

Bread of Life

Vol. IV

November 1955

No. 11



The Master Weaver

By MARTHA WING ROBINSON

(Written in 1898)

I HAVE BEEN thinking today how we may pass by longed-for opportunities. We have some pet ambition, some desire that we see no way of gratifying. Unseen forces are at work; a strong Hand takes the thread of our life and weaves in and out and twines it here and twists it there, until all unknown it has almost reached the desired point.

Then our willful selves take a hand. Some little question of right or wrong comes up. It is such a little thing, and desire is strong. We take the thread from the Hand, and weave with our untrained fingers, for such a *little* way. But the pattern is wrong just in one place, so small a place no one will ever notice. It does not matter; or it does not seem to matter. But the Great Weaver knows we have woven out and around and beyond the longed-for position, and the opportunity is lost.

When our spirits look back on that woven tapestry of life and read the pattern as it was intended, I wonder how many places will be woven wrongly, how many neglected opportunities will show, how well or how ill will appear the finished work.

I often think about this tapestry of life and wonder if the pattern is all laid and planned. Perhaps it is a beautiful, bright-colored pattern, flower-strewn and garlanded; perhaps it has soft greys and tans; perhaps it is dark and sombre. I fancy the warp and woof is all ready, just so much for each design, colors all selected, pattern all planned. Under the Master Weaver we begin our work slowly and painstakingly. Every line and curve of the pattern is known to Him; there can be *no* mistake when He guides the threads.

And the tapestry is begun. Bit by bit, day by day, the work goes on, some portion of the pattern is finished. But mayhap the colors are dull at first. Our nearsighted eyes cannot see nor understand the meaning nor the beauty of the great plan as a whole. We chafe and fret as we watch the work go on. We cry that our lives *must* have some brightness, that we cannot endure the dark and gloomy weaving.

Alas! if our discontent becomes too great and we take away the thread from the Master's guidance. Here where the Lord sought to have us weave a grey, we substitute a rose-color. We think it an improvement, our way is better than His. We weave on gleefully for awhile, then comes the discord. The rose-color, woven in, never to be released, after all does not harmonize with its surroundings. Looking back, we see what we could not see before 'twas done, that the change we have made has spoiled the pattern. Desperately we strive to remedy the mistake. Without reflection, without comprehension, without higher help, we try one color and then another, but as fast as ours is woven in we see some other would have been better. So we weave on, adding mistake to mistake in a miserable effort to rectify the first. How many times, at last, giving up all effort to make a fair piece of work. Despairingly or indifferently we gaze backward at the soiled and ruined tapestry, or look forward to the future with no desire or effort to improve upon the past.

Perhaps, when the work is done, the weaver cries unto His Master, "Why need my life have been so wretched? Look at the ruined tapestry with its hideous combination of colors. Was it for this that You taught me the art? Was it for this You placed me at the loom of Life?" And the Master Weaver answers, "Nay, not so; fair and good was the tapestry I planned for you. See, here is the pattern as it would have been under My guidance. Here is where you made your first mistake and here is where, when I would have shown you how to remedy your blunder, you had your own will because the weaving was too hard for you. Out of your own willful pride came that weaving you despise."

But I fancy there are those who, when they have first learned their own weakness, looking at their mistake cry, "Our Master, we have done ill. We cannot weave without Thy help. We cannot understand Thy plan. We know our work is wrong, all wrong. The tapestry is ruined. Were

(Continued on page 11.)

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The Fruit of the Gospel

By HANS R. WALDVOGEL

"The word of the truth of the gospel . . . bringeth forth fruit . . . since ye heard it and knew the grace of God in truth." — COLOSSIANS 1:5, 6.

SMILING skies and warm weather made our work in Germany more pleasant this year. We thank God for this blessing, but the continuous sunshine of God's love was the greatest

is apparent. Now there is a string of well-established assemblies stretching from northern to southern Germany where people are gathering to meet the Spirit and in truth, and where

out His wonderful glory and power so that night after night sinners wept their way through to salvation and many others the meetings was new to many people in Germany, but some of



Above: Pastor Walter Waldvogel leading the song service in the tent at Stuttgart. Seated to the left is Evangelist Hans R. Waldvogel.



Right: A Portion of the Congregation in the Stuttgart Tent.



blessing of all. This year marked the eighth anniversary of our ministry in Germany. Each summer we have had the renewed joy of seeing the Lord adding to the family of God, and this year was no exception. When we started to work in Germany we had no plans but blindly followed the leading of the Lord, step by step. Today, however, the wonderful pattern which the Lord has worked out Lord Jesus, worshipping Him in

the Lord is adding daily to the number "such as should be saved."

