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The Bible Vision

Fort Wayne Bible College

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Bible Vision

December, 1950

Christmas Chimes

*The Holy Night is strangely bright
And full of mystery divine;
A light of radiant brilliance beams
Above a manger shrine.*

*Refrain: Ring, O you Christmas bells
Glad news your music tells,
O'er the silent, starlit earth
Proclaim the Saviour's birth!*

*A heavenly host exultant sings
Of glory unto God for aye,
The echo of the wondrous song
Will never die away!*

*Refrain: Sing, O you angels fair,
Sweet strains of beauty rare,
O'er the silent, starlit earth
Proclaim the Saviour's birth!*

—Frieda Martini Buchen

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From the President

Once again the good old Book is proving to be the enduring anvil that keeps wearing out the hammers of skepticism and rationalism. How many finely spun theories of the skeptics and liberals have been smashed on that anvil! "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Once destructive critics boldly asserted that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch because writing was not known then,—an absurdity in the light of modern archeology. Once it was said that the Gospel of John was written about 200 A. D., but that was before a fragment was found at Alexandria written about 130-135 A. D.,—only a generation removed from the original manuscript.

Now just before Christmas comes a further confirmation of the Christian faith that holds that the Messiah's birth, life, and death were foretold long before He was born. The following is part of a United Press dispatch dated Nov. 20 from Chicago reporting the visit of the Syrian Archbishop of Jerusalem who had with him some of the famous, newly-discovered Dead Sea Scrolls, including the text of Isaiah.

"The archbishop, who brought several of the scrolls to the United States, said as the result of the study of the Isaiah scroll it is regarded as

indisputable fact that Christ's coming was foretold long before the event took place.

"The scroll, which contains the entire Book of Isaiah and verses foretelling the Messiah, predates Christ's birth by several centuries and contradicts theories that the book and the prophecies were written after the coming and merely made to conform with what was an already accomplished fact."

Of course, Bible believers have always accepted as fact that the passages in the Old Testament referring to Christ were literal *prophecies*. That is, by supernatural inspiration, prophets were moved to foretell future events. The events took place *after* the prophecies that anticipated them. Our faith, therefore, is not being revised, nor is it necessarily strengthened, for many have had no doubts about the validity of the prophecies that foretold the Messiah's birth.

But it is reassuring to know that God's Word continues to disprove the theories of men and the philosophy of naturalism on which they were based. It has been a favorite technique of skeptics to explain away the miraculous element in prophecy by shifting the date of the prophecy or the event in such a way

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Fear Not!

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32.

At Christmas, two words are clearly etched on every Christian's mind: the angelic message, "Fear not!" Another precious "Fear not!", addressed to Christ's sheep, is also full of Christmas import. The first command was uttered when God had given the world His Son; the second, when Christ promised that the Father would give His kingdom to the faithful little flock of believers.

When the black hosts of evil prosper and the world seems to fly from its hinges, here are two reasons for a courageous attitude: God kept His promise in giving His Son; He will keep His promise in giving His Kingdom.

God had commanded His disciples to go forth like sheep into a pack of howling wolves. He never sent them where trekking was easy, but promised to go with them step by step and enter into every phase of their life. His love, He said, would ever hover over them. While facing their enemies, they were to see the "invisible chariots" all around, to get anxiety out of their minds, and cast it all on Him.

FEAR NOT! He is greater than all the wolves of the universe!

When the world's horror and uncertainty would seem to blot out Christmas joy, let us look at the stars, like Johnnie, who said wonderingly one January day;

"Look, Momsie! Up in heaven there's Christmas! See the shiny

candles!"

God's Christmas candles shine all the year around.

When, as a nation, we face appalling difficulties, we should let this holy season strengthen our hold on spiritual realities. In spite of international discord, in heaven's atmosphere there is always Christmas. After all, the tangible world won't last forever; only the invisible is to abide.

In recalling childhood days, we remember how our parents' delight in giving us gifts was almost greater than our joy in getting them. So it is our heavenly Father's greatest delight, His "good pleasure," to give us the kingdom.

Some one has compared Christmas with the picture of a little child, placing a brightly burning candle at a window on a stormy night. The night symbolizes the world, the child, Christ, and the lighted candle, the glad news of salvation which His coming brings. How true this is!

