salva
tion which makes soul and body happy, praise his holy name. I am so glad that he gives us a satisfying portion. I am so thankful for the keeping power. If we trust and obey him in his will, he will do what will, I am going all the way with Jesus. The older I get the more I love this way. It is a holy way, bless the Lord.

We had such precious meetings these two weeks. O, it was food to my soul. The first week Brother Jacob Books from Lebanon county was with us and the second week Brother John Smith from Ohio. They preached the word in power. We got the honey and the wine, glory to Jesus. Three young souls started out for heaven. May they dig deep and get down on the Rock, Jesus Christ, is my prayer.

I do enjoy this salvation. I was sick in bed a little over seven weeks; had fever almost every day and was willing to say, good-bye to the world and the devil, Jesus took me in and washed all my sins away with his precious blood. He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness and make us happy and keep us happy—not only in sunshine but when the clouds come thick and heavy. Sometimes it goes through fiery trials, but we can have joy and peace in our souls. I am so glad for this full and free salva
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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 Dorcia W. Winger, Choma, N. W. Rhodesia, South Africa.
Harvey J. and Emma Frey, Elizabeth Engle, Moshabeni Mission; Levi and Sallie Dondenhoff, Mapane Mission, Gwanda, Rhodesia, South Africa.
The following are not under the F. M. B.:
Jesse R. and Malinda Eyster, Modernton P. O. (Jotokozo Training School), via Zurfontein, Transvaal, South Africa.
Isaac O. and Alice Lehman, Box 116, Fordsburg, Transvaal, South Africa.

India.

A. L. Mrs. A. L. and Ezra Messer, Maggie Landis, No. 6 Sudler Bazaar, Dil-kush, Lucknow, India.
The following are not under the F. M. B.:
D. W. and Mrs. D. W. Zook, Sripat, Purumaim, Madras district, Bengal, India.
J. H. and Anna Sparrow, Raghu-nathpur P. O., Masaboom district, India.
Emilia Hoffman, Keignton, Poona Dist., Ramabai Home, India.
Mrs. Fannie Fuller, Gowalia, Tank Road, Bombay, India.

Central America.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Casell, San Marcos, Guatemala, C. A.

Our City Missions.

Philadelphia, 3423 N. Second street, in charge of Brother Peter Stover and Sister Stover.
Cincinnati, 5905 Peoria street, in charge of Sister Sarah Beth, Bro. B. L. Brubaker and Sister Nancy Shirly.
Jabbok Orphanage, Thomas, Okla., in charge of A. L. and Anna Eisenbower.

PHILADELPHIA MISSION.—"Blessed is he that considered the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble; the Lord will preserve him alive and he shall be blessed upon the earth, and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing; thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." Blessed be the name of the Lord. It is high time for us to wake up for truly the fields are white, ready to harvest, and where are the laborers? What are we doing? Are we gathering or are we scattering? O, it means so much; let us think for a moment; how much are we doing for the poor, fallen people? Do not always look beyond the sea, but let us look at our own doors. O the many thousands of poor broken-hearted men and women, and the sinful, miserable and wretched lives that they live. They are blind and no one to come to their rescue. Is not this awful? Just think what we are doing. O we don't plead half enough. Jesus is calling day and night and if we have the spirit of God we will do the manifestation. There is so much said as to what we felt we should do, but do we ever do it? May the good Lord prepare us so that we are fit vessels for the Master's use.

Truly we have a great and noble work in this great city. Our Sunday-school is very good; we have as many as 150 to 170 in school. We truly are crowded too much. We have the infant class in the dining room and one class in the kitchen. Well, the Lord will provide, praise his name.

Our revival meetings are over again. Two souls were saved. Bro. Dimmick and his wife. They mean to go through, praise his name. Bro. Charleston from Mechanicsburg, preachers for us, being with us one week preaching the word with power.

We thank God for the truth as it is in Jesus. Now, may God's richest blessing rest and abide with all his people. Remember those who give their time and all to this great and noble work of God. Pray much for us here in this wicked city.

PETER STOVER AND WIFE.

BRANCH MISSION, PHILADELPHIA, PA.—"I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my Rock and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust. My buckler and the horn of my salvation and my high tower." Psalm 18:1, 2.

We praise the Lord, that we have a trusted Master, in whom we can put our trust, Jesus is such a good Master. We sometimes wonder why is it that so few want to serve Jesus. It seems they rather serve the one that gives us trouble and sorrow (the devil). We are so glad we are serving the one who gives us joy, and peace, that is, Jesus.

We have so much to praise and thank the Lord for. The Lord is still moving some hearts to help carry the good cause along. A sister sent us one dollar which we thank the Lord for and we pray the Lord to greatly bless that sister for her kind act. Another sister sent us twelve pairs of mittens for the poor children. We gave some to poor children and it made them smile. It does make our hearts rejoice when we can help those poor ones along. How gladly we would help more if we could, but we praise and thank the Lord for the little we can do for Jesus' sake, praise his holy name.

We are encouraged in the service of the Lord. We praise the Lord that he is our Healer. Sister Landis had a very sore eye.

Remember us in your prayers.

ABRAHAM K. LANDIS AND WIFE.

BUFFALO, N. Y.—We have ample reason to praise God for his abundant blessing received from him during the past month and throughout the year. That God's people have supplied the financial need of the work is a source of great encouragement. Apart from God's grace and blessing the past year would possibly have been the emptiest, but with it has been the fullest of our Christian experience. He has been with us all the way and at times of special need there has not been a cloud over his name! In sorrow his presence has been our comfort. In weakness he has been our strength. It is marvelous what he does for our trusting souls.

For several weeks of this past few months were spent in other fields of labor. As we come in contact with so many precious perishing souls we feel the import of Jesus' words, "Day not ye, there are yet four months and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you. Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. As our hearts are kept tender by the Holy Spirit we can not but wish we had had many strong lives to give actively in his service in place of only one which we realize is so weak.

The expression of our hearts is well voiced in these words: I do not ask for earthly store, Beyond a day's supply, I only covet more and more.
The clear and single eye, To see my duty face to face, and trust the Lord for daily grace.

Chorus:—

Then shall my heart keep singing While to the cross I cling; For rest is sweet at Jesus' feet, While homeward faith keeps winging.

I care not for the empty show That thoughtless worldlings see; I crave to do the best I know, And leave the rest with Thee, etc.

We continue to solicit an interest in your prayers that his blessing may continue to rest upon the work here and that we may have his grace and blessing as we persevere in the path of duty.

Your brother and sister sincerely desiring to please Him.

GEORGE AND EFFIE WHISLER.

DE DES MOINES, I. A.—We are able to say "The Lord reigneth." In the midst of trial there is great victory. Truth and righteouness will always win. May the Lord bless those who came to the help of the Lord's work at this place during the month of December.

It is very encouraging to those in the field when the church stands right by them with their prayers and support.

We feel the need of the prayers and cooperation of God's people in this self-denying work of the Lord.

We have great reasons to feel encouraged knowing the grace of God supplies strength of body, mind and soul to stand true to our calling and the church of the first born.

Our Christmas services were greatly blessed to us all. It was spiritual and profitable. They were held on Christmas eve and were quite well attended.

A number of children and older ones took an active part in them. They all did most excellently. We wish you all a happy New Year; may the year 1909 be the best and most successful thus far in our lives. We all appreciate kind words and greetings.

We were able to distribute a little food to needy saints at Christmas time.