Stuttgart. Kirchheim. Ulm. These cities became hosts to our large gospel tent and witnessed scenes which must have brought joy to the angels of heaven as well as to the children of God on earth who had been praying for revival. Everywhere and in every meeting the Lord poured met God in a new way. The pentecostal glory attending all of

those who at first opposed bitterly have tasted of the blessing and are now our friends and supporters. A fitting climax to the summer's campaigns were the conventions held in *Hamburg* and *Kirchheim*. In both places God came forth in such grace and glory that many people thought they had never witnessed anything just like it.

Meetings such as the Lord gave us in Hamburg and in other cities this summer are events



Ready for the Baptismal Service in Stuttgart

A few of the 135 people who followed the Lord in water baptism at the close of the Stuttgart campaign. Among these candidates were a group of Christian Scientists including two prominent practitioners and lecturers.

never to be forgotten. It is difficult to describe all that has happened during these few months, but just listening to the testimonies of the redeemed makes us bow in grateful adoration to Him for stretching forth His hand of salvation to rescue the lost and to deliver the captive. And seeing these lives brought out of darkness into the light of His presence fills our hearts with thanksgiving.

Were one able to recount these testimonies one by one, what an interesting book could be written. A few will have to suffice:

"These . . . came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes. . . . Therefore are they before the throne of God and serve Him" (REV. 7:14, 15).

A businessman from the city of Ulm who had struck bottom, was at the point of bankruptcy, and at the same time was suffering from rheumatism and dropsy, came to meetings only to accommodate a neighbor who wanted him to bring him there. He had no intention to attend himself, but curiosity got the best of him. As he stepped into the meeting hall, the word being preached found its mark so that deep conviction came upon him and he surrendered his broken life to Jesus, confessing his sins

and receiving cleansing. To his surprise, all the water that had troubled him so long went from him and he found himself free from his other ailments. From that day forth the Lord began to bless his business so that in a short time he was able to pay off all his debts and his business took such an upswing that today he not only is one of the most successful but has time to give to the service of the Lord. This man paved the way for the tent meetings in Ulm where now a blossoming Pentecostal assembly has been born.

A similar case is that of a man who, when his business seemed to fail, came to the meetings and with his wife found Jesus. He has now been selected by the newly-formed *Lufthansa*,

the German airline, as one of their most trusted pilots. He gives God all the glory and attributes his rise to this position of trust entirely to the grace of God.

"Such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified" (1 COR. 6:11).

A young man, so hopelessly addicted to drink that his wife had to undress him at night and put him to bed like a baby, came to the tent, heard the word of truth, the Gospel of His salvation, opened his heart, was fully delivered, and is now one of our dearest and most fervent lovers of Jesus—a living testimony to the power of God.

"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit and set my feet upon a rock" (PSALM 40:2).

One of our Christian women met her—a woman sick with dropsy and so despondent because of a nervous breakdown that she was on her way to end her life. A rope protruding from the basket she was carrying made our sister apprehensive and although this poor lost soul was not communicative, our sister did not give up until she succeeded in bringing her to meeting. Like Magdalene of old, coming to Jesus this woman found deliverance from sin and disease. On the next day all the dropsy went from her and since then she has

(Continued on page 9.)



Junior Services at Ulm Were Conducted by Mrs. Walter Waldvogel (at the extreme left) and Miss Wally Roth (extreme right).

The Joy of Forgiveness

By GOTTFRIED A. WALDVOGEL

WHAT A WONDERFUL grace to know that our sins are forgiven! The reason why some people cannot really rejoice as freely as others is because they do not know, they are not sure, that their sins are forgiven. They have not broken through into a real living faith, into an assurance so that they know their sins are gone. We shall never know the joy of salvation until we know for certain that our sins are forgiven, that they are gone. We are told by the Lord Jesus that this is indeed the gospel message that we are called to preach in His name—the remission of sins, the forgiveness of sins.

Some people seek to find blessing in God, but somehow it seems they do not understand that the entrance into the truth of God's love is this blessing—the forgiveness of our sins. I have seen people that desired to be healed and somehow they didn't get their healing. Then I found out that they had never really asked Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. There are other people that would like to rejoice as we rejoice and would like to be happy, but they do not find what they are after until they repent and receive the forgiveness of their sins. You know, sometimes God in His mercy makes us sad first, in order that He might make us happy. He causes people to weep first, in order that they might be brought into the place where they can laugh and rejoice.