O Thou, Whose birthday now we celebrate, Who dost reveal the Father's heart of love, we dedicate ourselves anew to be Thy manger. To cherish Thee in our hearts is a more precious treasure than all the world's vast wealth. As carols echo over land and sea, give us the joy of Thy presence in our lives. We will not fear, but offer Thee the humble gifts of trust and adoration. Amen.

—Frieda Martini Buchen

The Enemy Is Flooding Your Land,

O IMMANUEL!

The name Immanuel, "God-with-us," was announced at one of the most inappropriate moments of history. The ruling king of Judah was the worst yet of all the kings of David who had come to the throne, idolatrous, stubborn, not even a politician. Cheap old Ahaz had led Judah to "cast away all restraint," and he had "transgressed greatly against the Lord;" yet he insisted on worshipping the gods of Damascus, at whose hands he had suffered stinging defeat. His patronage of degraded foreign religions and his corruption of Judah had so incensed the God of heaven that punishment was stalking down from the north-east to overwhelm his land. The Assyrians, advancing irresistibly from the country of the mighty Euphrates, were engulfing nations, like that famous river when it floods far over its banks. Judah's turn was next. What a crazy prospect for a "Merry Christmas!"

And yet this was the precise moment when the message of the virgin-born Babe was first announced. One morning, when the king was out for a walk, the court prophet, the fearless Isaiah, went to meet him. Ahaz was trying to calm his nerves: the combined armies of his two neighbors were battering at the gates of his city, and his heart was swaying like a tree in the wind. "Calm down, your majesty!" said the firm, quiet man of God. "Quite a smoke those two torches are raising out there," he continued. "But

don't be afraid! God will soon extinguish both of them."

Then Isaiah, deeply concerned for the foolish king and heartbroken over the sins of Judah, began to plead with the wayward monarch, "O Ahaz! If you would only believe! You and your people need a foundation; and there is no foundation but faith!" Ahaz stood unmoved. Perhaps a demonstration might help him to believe—and Isaiah's heart yearned as he looked intently into the king's eyes, and on into his soul. "Let the Lord prove to you his interest and his might," urged the prophet, "ask Him for a sign!" "I won't ask for one," replied the stubborn king, "and I am not going to tempt the Lord!"

To this rebuff of his gracious offer the long-suffering God of Israel quickly replied. "You weakling descendants of David! You make men tired of you by your oppressive misrule: do you think that you can make me tired of you by your indifference to my grace? I am going to give your land a great gift, in spite of you. I am going to send my omnipotence into the human realm, without the aid of human ancestry. I am going to send my Son to dwell in the midst of humanity, and His name will be, "Immanuel," "God-with-us."

So from that moment on, Judea was Immanuel's Land. The Assyrians swooped down and devastated it, but it was still Immanuel's Land.

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Out of the DEPTHS

Psalm 130:1

What a glorious day it was when Jesus came, took away my burdens, and gave me the peace of soul I had been craving! Let me tell you about it.

At fifteen I was baptized and joined the United Brethren Church of Mechanicsburg, Pa., but had no soul satisfaction I had seen others baptized and received into the church, and had wondered why baptism had not changed their lives. Instead of showing signs of regeneration, they had drifted away and appeared more ungodly than ever. Gradually I lost my desire even to attend services. I never realized one could have definite assurance of salvation, but thought of God's Word only as a source of comfort in sorrow.

While working as telephone operator in Harrisburg, I formed a precious new friendship with Janet Klotzbach. She spoke of a strange experience in her life; God had called her to the mission field. This brought on a crisis in my life. All my life I had sought to know the future, had consulted fortune tellers, and even thought of becoming a ballet dancer! Now I knew what my goal in life would be!

After this friend had spoken, a peace never known before flooded my soul. She advised me to read John's Gospel, and so every night after work I would read some precious chapter. Conviction became heavier and heavier. Finally one evening I locked my door and fell upon my knees. I cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do to be saved? Show me, Jesus!" I opened and

closed my Bible and cried out again and again. After about three hours, God in His great mercy found me and lifted me out of my depths of despair. I experienced the truth of the verse, "If ye shall seek me with all your heart, ye shall find me." I praise the Lord for His never failing power to deliver me through His redeeming grace. It was the "old, old story ever new!" A soul was born into the kingdom of God. The Lord took away all worldly desire and made me a new creature in Christ.

The following September I had the privilege of coming here to Bible School. Knowing so little of the Bible, I had quite a struggle with discouragement, but God reminded me that He uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. I am buoyed up by His promise. He has all the wisdom I require; I am only an instrument in His hands.