Love and holy greetings to all,
J. R. AND ANNA ZOOK.
A series of meetings at the Chestnut Grove M. H. land and Richland district opened a series headed by Bro. H. H. Menaugh, of Des Moines, Iowa, assisted by Bro. John F. Stump, of Nappanee, Ind. The brethren filled with the Spirit of God and proclaimed the word with power not shunning to declare the gospel in its full sense, regardless of man. The attendance was large and the interest good. As there was no one who came out publicly on the Lord's side it could be seen that there were deep impressions made. The saints were very much revived and built up. We hope the Lord will reward the brethren for their labors, and that the seed that was sown will bring forth its fruit in due season.

Henry F. Rosenberger

Itinerary of Brother and Sister J. W. Hoover

Bro. and Sister J. W. Hoover, of Toronto, Ont., began their evangelistic work at Nottawa, Ont., on January 3. They pur- pose to visit all the churches and isolated members in Canada, in rotation as much as possible. From Nottawa they expect, the Lord willing, to come to Fordwich, travelling eastward to Springvale, Kohler, Fenwick, Winger, Stevensonville, Buffalo, etc. Reports of their travels will be given by Visitor, so that correspondents may know where to reach them. Will all those who know the worth of prayer, bear them up in their prayers that the Lord's will may be done and his great name be honored and glorified in the salvation of many precious souls.

D. V. Heise

Ashland and Richland, Ohio.—Ashland and Richland, O., have made a commendable accomplishment this year. The attendance at the meetings was transferred to the Snyder M. H., where they closed Sunday, December 6. The meetings were well attended at both places. The brother did not shun to proclaim the whole counsel of God, and the efforts that were put forth were not in vain. On Sunday, December 27, a baptismal service was held. One sister was received by the right hand of fellowship, after which the congregation proceeded to the water, where one sister and three brethren were baptized by Bishop Joseph B. Detwiler. A nice assemblage was present to witness the service.

Robert Henry

Rapho Dist, Pa.—The brethren of Rapho dist, held a two-weeks' meeting at the Mastersonville M. H., closing January 11. Bro. H. H. Kreider, of Camp- belltown, Pa., labored in the meetings the first week, and Bro. Abner H. Martin, of Elizabethtown, was with us the second week. The brethren were full of the love of God, and preached the word with power, pointing out to us avenues of sin and its effect on the human family, and also proclaimed the possibility of deliver- ance for the same through faith in Jesus' blood. The result was that sinners were made to see their need of a Savior, and six came out by open confession, and many others were under heavy conviction, but Felix-like they said, "I will hear thee at a more convenient time." But we do not forget that that time ever came to Felix. Our prayer is that the seed that was sown may have fallen on good soil, and that much fruit may result in time, and in the time to come, everlasting life.

Allen E. Brubaker

Mt. Hope, Pa.

Upland, Cal.—"I will extol thee, my God, o king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is un- searchable." (Psa. 145:1-3.)

Two weeks ago a young man whom the Lord had saved a few weeks previously was received into church fellowship by baptism. Now and then some are willing to step out and take the way. The Lord has also been blessing our Sunday-school. We praise him for the increase in the school in the last year. The total attendance for the year 1907 was 5,752 and the year 1908 was 5,752.

On the evening of December 31, 1908, Bro. J. B. Leaman returned home from an evangelistic tour through Kansas, Pennsyl- vania and Canada. We were glad to learn the Lord has been blessing the work in different sections especially in Canada. Katie Burkholder, Correspondent.

Springfield, Ind.—According to arrange- ments, Bishop John H. Smith, of Wayne county, Ohio, started a series of meetings at Silverdale M. H., Sunday evening, November 1, 1908, which were continued up to November 13. The following evening the meetings were transferred to the Souder-
When passing down the steep of life's de­
ning,
And onward through the valley home­ward bound,
My Savior will preserve me from repin­
ning.
Though rough the paths and small my strength be found.

When length'ning shadows tell the sun's near setting,
When darkness on time's scenes is fall­ing fast,
My Savior, ne'er forsaking, ne'er forget­
ing,
My light, my comfort, will be to the last.

Faith's clearer vision sees the morning break­ing,
And scattering the shadows of the night.
The sleepers from their peaceful slumbers waking
Amid the splendor of the noontide light.

And ever nearing the life eternal,
The land that once had seemed so far away,
The peace ineffable, the bliss supernal.
The unfailing brightness of the endless day.

—John Woods Ballard.

For the EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

The Holy Spirit.

GEORGE S. RICH.

The peace of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life is one of importance because his or her being a Christian depends upon possessing it. We cannot state all of its functions any more than we can state all of the functions of life. We speak of life as the mainspring of all human activities, or even all the activities of human nature. So all Christian activities and thoughts are the work and expression of the Holy Spirit. No one can be a Christian without Jesus Christ. In him we live and move and have our being. Of him, and by faith in him, we are born into God's family.

Were Christ here to-day he would be as the dictator of all our actions, the lawgiver, the judge, and the executor of all things for the Christian.

Let us see in John, chapter 14, what some of the functions of the Holy Spirit are. The Father was from the beginning and Christ went to prepare a place for his children, and the Spirit takes the place of Christ, and abides with the children of God, because Christ has returned unto the Father. The Spirit dwells with us as Christ did when he was on the earth, to comfort, and encourage and bless us. He is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it sees him not, neither knows him. Christ confounded the lawyers and doctors in the temple with his wisdom. He truly interpreted the law and the prophets. He knew how to use the Sabbath day; how to treat sinners, and how to deal with the different classes of humanity without doing wrong unto any. This is because he lived by the Spirit of truth. We cannot understand our proper place in life, or understand what, under all circumstances, are our Christian duties through life, when we have the word of God; unless we have the Holy Spirit of truth with us—and in us.

We come to Christ through this Spirit of truth. It is not at all surprising that many dear Christians full of spiritual light, zealous of good works, seldom have much to say that they have the Holy Spirit, but have much to say of Christ and his love, and have him as a present helper through all the conflicts of life to them, and that are willing to sacrifice their carnal nature with its lusts and worldly gratifications, and go on to keep his commandments. On the other hand he has not much to say about his own good works, but is a weak mortal and has a great desire to have the Spirit of truth dwell in him and guard, guide and direct him through all the conflicts of life.

Louisville, Ohio.

For the EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

In Sunny California—the Early and Latter Rain.

S. RICH.

"Be glad then ye children of Zion and rejoice in the Lord your God for he hath given you the former rain moderately and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain in the first month" (Joel 2:23).

People talk of sunny California and tell us here are three hundred sunny days in the year. But the people in Southern California are just as glad and anxious to have rain in the proper season as elsewhere. Last night rain fell nearly all night—a fine gentle rain making glad the farmers and others for here, indeed, the farmer or rancher depends very much on the early rains in November and December where they have no irrigation to soften the ground after a rainless summer.

I have often wondered what the early and latter rain means in Palestine mentioned in Deut. 11:14; Jer. 5:24; Joel 2:23; Zech. 10:1. But here in Southern California where, in a general way, it does not rain from April to October, the ground becomes hard and dry except where irrigated. Often times the land is plowed before the rain and also seeded. Then comes the anxious waiting for the rain. So are there also efforts put forth to sow the good seed, the Word of God, and often it seems for a time that the sinners are as dry and hard as the Summer parched ground, yet anxious waiting and prayer and labor of love will find, by the help of God, its way to the hearts of precious souls and bring them as did Andrew his brother Peter. John 1:40. But the rancher is not satisfied with the blade as little bushy grass but he looks for the latter rains through Winter and early Spring to bring forth the ear, then the full corn in the ear again. Here it is just as Jesus said, Mark 4:26. We thank the Lord for the rain as well as the sunshine; they are both indispensable.