I would like to read you a word from the lips of Jesus: "And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the

law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me. Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; And that repentance unto the remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:44-47).

The Lord Jesus here explains to His disciples the way of the cross, the meaning of His sufferings and His rising again. He showed them how in the Old Testament it was foretold that the Messiah should suffer and die and rise again in order that He might bring to humanity salvation, that He might purchase for sinners this grace of the remission of their sins.

There is power in His blood to make the vilest sinner clean, and in His name, He tells us here, there is to be proclaimed in all the world, repentance unto the remission of sins. That is the way it reads literally—repentance unto the remission of sins.

Men and women are to be called upon to repent, to repent in the name of Him Who died for them and rose again and they are promised that if they repent they will receive in His name the remission of sins. O dear ones, that is the question of our life. If my sins are forgiven, then the judgment which is over me as a sinner is lifted from me. I have already received the punishment which I deserved, in my substitute in my Saviour, and in His name, if I believe, my sins are forgiven. They are not accounted unto me any longer. This fundamental

blessing opens the way for God to come into my life, to cause the Sun of His love to shine upon me. That blessing, that knowledge that my sins are forgiven me, gives me a faith in God so that I can come with confidence to Him and receive from Him all the blessing of His salvation. The forgiveness of my sins opens the door into the fellowship of my God. Beloved, it is so important that I know my sins are forgiven. The condition for receiving the remission of sins is repentance.

What does it mean to repent? The Bible makes that very plain. The word itself means a change of mind, a change of attitude, a change of your mind and attitude toward your sin and toward your Saviour.

He that covereth up his iniquities shall not prosper, but he that confesseth and forsaketh them shall then find mercy. Hallelujah! Most people cover up their sins and iniquities, don't they? The Lord Jesus says men love darkness rather than light. They cover themselves with a nice garment, maybe of religion, of a nice profession. They don't want people to know about their sins, about their wickedness, about their evil thoughts. I think it was Moody who said he visited a prison and every man in that prison was righteous; there was not one guilty. They all justified themselves. Well, that is the natural heart, isn't it? But he that confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall receive mercy.

To repent means that I confess my sins, that I come to the light, that I welcome conviction. The first thing the Holy Ghost makes us to know is that we are unclean before God, that we

need to be cleansed, that we need to be delivered. If we obey that conviction and confess our sin and come to the Saviour, we change our attitude, our mind, toward Him. We come to Him for forgiveness and deliverance for that is what Jesus gives.

That word repentance, however, does not only mean forgiveness. It means forgiveness and deliverance. And so the sinner comes to Jesus Who can also grant the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from its power. But we must turn to *Him*, we must come to *Him*: "Jesus, I come as I am. I confess that I am a miserable, undone sinner. I have nothing to bring. I only depend upon Thy grace, upon the power of Thy blood. Forgive me. Cleanse me. Save me. Deliver me, Jesus." That is the attitude of repentance. We turn away from our sinful ways and we turn to Jesus to submit to Him, to forsake our sins, and to walk in His ways. There is no other way of salvation but following Jesus.

Repentance! Have you repented? I am absolutely certain on the basis of the Word of God that whenever a sinner sincerely and truly repents, He will find mercy's gate wide open. O beloved, have you had that experience? If not, let me ask you to listen to the word of Christ—"Repentance to be proclaimed among all nations. Repentance unto the remission of sins." Jesus says, "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out."

I must add another word. It is of the greatest importance that we hold fast the blessing of the forgiveness of sins. The Apostle John writes to the babes in Christ—"I write unto you babes because your sins are forgiven you." If you read that in the original you get this thought—"because you are in the grace of the forgiveness of sins," much stumbling, true, but al-

ways a coming back, holding fast this good conscience which we have received through the blood of Jesus.

You know, it is possible that after we have come to Christ and received the remission of our sins, after we have been saved and born again, we stumble, we do things we ought not do and our hearts condemn us, but, thank God, it is different now. The Holy Ghost is faithful and will judge our sins and lead us anew to the fountain of cleansing. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse from all unrighteousness."