Nancy Shell

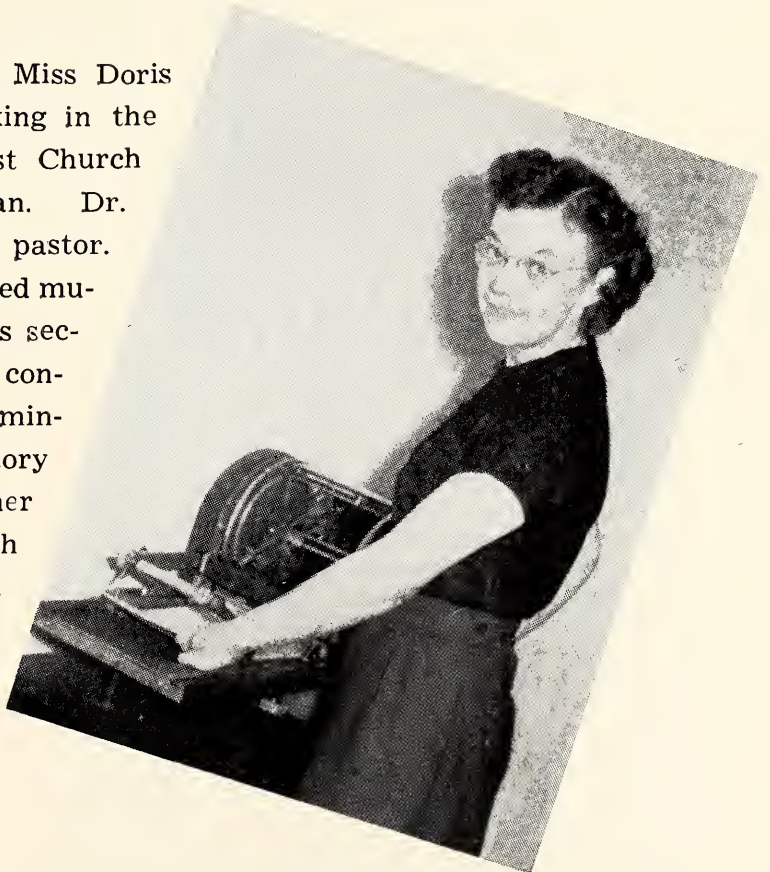


featuring our alumni . . .

A CHURCH SECRETARY WORKS

Miss Doris L. Seger, Class of '42
Uses Talents and Skills in Church
Work at Jackson, Michigan.

For several years Miss Doris Seger has been working in the Ganson Street Baptist Church of Jackson, Michigan. Dr. Howard Sugden is the pastor. Miss Seger's consecrated musical talents as well as secretarial skills are in continuous use in this ministry. This picture story shows something of her busy life as a church secretary and worker.

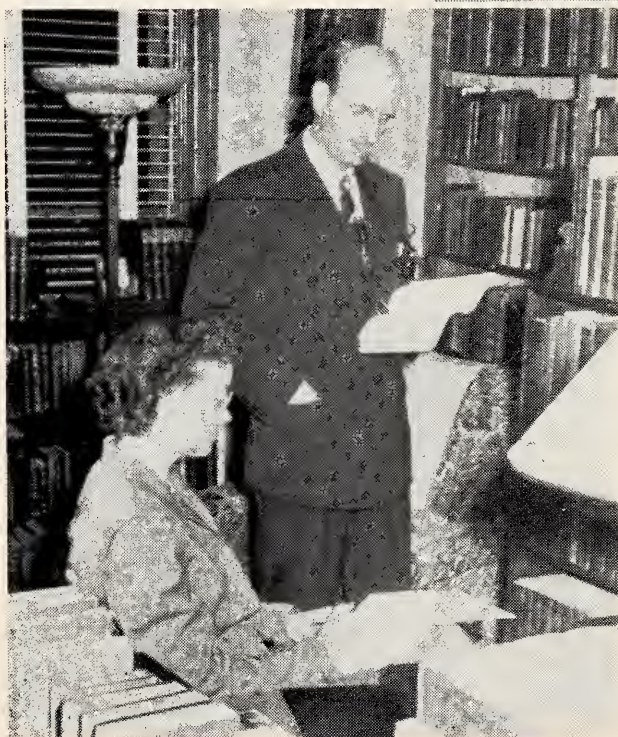




Playing for Sunday
Evening Service



Above: Leaving church to pick up load
of 10 to 15 S. S. children in "Little
Joe," church car.