So are also the trials and difficulties helpful unto us as well as the blessings, 1 Peter 4:12, 13. The patient anxious and praying waiting in times of trials and temptations will bring fruitful results, for it will prepare us for future service and future enjoyment, although for the time being we may feel the burden and gloom and wonder what good can come or will come out of these. Hear what the Apostle says, Heb. 12:11. Read also verses 10 and 12. We also, ourselves, have learned that chastening has been profitable and instructive by patient waiting before the Lord. Last Winter in the early part of 1908, the grain farmers were much concerned about the grain crop through a protracted dry spell in Southern California.

While the land was plowed, the seed sown, the grassy blade sprang some heavy stools yet hope of the ear and the full corn or grain in the ear depended on whether the latter rains would come. Later on, however, they came. So the laborer in the Lord's vineyard labors and toils incessantly to instruct and persuade the converts who have made a good beginning with faith and repentance towards God, but need, as Jesus said, to continue to pray, to ask, until they receive the Holy Spirit the promise of the Father, the endowment with power from on high, until the state of fruitfulness appears, the ear after that the full corn in the ear. Hemit, Cal.

All activity is not influential. All speech is not persuasive. All supplication is not effective. The secret of effective supplication is a quiet faith. The secret of effective speech is hidden assurance. The secret of triumphant warfare is a permanent peace.
For the Evangelical Visitor.
The S. S. Teacher and Absent Pupils.

H. L. Stump.

It is a profitable experience for a Sunday-school teacher, as well as any other religious worker, to frequently examine himself as to whether he is making progress in the work he is doing. In fact, it is the careless teacher who does not often examine his success and efforts, to see if he is doing all that lies in his power and duty to be done. This does not assume independence from God’s help. For after one has done all that lies within his own resources, he will see much that he cannot do and for which he must ask God to do, for him; and with very few exceptions, the person who comes to this extremity oftenest, is the person who has tried all resources, means and ways that lay in his experience and knowledge; and not the one who so often pretends—yet, lastly, casts himself upon God’s aid, as a cloak to hide his slothfulness.

One of the signboards which tell the direction a Sunday-school teacher is traveling is the number of absent pupils there are of his class. The present class may not always be an indication that you are really successful as a teacher. Some pupils come to Sunday-school of their own accord or by force of habit and that’s an excellent trait of character for the pupil but adds no virtue to you as a Sunday-school teacher, unless you have been instrumental in the formation of such habits. Some pupils are present because they find nothing else going on at the same time where other children and young folks are gathered together. Wanting such association is not a bad idea for young people to have, but their presence in Sunday-school is not due to your successful efforts as a teacher.

Well, there may be various reasons why pupils are present and it may be too that not a single one of these reasons will be because the teacher does his or her work so efficiently and devotedly. That pupils are constrained for that reason to be present.

But what do we mean by absent pupils. The expression, “absent pupils,” does not only include those who are enrolled in your class and dropped out again but also those who are eligible to be in the class. According to the school law of Indiana every boy and girl between the ages of seven and fourteen are pupils whether they have appeared and enrolled or not. The same principle applies to Sunday-school work. Every boy and girl within a Sunday-school district is a pupil of that district whether present or absent. And the age limit for Sunday-school boys and girls is not limited to the ages of seven to fourteen, but from the cradle roll to the grey-hair department.

Thus the duty of the teacher must be exercised toward the absent enrolled pupils and towards unenrolled absentees. But while the work is to win two classes of individuals it practically involves the same methods and most certainly, the same spirit must prompt both activities.

The first part of the teacher’s duty is to take a sympathetic attitude towards this problem. For this, if not the greatest, is one of the greatest problems confronting the teacher. He should not forget that among these absent pupils is the choicest material. He must stop and examine his work, his devotional life, his manner of expressing his love; to see if he is the fault that certain pupils are absent, or if some one else is to bear the blame. In either case the teacher must overcome if possible the obstacle in the way. If it is the teacher’s own fault, he can often and easily remedy it, if he will. In case it is another’s carelessness that certain pupils are not attending: the teacher still has a duty and must tactfully, but persistently try to eradicate the barrier.

As mentioned above the teacher cannot afford to look at this matter carelessly for among this class of pupils are those whom we so often denominate as helpless cases. “They are bound to go to the bad anyway,” we firmly declare. “What’s the use to trouble yourself over that bad boy or wicked girl?” But ha! let’s tarry a moment ere we pass this indultment. Not infrequently those who have such indultments pronounced upon them are the very best boys and girls in the neighborhood after all. They are simply bubbling over with unused energy which breaks out at the point of least resistance. In other words they are “full of life” as we say. But that’s no bad feature in them: they can’t content themselves to go to a dry Sunday-school class Sunday after Sunday and hear the teacher repeat the same old song; “I didn’t study my lesson,” or “I don’t know anything about this lesson,” as, he often blushingly articulates. Remember fellow teacher that simply because you didn’t do your duty several Sundays in succession, a pupil who had little interest in such work was completely disgusted. Remember that among these boys and girls, who are charged with surplus of energy and are extremely active, are the best Christian workers who may be turned in that direction. It is the crudest and ugliest appearing ore that contains the choicest metal. These worthless boys and girls are often like diamonds in the rough, or hard knots, which become most beautiful when the rough corners are trimmed and polished. Yes, give me the boy or girl, man or woman that has great vitality and when directed in the proper channel become the greatest force for Christ’s kingdom. And history and life is full of illustration to verify my conclusions. But suffice it to recall simply one typical example, the Apostle Paul, when he persecuted Christians he didn’t go at it half-hearted, but he pursued them with all his might and determination. However, when he was turned square about he endured stripes, being stoned, shipwrecked, in perils of robbers, in perils by his own countrymen and heathen, in perils of false brethren, hunger, cold, nakedness, imprisonment for the spread of Christ’s message of “Peace and goodwill to men.” And if any one is able outside of parental influence to direct and turn in the right pathway of life those who go astray it ought to be the Sunday-school teacher who gets them at short range.

If it is the teacher’s fault that pupils do not attend, it may be so for many reasons. Time and space will permit in this article to mention and suggest only a few.

First, pupils who have been in the class and are now absent are possibly so because of the method of teaching employed. I shall not attempt to give a thesis on teaching, but as a passing remark will say that the Sunday-school teacher very frequently does not adapt the teaching to the class. Either the food is placed on too high a shelf or else the teacher conducts the recitation for a class of boys in the “teens” as though they were still in the primary classes.

Sometimes pupils don’t attend because the teaching is not adapted, or because there is no teaching at all.
Now it is easy to entertain or to fill up the period of time assigned for recitation, by talking or asking questions but neither of these may be teaching.

Another reason why some pupils are absent is simply because the teacher is a repellant force. We often remark “don’t you like Mr. A. or Miss B?” “Why you simply can’t help liking them.” And the persons making such expressions, if interrogated, seldom can give a reasonable answer why they think such and such a person is a charming friend. Well, in more mature thinking we say such individuals have a pleasing personality or atmosphere about them. We don’t mean their dress or bodily features either; we mean the acts of the individuals and the spirit that prompts and permeates their acts. As mentioned already some individuals are repellant while others are attractive and seem to be a sort of walking magnet, that draws every one who comes in contact with them. In the selection of teacher this point ought to be kept in view. If, then you are not as magnetic as you might be, if, then, people don’t care very much to be in your presence, begin improvement. Associate with strong and admirable personalities in your community; your minister ought to be one, your superintendent ought to be one. You can’t buy it or walk up to another and say “don’t care very much to be in your neighborhood who have never been in Sunday-school or were never invited. Just stop and ask yourself, “how many persons have I ever invited into Sunday-school?” Many invited from the wayside and byways will come when asked.