You remember the Lord Jesus speaks about a general cleansing and the washing of our feet in the 13th chapter of John in connection with the washing of His disciples' feet, and He tells us that it has a spiritual meaning. After we have been cleansed, forgiven, received the remission of sins, we still come to Him and let Him wash our feet. That is the invitation that God gives. We come, we confess, and He forgives us again and again, and He cleanses us again. I am so thankful for the Psalms of repentance which we find in the Bible. Why did God tell us the story of David's grievous sin? He not only told us that story, but He tells us also the story of David's repentance and restoration and shows the way to God's children if they fail.

Let me say it again—repentance is not only an experience at the beginning of our Christian life and conversion, but it speaks of an attitude which we must keep in, which we must persist in continually. It is of the greatest importance that we keep in the attitude of repentance, turning away from sin and welcoming the light of conviction, and then that we turn to Jesus and receive through

His blood forgiveness, cleansing anew. I know He wants to establish us in the way and He will as we learn to abide in Him and walk with Him, and as we learn to take certain steps with our feet, we are established. "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one" (I John 2:14).

There is another possibility, however, and the Bible speaks of the fact that some people might grow careless and lose that attitude of repentance and be led back into the mires and bondages of sin. We are told that this is worse than if they had never known the way of truth. What a sad, sad possibility!

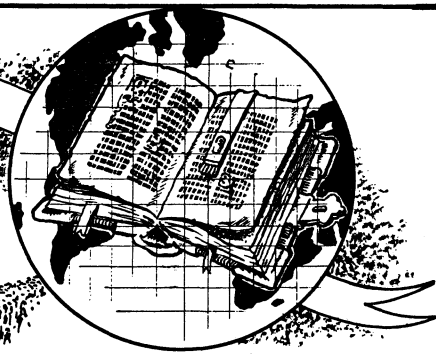
But what a blessing to know my sins are forgiven, to have a good conscience toward God and man, to be able to rejoice in this wonderful Saviour Who is the Lord our righteousness! In Him the Father receives us into His divine love. I have the remission of sins in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have access to the Father through the Holy Ghost and Heaven is open and I am in the attitude, in the condition, to receive all that He has purchased for me, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be healed from my bodily sicknesses, for He forgives all my iniquities and He heals all my diseases. Let's hold fast this wonderful blessing, the assurance through faith in His name that our sins are forgiven. The Holy Ghost brings that assurance to the heart that truly repents.

NEXT MONTH: An article by *Madame Guyon*, never before published in English, "*The Star of Faith*," a meditation on the star that guided the wise men, translated by *Roy M. Gray*.

GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD...

Seed-Time and Harvest

on the Mission Fields



Gospel Victories in -- Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil

By Laurence Olson

OUR Short-Term Bible School, held here in August, had 75 students enrolled, and God's blessing was greatly felt in all the classes and general activities. On Sundays we loaded the station wagon with students to preach in the outstations. Especially at Boa Esperanca this resulted in revival fires which are still continuing. We have seen quite a number of souls saved.

On this trip to Boa Esperanca I met a man I had witnessed to about thirteen years ago and had given him a New Testament, telling him to read it and to pray that God would come into his heart and save him. He took it seriously and on his way home, along the road, he knelt down and prayed to God. He has been a believer ever since, listens to our Gospel programs over the air, and his home is open to meetings. It made us realize anew the importance of sowing the good seed of the Word among the people, for surely it will not return void.

At Camp Belo the local radio station is offering free time to the pastor of the assembly there. Many are listening to our programs who would never dare to enter our churches for fear of the Roman Catholic priests.

The radio program from Rio

de Janeiro continues to reach thousands of listeners each Sunday night with the full Gospel message. Many write in to tell in glowing terms of the blessing this program is to them and their churches. Souls have been saved and others healed of physical infirmities.

Besides these activities we have been busy writing the Adult Sunday School Quarterly as well as teaching in the annual Short-Term Bible School in Rio de Janeiro. We also spent a week in Governador Valadares where we ministered the Word daily to over 100 workers from that area and preached in the evenings to crowds up to 1500. One evening 75 new converts were baptized in water, and even the mayor of the city, who is a physician, was on hand to join in the service. These past months have been, perhaps, the busiest we have ever spent in this land.

New Church Opened in Caracas, Venezuela

"God has blessed us singularly in the new work we opened a year ago upon our return," write Mr. and Mrs. Yngve Olson, who are laboring for the Lord in Caracas, Venezuela. "As there is almost no Protestantism here in Caracas (12 churches, mostly small ones, in all) compared with the one million population, we are pioneering in difficult soil and converts are hand-picked

from raw Catholicism. This new church is in an area entirely untouched as far as Protestantism is concerned. In September we moved into a larger hall, and the first service was held with all seats full. That means close to 100. (The place will seat 200.) Souls are coming to the altar each week. We will truly appreciate your prayers."