Taking dictation
from Dr. Sugden
in his study.

Singing in trio
for church service.



Directing the girls' chorus



Conducting the Primary Department (Enrollment 200)



Making
a Call



School Days for the Eskimos

By Kathryn Ledyard

Many opportunities were ours as we daily conducted school for the Eskimo children this summer. Even though the personnel varied constantly with native families coming and going from the settlement, we believe much was accomplished.

All the white people and visitors in this area say, "The only thing these people need is to learn English." To this we quickly reply, "If we thought the English language was the solution to their problems, we would quickly resign from our mission, apply for a government job of teaching school among the Eskimos. However, we firmly believe more than ever that only the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ will put them on the right track."

Yes, the Gospel has been given out to these children daily in word and song. Many times their eyes have fairly glistened as the lessons were given—you could see that light was shining into their hearts. During the closing days of school much stress was put upon salvation, upon being definitely saved. Almost without exception, when dealing individually with the children, they said they were saved, that Jesus had come into their hearts. We do praise the Lord for these precious children, and trust the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts and lives throughout the winter. God has honored your prayers and will continue to honor them for these dear souls! May He burden you and bless you as you faithfully remember them before the Throne of Grace.

When they came to say good-bye to us before going inland, we could have cried, and I believe they felt it too.

The summer's project was Bible Memorization. Used clothing had been sent to us, and instead of merely handing out these things, we encouraged them to learn a chapter in the Bible; then we gave them serviceable, good used clothing. Many of the children learned all of Romans 12 and some also learned John 3:1-21. Some are now working inland on their third portion, II Timothy 2. The adults were also given this privilege and 18 different chapters have been learned by adults, for which we praise God. We realize this is only a start, but we are glad for it. It has caused a wholesome interest.

Yes, English has been taught as well as arithmetic and other subjects. It has been a joy to have a little part in this. As I say, to teach these secular classes, I do not lessen up on the Bible teaching, nor have the secular classes been subtracted from the Bible study. However, in such a short period and with the families coming and going, it is difficult to advance in these classes as you would like.

We had thirty-seven school days extending from May 31st to August 9th. The average daily attendance was 11.6. Twenty-four children were in regular attendance when at the settlement.

The government has been very helpful, although much of the school
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Bible College

News

Monthly Day of Prayer

The November Day of Prayer was observed on Tuesday, November 21, with Dr. Witmer in charge. Special speaker, Rev. C. J. Gerig, brought a challenging and heart-searching message on "Self-Testing." From II Cor. 13:5 Rev. Gerig showed how one should willingly, carefully, and honestly examine himself in order to realize God's blessing. Many students met God at the altar, confessions were made, and a spirit of repentance and humility led to many definite victories.

First Student Recital

A delightful student recital was given on Monday evening, November 20th, in the College chapel. Twelve music students presented instrumental and vocal numbers.

Special Broadcasts

Your "Sunrise Chapel" presented a special Thanksgiving Day program on November 23rd. The Chapel Singers featured the appropriate "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," and a special arrangement of "Prayer of Thanksgiving" accompanied by soloist, Dorothy Read, and violinist, Eleanor Neuenschwander.

Special Christmas and New Year's programs are promised as coming events.

Chapel Missionary Speakers

On November 1, Charles Glenn,

MCA missionary to Ecuador, South America, presented Ecuador's needs along with some practical missionary qualifications.

On November 14 Nathan Ost, missionary to the Belgian Congo, gave a vivid and challenging picture of the Christian Missionary Alliance work in Africa.

Alfred Thompson, veteran missionary to Nigeria under the Sudan Union Mission, presented an informative and timely message on November 15.

Mission Band Speakers

Miss Nellie Thum, graduate of the "Institute" and missionary to Honduras, Central America, spoke on November 3rd. She described her call and pictured some teaching methods used in Honduras. Sacred concert artist, Robert Van Steenburg, presented several musical selections.

Rev. David Siemens, Foreign Secretary of the MCA, addressed the students with a challenging message on November 10th and showed slides of a recent trip to Jamaica.

Rev. Kenneth Rupp, missionary to Sierra Leone, presented a vital challenge on November 17. The service was held in connection with the Missionary Conference at the First Missionary Church.

Rev. Daniel Dick, graduate of our school and now serving on the mission field in the Dominican Republic, spoke in Chapel on November 30 and at the December 1 Mission Band service. Rev. Dick related how God called him and his wife, and then used them to reap the harvest. Both messages were heart-searching, simple, and practical.