These and scores of other causes cause many to be absent. And it may not lie within the teacher’s possibility to remove all hindrances; but he, if any, can remove many of them. And not until the teacher has tried every right and available method is he excused from his duty toward the absent.

The method of treatment will undoubtedly vary with each case of truancy; some are easily mastered, some are not. But the most difficult conditions and problems are the ones that try the worth of the teacher. Then it is that the apt teacher will manifest his loyalty to duty and hard work.

Lastly after you have seemingly resorted to every possible prayerful means come again believing Tennyson, “that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of,” and pray accordingly. And do not be at all surprised if God will answer that prayer by your labor and co-operation.

Goshen, Indiana.

From the Michigan Field.

MARY J. LONG.

“As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man.” (Luke 17:26).

Dear readers of the Visitor: By the help of God I will make an effort to write a few lines for the Visitor; and while it is quite a cross and I feel very incompetent to write on such an important subject, still am willing to make an effort, and, as I said the other evening in the meeting when so few seemed to have a testimony, it still seems to me we all should be ready to rise on our feet and show what side we are on. I am always so ready to read the Visitor, and, I suppose we all are, and yet, if we are not willing to give in our mite toward the work we ought hardly expect so much of our editor.

Perhaps eight years ago as I was walking on the street in Harrisburg, Pa., just like a flash, the above named scripture was God-given to me in such a way that it left a lasting impression on my mind and which has never left me. Neither do I want it to leave, and the other day it came so fresh before me again as I saw how even God’s children get too much taken up with the things of time and sense, and even those who are to be an example to the flock can forget themselves and instead of being much alone with God in pleading for precious souls that they may see their lost condition and come back to God, perhaps are more interested in the planning out how to get their children and themselves located in order that they may accumulate more of this world. Oh, that we would have the kind admonitions and warnings more at heart and profit by the same as found in Matthew 24:27, and on through the remainder of the chapter. Oh that we might have this desire in our hearts continually as the hymn says,

"Help me to live that I may dread The grave as little as my bed." 

If this is really our desire our dear heavenly Father is so willing to help us on every line on which we need help; and who knows, as we read in the word, that the Son of Man cometh at such an hour that ye think not. When we expect some of our loved ones or our brethren and sisters to come we talk about it and generally make some preparation for the time. It seems to me that we might come far short if we are not on our guard in the bringing it before our children, as well as others, that we need not expect any more warning than what we have in the word. And truly, the time is still drawing nearer. One earthquake after another, and yet it seems to be so hard to reach the unsaved. Well, no doubt, poor Noah was discouraged sometimes with the people then, but he did what God commanded him to do and the rest went on and did what they pleased, but Noah with his family was saved, by God’s grace. I want to prove faithful to my calling, but am aware that it takes all in order that we may come out victorious at the end. For, go where we will, we can see, as we read in Matt. 24:2, that because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold.

Dear saints, let us be in earnest about this all important matter; to bring before the people the importance of not being too easily satisfied, belonging to church as it is often said. We must be in earnest and alive to the work emptied of self and every thing that will hinder the work of the Lord in our hearts and lives. As for me I have no other desire than to go on by faith in the Son of God, the One who laid down his life that we might live. I realize, in full at times,
that the enemy of my soul is on the alert trying to bring in discouragements, but God’s grace is sufficient for every trial, and he also knows all about our needs, praise his dear name. We are still among the favored, and are blessed far above many of God’s children. I, at times get a longing to meet with our children, more so than in former years, but I feel as though it’s an attack of the evil one. Much as we love our children, yet God helps his children even on those lines. I would ask you all to pray earnestly for us that we may be able to fill our calling here in Michigan and be a help to those who need help. It appears to me that in no way can we reach the people as well as by personal work, going from home to home, following it up, and, most of all, warn the people to get ready for the coming of Christ, for, as it was in Noah’s time so will it be in our age. Still we must obey God, and be faithful in all our calling.

Your sister in the faith and work.

Sandusky, Mich.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

AARON EBERSOLE.

As I was reading some experiences in the Visitor of those who have been saved from the habit of using tobacco, I feel that I can praise God in no better way than to drop in a few words of encouragement in regard to the same, as I had some experience along the tobacco line. I used tobacco for some time in the early part of my life.

In the early part of my conversion I was wonderfully convicted on the use of tobacco. One morning when I rose from my bed I asked the Lord to take the desire away for I knew if I would ask in faith he would hear me. It was taken away that very moment and it never came back again. But he cleansed me not only from tobacco but also from drink.

Oh, what joy I received in obedience! How pleasant it is if we trust in him for all things—everything we own. How good it is when we can go to the Lord and ask his advice in our earthly labors. He gives us the best advice. Oh, how good it is if we ask the Lord every morning what we are to do this day. I believe he would bless us for it. It is sad to say I was not as true to him in some things as I should have been in time past. But, by his grace, I want to do his will.

I would say, let us all be like Mary of old, and choose that good part which shall not be taken away, which is eternal life.

Pray for me and my family that we may continue in the faith once delivered unto the saints.

Clarence Centre, N. Y.

Jan. 6, 1909.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

A Testimony for Jesus.

ADA M. HESS.

Dear readers of the Visitor: I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I felt very much impressed to write a few lines for the Visitor, and by God’s help I will do so.

I praise God for the way he has brought me from darkness into his marvelous light and from the power of sin and Satan unto God. Oh when I look back and see the many sins God has saved me from I feel I cannot praise him enough. If it would not be for the heavy convictions Jesus sent on me I am sure I would not enjoy what I do this morning.

Three years ago when Bro. J. B. Leaman was holding meetings at the Pequa church, God wonderfully convicted me of my sins, but I thought I wouldn’t yield as I thought it would spoil my plans which I had made for the future, but Jesus loved me so much that even if I did do all I could to fight them away he still kept calling till at last I felt I could not stand it any longer. Oh the burden of sin that was resting on me and the misery I was in just because I was not willing to yield! Perhaps if you could have heard my dear mother pray for her girls you wouldn’t wonder much why God called so loud. God wonderfully answered her prayer on the third day of November, 1905, when three of my sisters and myself yielded our lives to God. That was a night that shall never be forgotten because of Jesus’ presence with us. God wonderfully changed me about that night as I said good-bye to the world and all the sinful things. God wonderfully flooded my soul with his glory, and, bless God, I had no desire for those things that held me so hard, but I felt a determination to go through at any cost. Oh I didn’t know Jesus had something so blessed for me or I am sure I would not have fought so hard against it. That night, as I was there at the altar, I said I am going to follow Jesus every step of the way at any cost. But oh, dear ones, I didn’t know what that meant to me. But I felt so happy I thought I could do anything for Jesus. I went home a different girl than I came. Old things had all passed away and all things had become new. I am so glad that I obeyed God and did just as he told me.

Jesus wonderfully healed my body. I had been very sickly: mamma still said she didn’t think she would raise me, and, it seemed, the doctors could not help me much, but when Jesus got a hold of me he healed me, soul and body. That was three years ago and I have not been sick once since. Praise his dear name. This God did to show me how much he loved me.

Then the Lord told me that some day I was to go to Africa to labor for him which seemed to be a very hard thing for me to do. I thought surely I can’t do this. I said to myself, “I won’t think such a dumb thing as I is wanted.” I would try to push it away; still Jesus would keep speaking and proving it to me that I was to go. I never told any one what Jesus told me, but many times I would weep when I was alone with the Lord. Now I loved Jesus very much but yet I found that I loved my parents and my home more than Jesus, and I felt Jesus had more for me to enjoy than what I was enjoying. I had promised I would follow every step of the way but when I saw what it would cost I thought it was more than I could do, but I am so glad that Jesus didn’t let me get satisfied or settled down in the way I was going but gave me to see that he had something so much better if I would only surrender my all to him.