Prayer Answered --- Mis- sionaries Freed in Hong Kong

Reports have appeared in the newspapers of the release of some of the missionaries from Red China. Now we have received a personal word from Miss Louise Schultz of Hong Kong concerning these. Miss Schultz has personally known some of these missionaries, having studied with them in language school in years gone by. "We have been greatly rejoicing for answered prayer," she writes. "Some of our fellow missionaries have been released by the Communists from prison and have been in our midst with precious testimonies how the Lord has kept them by His mighty power while in prison.

"One of the missionaries, a Presbyterian, said, 'I thank the Lord for being imprisoned. I know the Lord now. The Lord Jesus talked with me and I with Him.'

"Please pray for the rest of the missionaries yet imprisoned

SUCCESSFUL SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK

Sunday school work, to be successful, is not an organization but a great heart of love for Jesus manifesting itself in every part or phase of the work. Our children must feel the throb of His love in our songs, catch the truth of His Word, and be made to worship with hearts that have been redeemed by the blood. It is our privilege to introduce to our boys and girls Jesus Christ.

—HELEN I. WANNENMACHER.

and for a very spiritual Chinese minister of the Gospel who is also imprisoned along with many others for the Gospel's sake. Please pray for my former Bible woman and her daughter in Canton."

Pilgrims' Progress in Orange Free State

MISS HELEN HOSS writes from Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, South Africa, in particular about the Thursday night meetings she has been conducting:

"I have been showing the *Pilgrim's Progress* slides all through the cold July month. Only people who truly were hungry came out. Two weeks ago I felt led not to show the film but to talk to them about Jesus and giving their lives to God. After the message it was so wonderful how they responded and forty came forward. They were most sincere. This always is so encouraging when they mean business with God. Pray for these souls that they may truly enter into the Kingdom and let Jesus reign.

"Now here is some sad news. My permit was not granted and so I'm not allowed in the native reserve of Thaba'Nchu. Anyway, I'm glad we got started and God is going to finish that work. The Lord truly started that work and He will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ. It was wonderful how the Lord saved Brother

Mostard and now his father is also helping us in the work. They will be able to go to Thaba'Nchu for me as they are South African subjects. It may take another year before I get the permit. At present there is a bill to be passed in Parliament and if that comes through, the missionary will again be able to enter the reserve. Please pray earnestly that this bill will be passed and that the door will again be wide open for the Gospel. Pray that the Word of God may run and have free course in the hearts of many. We are thus far glad though that we can enter any native locations which are like little towns on the outskirts of the European towns and cities. Summer is coming and the field is white unto harvest."

Excessive Rains Bring Disaster to India

MR. AND MRS. G. ERICSON write from Partabgarh, U. P., India: "The work has rather slowed down, partly because it is hard to get our people together during the heat, and also we had to shift the prayer hall all of a sudden. We did get a new location, at least temporarily, but we must pray and seek God's will for a permanent hall, our own, in some way. We have lost much time and people, not having a proper hall. We are not talking of a church—that would not be so good—but

our own hall for prayer. There we could also get the educated and keenly interested people as well as our Christians to gather together to worship the Lord."

A second letter, written July 29, tells of the hot season followed by tropical rains such as they have never seen before. It rained for one hundred and ten hours in Partabgarh so that the "river," which one can hardly see usually, rose and overflowed until it came to only a little distance from the home of the Ericsons. "Almost all the mud houses, which are what ordinary people have, were damaged. So many just melted away. This means sorrow and increased poverty for hundreds. And the people cannot build new houses again before the next hot season—after the new year.

"The meetings have been small due to the rains and so many sick of fever. Malaria takes a toll of one million a year in India. We are well, thanks to God's grace only."

Subsequent reports from the Ericsons and other missionaries have told how these rains have continued way beyond the usual rainy season with the result that "hundreds of villages are under water" (as of the end of August). Crops have been ruined so that "prices of grain have gone up which makes it hard for the poor people," and "snakes abound." These phenomenal rains and the resulting disasters have attracted world-wide attention and sympathy. The United States has sent much relief to the stricken areas.