Fellowship Circle

IN HIS SERVICE

Rev. ('43) and Mrs. (nee *Mildred Stafford* '43) *Leonard Smith* have moved to Grass Lake, Michigan. He is the pastor of two Evangelical United Brethren Churches in and near Waterloo.

Rev. ('42) and Mrs. (nee *Viola Egle* '41-'42) *Don Miller* are now living in Leola, Pennsylvania, where he is pastor of a Methodist Church.

Jean Greenman ('45) is serving the Lord under the Youth Home Missions. At present she is located in North Dakota. She writes that she and her helper are having a wonderful time in the Lord holding "Happy Hours" after school each day for the children and evangelistic services in the evening.

Mr. ('43) and Mrs. (nee *Lucille Fisher* '43) *Winfred Amstutz* are now in Loomis, Michigan. He is ministering to the congregation of the Missionary Church.

Rev. *Forrest Kuhn* ('30) has given up his pastorate in Flint, Michigan. He is engaged in evangelistic work with his headquarters at Buckley, Michigan.

Ralph Neuenschwander ('27-'30) has just begun his new duties as chorister and choir director of the First Missionary Church in Ft. Wayne.

Fred Rabel ('40-'42) is director

of Youth for Christ in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Betty Hirschy ('49) has accepted the position of church visitor and children's worker at the Mennonite Church at Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania.

WEDDINGS

On August 1 at the Eden Missionary Church in Nebraska, *Iola Roussele* ('46-'47) became the bride of Mr. Donald Egle.

Mary Evelyn Slabaugh ('46) and Dale Watkins exchanged their marriage vows on September 15 at the First Missionary Church of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mina Roth ('44) and Robert Maxwell of West Allis, Wisconsin, were married on October 27 by Dev. Lawrence Farr who is an instructor at the Bible College.

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. (nee *Joyce Shively* '47-'48) Paul Munk are the proud parents of a baby girl which they have named Jo Ellen, born October 22.

On October 6, Mr. ('48 & '49) and Mrs. *Curtis Bedsworth* welcomed into their home Phillip S. born Oct. 6. Curtis is enjoying his work as pastor of the First Mennonite Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. ('46) and Mrs. (nee *Lillie Farah* '44-'46) *William Bodine* announce the arrival of their second son, Robert Edward, born November 2.

WITH THE LORD

At the age of 79 years and 1 month, Rev. *Sol Klopfenstein* ('05)

left this world to be present with the Lord. He was born September 16, 1871. He was a retired minister in the Missionary Church Association and had made his home in Grabill, Indiana. Our sympathy goes to his wife and two children who survive.

MISSIONARIES

Lois Slagle ('35) who has been in the new Mutena station in the Congo as their nurse is now home on furlough.

Word has been received that Rev. ('42) and Mrs. (nee *Ruth Geiger* '41-'42) *Richard Reilly* have been ordered to return home from their station in Manbhum District, India, because of the ill health of both of them. Certainly our prayers will be with them.

Rev. ('45) and Mrs. (nee *Helen Kemmerer* '45) *John Blosser* are home from India on their furlough. John is spending the time in study at Goshen College.

Rev. ('45) and Mrs. (nee *Hilda Warye* '45) *Wayne Brennehan* are rejoicing in the answers to prayer they have had on their field in Nigeria, West Africa. Especially are they thankful for the many who were helped during the revival which God sent to the Iggetti Church.

Helen Burley ('46), who was ordered home to undergo surgery, arrived in the States October 22. May God grant her a speedy recovery.

Word has been received of another missionary who is suffering physically. *Elizabeth Wise* ('33), who is laboring in Columbia, South America, is also facing a surgical operation.

Luella Landry ('34) writes praising God that the boat on which she sailed on August 30 arrived safely at her field of labor on September 17.

Kathleen Inniger ('47) has been informed that she is to leave the middle of December for Japan as a missionary. The sailing date has been set for December 21.

Arthur Herbert ('39-'40) is busy serving the Lord in the Philippines. He is directing the mission printing department, teaching a young men's Sunday School class and directing a choir at the Zamboanga Church.

Rev. ('43) and Mrs. (nee *Helen Christensen* '43) *David Clark* write from Jamaica: "The work here in Jamaica is growing in the Lord, and we are so thankful for His blessings. We trust that all at home are holding up this work in prayer that the Lord may receive much praise and glory."