You know, there is no standing still but we have new heights and deeper depths to gain every day, and as Jesus gave me to see the real joy in living a consecrated life to him I got a real longing for it and on the nineteenth day of June, 1908, after sitting under a touching sermon, preached by Bro. C. C. Burkholder, I settled this matter definitely with the Lord. I surrendered my all to him but it took a real dying out to ‘el. It seemed very hard, and took quite a while for me to give up all. Especially my home and parents, brothers and sisters seemed to hold me so
that I may be a bright and shining light for Jesus, that wherever I go I can say, I love Jesus above everything else. Oh I am so glad he has put in my heart to do his will. And oh, how I desire that I may be a bright and shining light for Jesus, that wherever I go my life may tell for God, that I may be the means in God's hands of saving precious souls.

My prayer is that God may prepare me for all he has for me to do. I mean to go the whole way with Jesus at any cost. I ask a deep interest in the prayers of all God's children for me that I may be true to Jesus and just follow as he leads.

Yours, looking for the near coming of Jesus.

A. ELIZABETH WINGER.

For the EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

Elizabeth J. Tracy.

Dear readers of the VISITOR: I am impressed to give my testimony through the VISITOR for my precious Master this morning. I can say with the psalmist: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name." It is blessed to know that we are children of the heavenly King.

It encourages me very much to read the testimonies and other articles in the VISITOR. I feel so glad that the Savior saved me in my youth. He not only saved me but keeps me saved. He also saved my dear parents. Before my parents were converted I prayed that the Savior would bring him to me before they would depart from this earth. Praise his name, he answered my prayer, although it was not as soon as I expected. The Savior answered it in his own time.

I am still praying for my brothers, that they may give their hearts to Jesus. I have talked to them, also prayed with them, but they seem to be enjoying the pleasures of this life. Please pray for them that they may give their hearts to Jesus.

I talked to a young lady about giving up the pleasures of this world for the pleasures that there are in serving Jesus. She replied, "I do not see how you people can give up all the enjoyments of this world for a Christian life." I told her that Jesus has taken all the desire for those things out of my heart. I am so glad that he has. I would not give my peace for all that the world could give. One thing is so precious to me; that is, the world cannot give nor take away that which Jesus has given to me. We sing in school:

"I will ask Jesus to help me
To keep my heart from sin,
Ever reflecting his goodness,
And always shine for him."

This verse expresses the desire of my heart. Please remember me in your prayers to God. Also all of us young sisters at the Orphanage, that we all may be obedient and always "hold fast to that which is good."

Messiah Orphanage,
Harrisburg, Pa.

For the EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

Testimony.

A. ELIZABETH WINGER.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits."

This is the language of my heart this morning. The Lord is so very good to me these days, and, in fact, always has been that I cannot find words to express what I feel in my soul. I want to praise him especially for saving and sanctifying me, and then, last but by no means least, of giving me a little place in which to labor for lost souls in the great harvest-field of this perishing world.

Some six or seven years ago soon after I came to California the Lord gave me a definite case of salvation, and ever since that time I have felt the call of God upon my life for some special service for him. But not until this last October did he really start me on to the work my heart had so longed to enter.

Some may wonder why God calls so long before he sends, but had I started out immediately after I was saved I would surely have made an utter failure. Many were the lessons I needed to learn, some of them hard ones, too, before the Lord opened the way for me to step out, and I am glad now that the Lord held me at home under good, solid, spiritual teaching until he could "establish my goings" and get me firmly rooted and grounded in him. To him be all the glory.

I can say, to the praise of the Lord, that I thoroughly enjoy this city Mission work in which I am engaged. I believe with all my heart that there is no joy outside of the joy of our own salvation, like that of seeing other souls coming to Jesus.

Some way this morning during family worship, the Lord put a burden of prayer upon my heart for the many young brethren and sisters throughout the brotherhood who could be such a wonderful power for God and souls if only they could realize the call of God on their lives, for service in real soul-saving work. May God awaken every one of us to a lively sense of this world's need and our duty in reference to it.

Sometimes when I hear of so many places where workers are needed, I feel that had I a dozen lives to give I would send each one in a different direction to work for precious souls. "The harvest truly is great and the laborers are few." Let us each earnestly ask God, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" and then, "Whatsoever our hand findeth to do, do it with our might."

I do praise God that here in this great city, which is said to be a laughing-stock among the nations because of its exceeding wickedness, down in the humble little Peniel Mission on Third street, souls are from time to time finding their way to the Lord, weeping their way to Calvary, to the joy and satisfaction of their own hearts and to the encouragement of the workers. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

May the Lord richly bless all the dear brethren and sisters and especially our dear editor is my prayer.

Your sister seeking the lost,
138 Hawthorne St., San Francisco,
Cal., Dec. 23, 1908.

This is the way to do a good day's work: Begin it with God, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus and for the glory of God; count nothing common or unclean in itself—it can be so only when the motive of your life is low. Be not content with eye-service, but, as servants of God, do everything from the heart and for the loftiest motives, and be as men which watch for the coming of the master of the house.—F. B. Meyer.
The SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

LESSON 5. The Trial of Peter and John.
Acts 4:1-31. (Commit vs. 11, 12.)

Golden Text: They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of the Lord with boldness.

Central Truth: The Holy Spirit gives courage to meet opposition.


That lesson to-day immediately follows that of last Sabbath. The preaching of the resurrection of Jesus, and through him the doctrine generally of the resurrection, greatly offended the Sadducees, supported by the priests, the officers of the temple were induced to put the apostles under arrest. And thus was to come the first fulfillment of the prediction of Jesus: "They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and prisons, being brought before rulers and kings for my sake." (Lk. 21:12.)

Who? Captain of the temple; the high priest Caiaphas, John, Alexander, Peter, and John, and many of the people.

Explanations and Word Studies.
(V. 1) They were all filled with the Holy Ghost. (V. 2) They spake the word of the Lord with boldness. The nations which were not Jews. This refers doubtless to the opposition which would be made to the spread of Christianity, as well as the results made to Christ himself. (V. 3) Signs and wonders: Miracles. Back: has no reference to the time when the words were spoken, but to the time when they would be performed. The language here is fitted to express the idea of an earthquake. Whether the motion was confined to a house where they were, is not said.—Barnes. All filled, &c.: Inspired with confidence and boldness.

LESSON 6. True and False Brotherhood.
Acts 4:32-31. (Commit vs. 32, 33.)

Golden Text: Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Central Truth: The test of pretense of consecration without the reality is desecration.


Explanations and Word Studies.
(V. 32) Of them that believe: Of the church—the first of the kind on record in church history. (V. 33) Not long after the events of the last lesson.


Explanations and Word Studies.
(V. 32) Of them that believe: The new converts. The church was growing rapidly. The persecution and danger guided them to their faith. (V. 35) Of one heart: Complete accord. Which he possessed: The rights of property were not obliterated. There was no compulsory communism. While perhaps there was an indifference on the part of many Christians in regard to their own property, yet they did not take away the property of any one. It was a matter of choice whether one kept his goods or brought them to the common store. (V. 37) Signs and wonders: Miracles. (V. 39) That lacked: None were in need, because their wants were supplied. (V. 45) Their own company: They joined the other believers in their common pursuits. (V. 45) Laid up their voice to God: Prayed to him. With one accord: Unitedly.