From the last report from the Ericsons we learn that they are rejoicing in help which they have had from a very fine couple for the last three months. These Indian Christians were the principals of the local schools in Partabgarh, but last year they stepped out into full-time Gospel work and have been blessedly used in that needy field.

The Fruit of the Gospel

(Continued from page 4.)

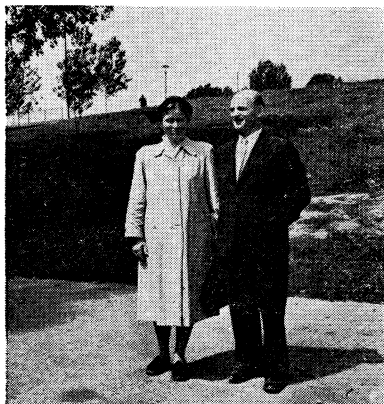
been a constant attendee at the services and is full of the joy of the Lord.

"Who forgiveth all . . . Who healeth all" (PSALM 103:3).

An elderly woman testified: "I came here today because I expect to be healed. My sister, dying with a cancer, came to this tent, was completely healed, and is happily doing her work again. Praise God, I am sure He will heal me too."

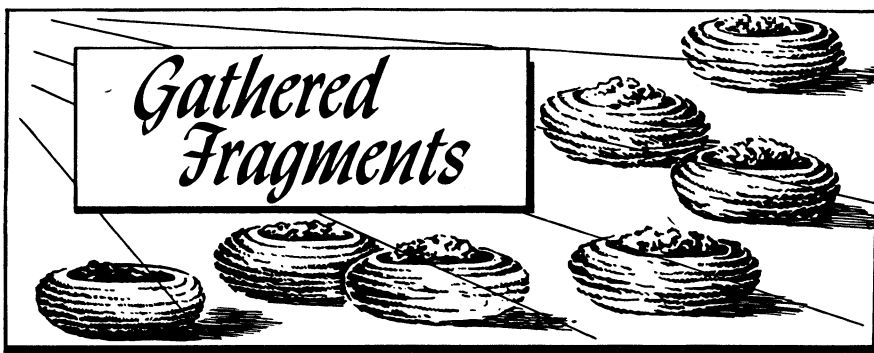
A language teacher in Kirchheim tells how bitter he was toward the Americans because they destroyed all his property but now through the preaching of the Gospel by other Americans he has received a treasure that is unspeakable which "no one can take from me." When he was baptized this summer, he wrote his mother of his newfound joy. She answered saying that for forty-seven years she had been praying for his conversion and now rejoiced with him in this answered prayer.

So the testimonies could be multiplied, but we trust our readers will be inspired to take this work upon their hearts and join us in prayer and supplication that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into His harvest field.



**Pastor and Mrs. Oskar Lardon
of Hamburg**

"Meetings such as the Lord gave us in Hamburg . . . this summer are events never to be forgotten."



"Being thus arrived in a good harbor, and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth."

So reads the eyewitness account of the landing of that small band of about one hundred Pilgrims on Cape Cod, November 21, 1620, as related by one of its chief members, William Bradford. It is this grand venture of faith, small as it was, which we as a nation gratefully celebrate each Thanksgiving Day, joining Bradford who wrote more truly than he could possibly conceive of at the time:

"Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are; and, as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation; let the glorious name of Jehovah have all the praise."

* * *

"Do you know why I believe I have been elected President of the United States?" Eisenhower asked Billy Graham just five days before his inauguration. "One reason is this," the then President-elect continued, answering his own question, "to help lead America in a religious revival we must have." So Billy Graham related before a large luncheon and radio audience in Toronto, Canada, on October 6

during his recent campaign in that city.

* * *

November is the birth month of many famous religious leaders: *Martin Luther* (the 10th, 1486), the leader of the Reformation in Germany; *William Cowper* (the 26th, 1731), the translator of *Madame Guyon's* poems into English and the author of some of our best-loved hymns, *"There is a Fountain Filled with Blood," "O For a Closer Walk with God,"* etc.; *John Bunyan* (1628), author of *Pilgrim's Progress*.

* * *

Not the least of those born in November was *Gerhard Tersteegen*, a simple German silk weaver who became one of the greatest teachers, preachers, and authors of things spiritual. He is best known to English readers by some of his hymns which were translated by one of his great contemporaries, *John Wesley*, who valued his writings very highly. Some of his most beautiful thoughts are found in his *Little Garden of Flowers*, a book of short devotional poems. We quote one of these:

God Calling Yet!