Helen Goosen ('10) requests prayer from Kenya Colony, Africa, that she may have many opportunities for personal work both among natives and Indians and that the Lord may bless the words spoken.

Mr. ('48) and Mrs. (nee *Eileen Roth* '47) *Truman Gottschalk* write from Ecuador: "Since coming here to Limones we have seen almost a weekly manifestation of the salvation of our Lord. Our Sunday School has risen from an average of 20 the first month to an average now of 45. Praise His Name, we now have a complete native staff teaching in our Sunday School." They also praise the Lord for His help during physical testing.

Rev. ('44) and Mrs. (nee *Vera Blocher* '44) *Dale Moser* report blessing in spite of sickness and physical weakness in their family.

From the President

(Continued from page 3)

that it was no longer prophecy, but historical description. Instead of foretelling, it was simply *after-telling*!

We can also be reassured that as the prophecies of Christ's First Advent were fulfilled, so those of the Second Advent will come to pass. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts."

At this mid-century Christmas, let the hearts of all Christian believers take courage. The remarkable events that are taking place in the world today, which provide a tragic backdrop of universal fear for Christmas, are really the fulfillment of predictions made long ago. They are the harbingers of dawn. Soon the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings!

O, Immanuel!

(Continued from page 5)

Judgment on sin came, cities were left empty, gardens grew up to weeds, but it was still Immanuel's Land, all because God planned to send His Son to live among men.

And that great gift of deity to live among men means that not only Judea and Palestine, but also the whole world, is Immanuel's Land. Because the holy Son of God underwent the worst of human woe, and walked the deep valley of human degradation, he earned the right to take

control of human affairs. Wherever human hearts have burdens lifted by the man of sorrows, who knew all the griefs and temptations of human life, in every country of the world, there is Immanuel's Land.

And it is still Immanuel's Land, no matter what the outward conditions are. What if wars are raging, pestilence rampant, governments corrupt, economies tottering? The world is still Immanuel's Land. Some day Immanuel Himself, after receiving from His Father authority to come back to earth and take over, will push back the tide of war, set up a clean government in all parts of the world, abolish sickness and the curse on nature, establish a sound and safe economy, and, best of all, make the knowledge of God as abundant as the water in the sea.

—Lawrence Farr

School Days for the Eskimos

(Continued from page 10)

material sent in is strange and foreign to the Eskimo children. They devoured with much gusto the daily lunches of cocoa and biscuits supplied by the government.

There are no lonesome times with the Eskimos around. Even though Mr. Ledyard is away for a week or two at a time (and he is missed tremendously) the time quickly goes with the daily routine and demands.

Another season has come to a close. It has not been without its discouragements, but Seed has been sown and we trust a harvest has been reaped. If even only one soul has come to Christ, we can say it has been worth it—and are looking forward to the coming summer of school.

—The Northern Lights

A Suggestion for a Christmas Gift

The Bible Vision, bringing a Christian message during ten months of the year, makes an attractive gift for Christian friends. It is especially appreciated by those in distant places far away from homes. For one dollar per subscription, its pages can bring inspiration and blessing to missionaries, men in the service, shut-ins, Christian workers, etc.

The issues feature articles by Rev. Laurence Farr, poems by Mrs. Freida M. Buchen, and editorials by Dr. S. A. Witmer.

Send your gift subscriptions now to Miss Ann Neuenschwander, Fort Wayne Bible College, Fort Wayne 6, Indiana, and an appropriate card with the donor's name will be sent to the person receiving the gift.

B I B L E V I S I O N

The Light of the Word on the Issues of the Day

Opening of Second Semester

January 22, 1951

It is now possible for the first-year students to begin their Bible college courses more advantageously at the beginning of the second semester.

A beginning class in first-year college English will be organized. Other first-year courses that can be taken in units are Personal Evangelism, the Gospel of Mark, Inter-Testament History.

Fort Wayne Bible College offers both diploma and degree courses. The field of specialization in all courses is Bible and Biblical Theology. General education is provided in both diploma and degree courses, but the four- and five-year degree programs give more place to general education. Students elect a minor in practical training in all courses from one of the following areas: Pastoral Work, Christian Education, Missions, Sacred Music, Church Secretarial Science.

Applications for admission for the second semester should be sent in soon to the Registrar.

F O R T W A Y N E B I B L E C O L L E G E

810 West Rudisill Boulevard

Fort Wayne 6,

Indiana