T. Faith cleft to the Lord. S. Swift Punishment.

LESSON 7. The church: Lying lips are abomination to the Lord; but they that deal truly are his delight.

The Sunday-School Quarterly.

Notice the method of God in saving the world; the question, What makes men mad? He simply conformed the eye that was already there the faculty that it had never had. So, when God makes a disciple he creates no new faculty; he does not give a new reason or conception or imagination or that is already there and gives it a new direction, a new quality to one’s being, a new disposition towards God and spiritual things; but there is no creation of a new faculty. He turns the conative, that is, toward the truth; he takes the affections which were perverted and diverted, and directs them to God with an eye to moral perfection. He illuminates the conscience so that the moral judgment in the judgment on the one’s acts, is, is now confirmed in righteous decisions. He takes the will and turns it toward the purpose of God. All this is illustrated in our Lord’s dealings with this man born blind.—A. T. Pierson.

The treatment of the Sunday-school lessons is appropriated from the Workman Quarterly.

The SUNDAY-SCHOOL. 11
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There was some change for the better however by this time which continued. Sister Engle requested prayer and anointing, and looking to Jesus she committed her case into God's hand. At this time of writing Sister Engle is quite safely recovered and Sister Doner has quite recovered, so that we have much reason for thanksgiving to our God.

As Bro. Steierwald intended to come down to locate some schools, we made use of this opportunity. After a light lunch in the morning we mounted our wheels and went about five miles westward to a farm occupied by a white man who readily gave his consent to the locating of school on his farm. The head man of the native kraal near which the school is to be built was very friendly toward the project. A few hundred yards across the boundary of this farm two young (white) men have lately begun homesteading. Here we were entertained with Christian courtesy. In a short time these both will (D. V.) have their wives with them. After tea was served and a friendly interview enjoyed we knelt together in prayer, and God's word made us feel that he was there and here, and we felt the response of Christian fellowship. It was our pleasure to give them a few points on brick making which they appreciated. On leaving their spirit went with us. Thus you see we are having new neighbors; and we trust that as they come in there may be one fold and one Shepherd.

Travelling now southward we visited a number of homes where our converts live. Time allowed a few words and prayer with them. Arriving at a kraal about eight miles from first location we came to another settlement where quite a number of our children live, and, why is it that in such homes we always receive a hearty reception? Here, too, they served us with their handbreadth muffins (which the native uses in a state of fermentation) but just as their country is foreign to ours of our nativity so are their tastes. However necessity is void of the comforts of the finer taste. On assuming our intention to locate a school there they at once sanctioned the proposition and seemingly were greatly delighted in the prospect of a school, so near by, as well the old people as the young. Taking advantage of their liberal consent we had no trouble in citing them their duty of erecting the building which they promised to do.

Another turn of about eight miles completing a route of triangle we arrived home tired, thirsty and hungry.

The same evening the wagon was prepared to leave in the morning for Bulawayo, the boys going with the team, while Bro. S. and I waited till second day to follow on our wheels. The distance is fifty miles and requires three days on the way.

This is the busy season of seeding and natives (not Christian) are absorbed in beer drinking at digging bees.

The work in general is as usual. We can see a great stirring of ground which we mean to hold by God's help.

Continue to pray till Jesus comes.

L. DONER

EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

A Voice from the Quakers.

NOAH AND MARY ZOOK.

To all the dear readers of the Evangelical Visitor, we come with greetings in the precious name of Jesus, wishing you all a happy New Year, not only for this day, but for all the year through. Amen!

Our calendar verse for to-day is: "The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble." (Psalm 9:9.)

As we look back over the year just closed we can say, goodness and mercy have marked our pathway, blessings innumerable, and above our deservings, have been our happy lot. Blessed be the name of the Lord forever and ever. Amen!

When we quit the general evangelistic field, because of age and inability to stand the constant strain upon our bodies, and came to these parts to help care for the orphan twins of our dear children, Josiah and Rhoda Martin, we thought possibly no one would be impressed to send us any means for our own personal use. But, to the praise of God, we can say the dear Lord put it into the hearts of some of his children to send free will offerings, so that our needs have been supplied. We feel very unworthy of this special notice of our heavenly father in thus sending us offerings from Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Canada. We pray the Father's richest blessings to rest upon all who have thus contributed to our need, and pray him to restore to them an hundred fold, in his own good time and way. May it all have been done as unto the Lord.

According to previous arrangements, we began the first series of meetings here in the home of Bro and Sister George on the evening of Dec. 6, 1908. The meetings continued two nights over two weeks. Our dear Elder M. G. Engle, of Kansas, came on the evening of the 6th, and was with us until the close of the meetings. We here had been praying that he might come filled with the Holy Ghost, to preach "the Word" to these people; and we believe he cleared his skirts from the blood of this people.

We had also been praying the Lord to get hold of the hearts of the people of this vicinity and bring them to the meetings. To the praise of God we can say the attendance was fair to good all the time of the meeting. The Holy Spirit was also applying the
truth to many hearts, and quite a number became seekers after God. Some professed to have found Him in the pardon of their sins. While we would have been glad for a greater display of God's power in convicting sinners and sanctifying believers, yet we do want to magnify the name of the Lord for what has been done; and now we are praying the Holy Ghost to re-preach the truth in many hearts as presented by the brother. We are glad to say he fearlessly, and yet in love, gave the gospel no uncertain sound, so that sinners and formal professors all were dealt with as though he believed he would have to answer to God when ever man's work shall be tried of what sort it is.

God's children were encouraged to make a full consecration of their lives to God that they may prove to their own hearts what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, according to Rom. 12:1, 2.

We have been having very lovely weather here for some time, which we appreciate and are thankful for.

Yours in his service,

P. S.—We will be glad to hear from any of the dear brethren and sisters who may be led to write to us. N. and M. Z.  

Home Again.
J. B. Leaman.

This morning I am prompted to write a few lines for the Visitor. Rom. 8:1 is mine this morning and as I am living here I am made to realize the truth of Psalm 23.

My last writing found me at Chicago Mission. On Nov. 17, I came to Springfield, Ohio. I had meetings at Donnellsville, Nov. 19 and 20, an all day meeting on the 20th. This was a season of refreshing to us all. Here it was my privilege to meet many of the dear saints. We were rejoiced to have in these services our three aged brethren, Elder Jacob Wingert, Bro. Kunke, of Medway, upwards of eighty years of age, and for many years a minister in the church; and still a blessed brother; also Bro. Jacob Ulery, also quite old and feeble, and many years a preacher in the church. As I looked upon the aged brethren towering on the edge of the grave, I was made to feel the responsibility that is falling upon us who are younger in that the older ones are passing over one by one. The membership here is quite small, but real spiritual. God has set a number free in the past several years and are now marching up the shining way with victory in their life, and the glory of God shed abroad in their hearts. Some who are young in years, O, what a grand picture is before those of us who have given our hearts to God early in life, and can look back, over a life that has been spent in the service of God!

On the 21st I came to Dayton, and found a hearty welcome at the home of Bro. Levi Herr, of Englewood. He conveyed me to Highland district, where I met with the Brethren in prayer-meeting, at the home of Bro. Moses Dohner. It certainly was blessed to meet with those of like precious faith. We spent the evening very pleasantly together, God blessing the word to us all. I also felt very glad for the real notes of victory that sounded out in the testimonies.

Sunday, Nov. 22, was a full day. I preached at the Highland M. H. in the morning and at the Johnson school house, six miles east of West Milton, in the afternoon, and at Fairview in the evening. The day was one for which I praise God. The strain was hard on me, but his grace was enough. Bless his name. Again coming to Highland, I held meetings on the 22d and 24th at the same place. I found the dear saints encouraged and marching on.