*God calling yet! shall I not hear?
Earth's pleasure shall I still hold
dear?*

*Shall life's swift passing years all fly,
And still my soul in slumber lie?*

*God calling yet! shall I not rise?
Can I His loving voice despise,
And basely His kind care repay?
He calls me still; can I delay?*

How to Study the Bible

*A Letter to the Son of Her Dearest Friend**

My dear Frank,

How delighted I was to receive your letter, asking how to study the Bible. Of course, it may seem a simple question, but you would be surprised to learn that it is very exceptional that a young person like yourself has a real desire to *study* the Bible.

Most young Christians are slothful concerning the wonderful Bible; they neglect it. Therefore it is heartening indeed to receive your letter showing that you truly mean business about the Word of God.

Many things could be written on this subject, but you should certainly consider that the study should be systematic, earnest, and persevering. (Oh, that we might *love* the Word of God.)

Most Christians do not realize what a wonderful book the Bible is. Had you thought of the fact that it is really God Himself, Our Creator and Redeemer, speaking to us—telling us what to do and how to live?

God created us that we might have the express and unspeakably great privilege of getting acquainted with Him, glorifying Him, and enjoying Him forever. But we should be entirely ignorant of this and the knowledge of how to proceed if we did not have the Bible or the teaching of some person who knew about the Bible.

It has not been just easy, giving us the Bible as we have it today, and some men have sacrificed greatly that we might have the Sacred Scriptures. God has used His chosen instruments, so that today every one who really wishes to have a Bible may have one. I said to your dear mother one day that if we had to pay \$100 or \$200 for the Bible, perhaps we would appreciate it more and be saving every dollar possible so that we might purchase the Holy Scriptures. How kind our Heavenly Father has been to make His Word so obtainable.

Dear Frank, considering all these things, you have certainly done well to decide to *study* the Bible. Anyone who does that conscientiously and perseveringly, he will get to know the Eternal, and all the enjoyment of heaven and earth will be his forever.

But you want to know how to do it. The question is sometimes asked, "Should a person study

the Bible like he studies other books"? The answer is Yes and No. You should have both *intellectual and spiritual study*, THE SPIRITUAL, of course, being vastly more important.

Decide *where* you wish to have your study, and always have it in that place alone with the Author of your text-book. Let it be understood that Ethel and Jack are not to disturb you during that time. (The general consensus of opinion seems to be that early in the morning is the most desirable time.) Anyway, if it is at all possible, have it at the same time and in the same place every day.

How much time? I think you will have to decide this by your own conscience and consecration. You know how much time you spend at work; how much time your other studies and social duties require. I am sure you will be fair and just in your decision.

I believe that you have had enough academic training so that you need little instruction from me about the intellectual study of the Bible. Perhaps, though, some suggestions of a general nature might be acceptable to you.

A good beginning is *topical study*, especially in the New Testament and Psalms. Start with such topics as Holy Spirit, Love, Faith, Healing, etc.

Next in line, it would be good to study by books, patiently working at this till you can give the particulars and contents of each book. This is a most useful study.

Following this have a biographical study. This should enable you to give the main points in the lives of all the outstanding characters in the Sacred Word.

These studies, pursued as carefully as their importance warrants, will take you a very long time, comparatively speaking. May God greatly bless and help you in this study.

Perhaps you feel like asking if you should have other books to aid you in the study of the Bible. Not necessarily; but a studious person like yourself will not find it amiss to have at hand a Bible Concordance, Bible Dictionary, Bible Geography, and different versions for reference.

Now, we come to my last word of advice. It is the last, but the most important—the spiritual study of the Bible.

With the open Bible before you, compose yourself to let God speak into your heart. Refuse to think earthly thoughts; be open of soul to receive what God has to say. You and He are alone to-

*A first letter to "Frank" from "Aunt Margie" on "How to Grow in God" appeared in BREAD OF LIFE, August, 1954. Editor.

gether. Oh, it is wonderful to hear from God Himself!

As soon as you get the grasp of a thought or sentiment, pause in the reading, meditate and speak to God in your heart, continuing as long as the Spirit leads. Resume the reading, repeating the operation of meditation until your time is up. These blessed thoughts will be with you all through the day. Eventually this will bring you into a contemplative life. You will be among those who really know and love Jesus.

Likely this study should be in the New Testament and Psalms. Never try to finish a chapter, even a verse. Just consider the leadings of the Holy Spirit. No doubt you will be led to specially consider the commands and promises. Memorize too as led.

Report your progress to me, and give my love to your mother, my dearest friend.

Very faithfully yours,
Aunt Margie.

Consolation

There is never a day so dreary
But God can make it bright,
And unto the soul that trusts Him,
He giveth songs in the night.
There is never a path so hidden,
But God can lead the way,
If we seek for the Spirit's guidance
And patiently wait and pray.

There is never a cross so heavy
But the nail-scarred hands are there
Outstretched in tender compassion
The burden to help us bear.
There is never a heart so broken,
But the loving Lord can heal
The heart that was pierced on Calvary
Doth still for his loved ones feel.

There is never a life so darkened,
So hopeless and unblessed,
But may be filled with the light of God
And enter His promised rest.
There is never a sin or sorrow,
There is never a care or loss,
But that we may bring to Jesus
And leave at the foot of the cross.

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The Master Weaver

(Continued from page 2.)

it not better to drop the threads, and destroy what is done?"

But the Master, looking down at the pitiful results of human weakness, smiles. "Nay, my child, you have made mistakes, but your work is not ruined. Know you not that even out of evil, good may come if given into My Hands? And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. Are not all things possible to Thy God? Can I not make even sin turn to My glory? 'Tis true, the wrong is done, but my skill can weave the threads remaining until, although the pattern is changed, it need not be less beautiful."

Then, under *His* guidance the human weaver begins again, toilingly taught care and patience by his earlier carelessness. It may be the skill required to adjust the pattern now is greater, and the task is more severe to bear, but the weaver has a heart to obey.

And the tapestry grows strong, and fair and beautiful, and we, looking on, cannot see the one spot where the weaver erred. It is forgiven and forgotten by the great Master, but the weaver knows, and knows too, that from that early error good has come, because, at once the faulty threads were put in the Master's Hands, for He alone could use them aright.

The Praise Life

Glorifies God

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me."—Psalm 50:23.

Here, then, is a sure way of glorifying God. Why do we not engage in it more frequently? We are too slow in rendering praise to our God; He has done so much for us. As we approach again our annual season of Thanksgiving Day, let us renew our spirit of praise and then keep it going the whole year round.

Brings Blessed Results

David says again, *"His praise shall continually be in my mouth,"* Psalm 34, verse 1. The praise life helps to a *fuller testimony*: "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord," verse 2. It also *exalts God*, verse 3, and *brings answers to prayers*, verse 4, ("He heard me."). But, best of all, it *makes the life "radiant"* (literal translation of verse 5). Then the life of praise secures for us *protection and deliverance*, verse 7.

A Vow to Be Performed

In Psalm 65:1 we are reminded that we are deficient in praise to God:—"Praise waiteth," as the great organ waited for the master player, so "praise is silent" (margin), and we have not performed one of our most important vows to God. But, the Psalmist adds, *"unto thee shall the vow be performed."* Yes, and this is in accord with the exhortation of Psalm 50:14 where "offering thanksgiving" is said to be "paying our vows unto the Most High."

Must Be Practiced

The praise life leads us into a stronger faith life and sinks us into a deeper trust in God. Let us yield our whole soul in praising our God. The practice daily in our lives spoils us for all criticism of others. *The praise life will wear out the self-life.* If we praise Jesus in all conditions and circumstances, we shall truly "grow in grace and wisdom," and love will show itself to those whom we have not loved, or thought we could not love.

Produces Physical Health

The persistent praise life will bring us *health in the body.* By praising Him all our diseases may be healed. As we say, "Praise the Lord," we are made "strong in the Lord," for "the joy of the Lord is our strength," and as we grow in the "divine nature," we feel strength and "life more abundantly." This practice and experience gives us the abiding life: "If ye abide in me, and I in you, ye may ask what ye will, and it shall be done."

Anoints Our Spiritual Eyes

The praise life anoints our spiritual eyes. We are made to see "the land of far distances." We get up on our "Pisgahs," and "Carmels," and "Mount Tabors," and things are transfigured.

Do not forget that when you are praising God you are pleasing God—"praise is comely (good looking) for the upright." When you retire at night, praise Him till you fall asleep, trusting the blood of Christ to protect you. When you awake in the morning, praise Him, for "when I awake I am still with (or praising) Thee." Let your whole life be a life of praise. Oh, how happy, how restful, how contented, how peaceful, how victorious is this life of praise.

Praise ye the Lord!

Let All the People Praise Thee!

—Arranged by D. WESLEY MYLAND.