Bidding farewell, I came on to Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 26, at eleven o'clock noon, where all our father's family were waiting for me. My aged father and mother, and only brother who had just been married. This was a reception given me that made our hearts rejoice because of the thought of being home once again. On this same evening I preached at the Brethren's Mission, Manor street, Lancaster. Visiting some of my friends I came on to Pecquona where I had been announced for me. Bro. Eli Engle had already commenced the meetings. An account of the same was given in the Visitor. On Sunday morning, Nov. 29, I found open doors at the Mennonite church, two miles east of Lancaster, the home of my childhood. God gave open doors, and real liberty. In the evening I preached in the Evangelical church, W. Orange street, to a crowded house. One soul, made a start for the kingdom.

Sunday morning, Dec. 6, I preached to a crowded house at the New Danville Mennonite church, and in the evening closed at Pecquona M. H. By special arrangement I came to the Reformed Church, seven miles east of Lancaster, on the evening of Dec. 8, where I had a full house. God gave real liberty. Here I preached to many of my old school mates with whom I had not met for twenty-five years. We had a real melting time together. Surely this was a night long to be remembered by all. The following evening I preached at the Philadelphia Mission, found the workers well and happy. I was glad to meet with them once again. It seemed like getting home. Coming to Harrisburg, Dec. 10, I preached the word. This closed a series of meetings which were held by the Brethren here in which a number yielded their hearts to God. Here it was my privilege in the evening to visit the Orphanage, and taking supper with sister Baker and other workers and thirty-nine children. As I was seated at the table with them my heart was touched as I saw the untiring love and patience of the dear sisters. I could not help but notice the respect the inmates all
manifested toward the matron, and the training which obtains here is certainly worthy of imitation by many of our dear people. Surely, our dear sister should have our prayer and sympathy in this noble work, which is moulding character for eternity. Brethren and sisters, if you are permitted to pass through do not fail to stop off here, and see what is being done. I firmly believe, that this is one of the grandest works of the church.

I spent a very pleasant time with our dear editor in his home, and also with Bro. S. R. Smith. I found the brother very busy in getting the new Church Hymnal ready for the printing, which is a very heavy burden upon these brethren as also on our dear brother, J. R. Zook. I hope and pray that we, as a people, will not forget that these brethren receive no compensation for this work, and we should at least give them our thanks instead of criticism.

On Sunday morning, Dec. 13, I met at the Mennonite church, Rohrerstown, and the afternoon at the East Chestnut Street, Mennonite M. H., Lancaster, and in the evening at Pearl street, Evangelical church, Lancaster. This was my last stay in the States. These services were all very largely attended, and I praise God for open doors among these dear people. I also feel glad that my heart has been enlarged so I can enjoy myself wherever I am.

Coming to Buffalo and to Stevensville, Ont., on the 15th I found my way to Bro. P. M. Climenhaga and began a series of meetings at the Berrie M. H. The same evening. The attendance was quite large, and may turned to the Lord. Others sought the deeper work of grace in their hearts and found. Others were yet seeking. I was glad for the deep work that was done in these meetings.

The arrangements having been made for my return home the feeling was that the meeting should not close, so Bro. Lafayette Shoals, of Wainfleet, Ont., consented to come and take charge of the meetings. On Dec. 27, I came to Bro. Peter Climenhaga's home, where I found eighteen of the dear saints, who had come to see me off. After a brief time together in social fellowship, the sisters Ella and Sarah, gave us some refreshments, and we there had prayer and after singing a few songs we gave the parting hand, and at 12.30 took the train for Chicago where I was met by Sister Bert and Bro. Brubaker. Only stopping here six hours, I took the Golden State Limited at 9 p.m. Monday evening, Dec. 28, for my home, where I arrived 7.30 p.m., Dec. 31. I found my dear companion and children all well and happy, anxiously waiting for me.

I praise God for his presence, with me, in keeping me in perfect health, and giving me a safe journey, supplying all my needs. May the blessing of God be poured out richly upon all who so kindly shared with me in a substantial way.

I found the work going on here at Upland. On the morning and evening of Jan. 3, 1909, I preached to a full house here. I was made to rejoice to be at home once again.

I am sorry that I could not respond to the many official calls given to me on this trip. May God speed the day when I can be more free. My family is very dear to me, and I feel the responsibility very keenly.

As I get out into the work I realize the great danger there is, in becoming contaminated with the fast-moving current that is dragging many down to the cold world, and the cares of this life; choking out the spiritual life. May the Lord keep our hearts aglow with the things of God, and keep us hot for his honor.

"I'm over in a goodly land I'm going on Led by my Savior's mighty hand, I'm going on. Much land ahead to be possessed, I'm going on. And all is mine, my feet have pressed. Bless God I'm going on. My prayer, my aim, is higher ground."

The signs of the times show to us that we will not have long to stay here. Certainly we are in the last times.

"The stars of heaven are growing dim. It must be the breaking of the day." I crave an interest in the prayers of all the dear saints that I may be kept in the center of his will.

Yours in Christian fellowship. Upland, Cal.

For the Evangelical Visitor. A Letter.

Dear Reader: As I think of the wonderful salvation which Christ purchased for us on the cross with his own blood, that we may go free, there wells up in my soul a shout of hallelujah, glory to his name.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, I was healed of a severe pain and soreness on my lungs in answer to prayer at the Mission, then on Dec. 14, I received a call to hold an evening service on the 15th, in the country. The Holy Spirit

bade me go, and gave me the message to deliver. After speaking one-half hour I felt inclined to close my remarks, but the people insisted on me to proceed with the exposition of the word which I then did and spoke one-half hour longer. The Lord wonderfully manifested his power, as the people prayed God to strengthen me in my effort. After the meeting closed I left for home having one and one-half miles to walk before I would reach the car line. I felt that the strain was too much for my nervous condition, and I had gone but a short distance from the house where the meeting was held when I fell prostrate on my face on the highway semi-conscious and not able to move or call for help. The evening was chilly, dark, and damp, but after considerable time I was able to pull myself up and lean on the fence and make a little noise which drew the attention of a good brother who was up late in his house who came to my assistance. I find that I have broken God's law in thus overdoing the strength of my body, but I cannot regret the faithful delivery of the message. Praise his name.

I am regaining my health and bodily strength gradually by faith and prayer. I have asked God to forgive me for violating the laws of nature and heal me of all my ailments, and believe he will, for Jesus' sake. I am thankful for the full Gospel as we have it taught and preached at our Mission and church. It is a great help and blessing. "I shall never cease to love him." Will all the dear saints remember me to God in prayer, that I may be able to stand true to God and heaven, always ready to meet Jesus in the air when he comes to judge the world in righteousness?

Yours in love,

A. C. HIGGINS.

322 W. Seventh St., Des Moines, Ia. My Conversion.

Dear friends one and all: The following few lines is a little experience of a sinner on the road to complete repentance and a thorough cleansing from all worldly desires which has long been my folly. But praise the Lord for his infinite goodness and mercy to me. I can now fully say in truth and sincerity that I am safely delivered of the message. Praise his name.
be attributed fully to the dear brothers and sisters of the ever kind and faithful Stover family which has so amply provided for me in times of distress, when, unfortunately as it had seemed at the time, I was parted from my husband through the results of the soul-destroying monster, rum, and left with two little children and being introduced to them I stated my grievances in full and how I had to break up a once happy home. The world and all therein seemed hard and disconsolate to me under the existing circumstances. But praise the Lord, not nearly as much as I thought for, when dear sister Cora Stover asked me if I knew where my husband was, my answer was, no. She replied do you know how you can find out. I, in consternation asked, how? She said through prayer and on the following Sunday evening brother Peter Stover, sister Cora and another sister in Christ, sister Bella Carins called on me and all knelt in prayer for almost one hour for my husband to give up his wicked ways and come to Jesus and get salvation, and thanks be to our heavenly Father, the Creator of all things, our prayers were speedily answered and my husband came to the Mission with me and my two little children under the care and guidance of the dear kind and loving Stover family.

Oh, dear readers, do kindly pray for them for I cannot write all the good they have done for me and mine, and I would kindly ask of you all to pray for us that we would always live for Jesus until "which time the Lord may rule and bring my children up in the fear of the Lord. Your sister in the Lord."

MRS. DEMMICK.

For the Evangelical Visitor.
Testimony.

amelia myers.

Dear readers of the Visitor: I have been impressed for some time to write, but have been putting it off. But to-day it has come to me so plainly that I should obey, and when I became willing my heart was filled with joy. Oh, what a joy the Lord gives us when we obey him. It is my earnest wish and desire to obey him whenever he wants me to do. I have passed through many schools the last few years, and whatever the Lord wants me to do that is what I want to do.

God's word teaches whom he loveth he chasteneth. I am so glad for this that the Lord has brought me to that place that I can see what belongs to a child of God. I feel that I am on the way he wants me to go, for he showed me plainly that I should dress in modest apparel, to be plain and separate from the world and wear a covering not only myself, but I should also be careful how I dress my children. When this came to me I said, "What is this for?" and I heard a voice say, "For a light to the world." So I try to keep off my children all the unnecessary things I can. I feel to praise the Lord for all these things.

I wonder sometimes whether the Lord does not talk to others as he does to me, or whether they are not willing to obey. Now, I do not write this to offend any one, but I feel that the Lord wants me to do so. I want to obey for that is the only way that I can have it good in the service of the Lord. I feel to praise the Lord for all his blessings. He has blessed me far beyond what I deserve. I feel that I am nothing in his sight, and am glad he ever noticed me, and brought me where he has. But I feel he does not want one soul to be lost, but rather that all would turn unto him and live.

As this is the first of another new year I want to turn another new leaf and live nearer to the Lord than I did in the past; that I may have more grace and power; that I may be in a place where the Lord may rule and reign in my heart and use me as it pleases him. I am not my own, I belong to the Lord therefore I want to please him. I feel that the Lord helps me with my daily labors as well as with my spiritual duties. I will bring this to a close, asking a deep interest in your prayers for me a poor weak one that I may be kept true to God and bring my children up in the fear of the Lord. Your sister in the Lord."

GREENCASTLE, PA.

For the Evangelical Visitor.
Experience.

ISA M. NEVETZERAL.

Dear readers of the Visitor: I greet you all in the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth to save us poor creatures. Oh, what a precious name indeed. I have of late had many trials and temptations, but have always found my Savior ready, waiting and willing to lend a helping hand in every time of need if we obey him and come humbly before him; praise his dear name for ever and ever.

On Dec. 15, 1908, I left New Hamburg, Ont., for my home near Rodney. I arrived in the evening and was met by my oldest half brother who conveyed me home. I was heartily welcomed by all. Although I have had man trials I am so thankful that the grace of my Savior is sufficient for all.

Our doctrine is very strange in this part of God's vineyard. The Evangelicals will give liberty to any of the Brethren to hold meetings in their church. If any feel it their duty to come and hold meetings and explain unto them the word of God as we understand it, my oldest brother will do all he can. He lives about two miles from Rodney.

Rodney is about nine miles from Wardsville where the Brethren used to hold meetings. We now leave it all to you and to God, and hope and pray that some one will be sent. I would rejoice to see my friends enjoy the same sweet peace that I have had since I gave myself up into the hands of our blessed Lord and Savior.

I crave an interest in the prayers of the saints, that I may be a faithful worker here on earth, and an example to those round about me. I am a convert of nine months. I never was so happy as I have been since I started out on this narrow path. It is narrow but not too narrow for those that are willing, and it is so bright. And, oh, what peace it is to know our Savior is watching over us and is our guide. We can go on our way rejoicing and look forward to eternity, and, oh, what must it be to be there! If any one would like any information I will gladly answer to the best of my knowledge; or you may write to my brother, Ervin Woolner, Rodney, Ont., Rodney, Ont.

For the Evangelical Visitor.
Lord, Is It I?

FRANK BRECHBILL.

Lord, is it I Thou dost call, For my life, my all in all? Is it I that Thy great love And I Thine one to be? If I myself in Thine will lose? Is it I that Thy great love For me has been sent from above? Is it I that Thou dost desire A humble spirit in gladly attire? Is it I that Thou hast sent My life for others to be lent? Lord, is it I Thy law can fulfill If I will only obey Thy will? Yes, Lord; it is I Thou dost desire. A service that will never tire, A heart so pure that others may know That within me Thy life does glow.
A. George and wife, a bushel of black walnuts and one chicken; Bro. and Sr. Max 1 lbs. of fresh beef; Bro. and Sr. Wm. McMahon, city, a goose and 1 lb. of butter.

$15; Brown county, Kans., Brethren, $38.75; Souderton, Pa., $42.63. For gas for residence and Mission, 2 50

The amount of this fund is now $3,289 95

Amos L. Musser (special) 3000

H. Frances Davidson (special), $34 65

$10; Daniel Bowers, 111.—Sr. H. F. Davidson, III., $5; In His Name, Kans., $15; N. Engle, Okla., $10; Sr. Susan Levanson, Ind., $5; Mary Cobb, Elizabethtown, Pa., $10, sundries, $7. poor, $31.04.

$11 50

S. S. of Bertie, Ont., $50 cents; S. S. of Airville, N. Y., $5; Mowersville, Pa., $1; Eliabebtown, Pa., 2 boxes clothing; Souderton, Pa., 1 box clothing; Fayetteville, Pa., a box of clothing; Hageman, Md., 1 box clothing; Hummeltown, Pa., 1 box clothing. Segwick, Kans., 1 box clothing; Mound City, 1 box clothing.


823 N. Second St., Phila., Pa.

Buffalo Mission.

Report for December, 1908.

Balance on hand, $13 50

Donations.

A Bro. in Christ, $5; gift by a sister, $1; In Jesus Name, $3; a brother in Christ; $1; Oran Nique, Kans., $35; M. Heise, $1; Henry Steckley, 50 cents: Brethren of Canton, Ohio, for bed­ direed during the four Mission stations in South Africa, $400.

Disbursements.

(It will be noticed that only special offer­ ings are included in the disbursements includ­ ing $300 of the special tithe accord­ ing to the donor's desire for the recipient.)

The special part of this tithe to which Bro. Doner's station is entitled was not paid to that station because no request was made for the tithe by Bro. Doner. A donor's station is entitled to a tithe of 10% on the gross church contributions. This tithe must be paid to the donor's station, not to the home church.

H Frances Davidson (special) $30

H. P. Steigerwald (special), 105 00

H. Frances Davidson (special) $30

Amos L. Musser (special) $50

RECEPTIONS.

and Sister Jacob Sollenberger, of near Airville, Pa.; Frances M. Sollenberger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Sollenberger, of near Caledonia, Mich., and Sr. J. H. George, Goodman, Mo., about 75 lbs. of vegetables, 45 cents; pond dressing, 4 50; for bed­ direed during the four Mission stations in South Africa, $400.

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