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The Fellowship Circle Bulletin

OF THE FORT WAYNE BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL

"Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with the Son Jesus Christ." I John 1:3.

Vol. 1

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA, JULY, 1924.

No. 10

THE MINISTERING PROPHET I Kings 19:19-21.

Rev. Jacob Hygema

Our subject for this afternoon has already been announced. When I was asked to speak at this time several things passed through my mind concerning the service. After laying aside my thoughts regarding the matter, and praying, it came to me that the graduating class had heard so much along the line of teaching during the time they had spent in the school, and, therefore, I should perhaps give an inspirational message on this occasion.

I do not know of any message that is more inspirational than a brief review of the man of God about whom we have read. I like to think of the men who have stood out prominently in their day, and sometimes, not under the most favorable circumstances, men who were true and had the blessing of God upon them. Men who were an inspiration to their generation.

It could be truly said that this prophet served his own generation. He was faithful during the time that he lived. George Mueller said, "The best way to serve the future generation is to be faithful to the present." If we expect to accomplish anything in the world we must serve our own generation. Gladstone said, "Advice chills, example inspires". We can give advice and tell others what they ought to do, but it is so much better to have someone step out and do the thing. John Wesley said that in his last days he read only such books that gave him inspiration. His favorite author was Marguis Derenty because he carried about with him a conscious sense of The Trinity.

This prophet lived about half way between Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee. His father was a local judge, and evidently a man of God. Most of the people were worshipping idols. This man stood out boldly for God in the midst of idolatry. The whole country recognized his influence during those times. He tried a good many cases as a local judge. Elisha evidently stood around and watched him. He gave judgment according to the Word of God. Elisha was reared in that kind of an atmosphere.

We are living in a time when so many people pay little respect to the man of God. In those days the true Israelites had a high regard for this Ministering Prophet. He prophesied about 65 years, and during these years there were at least 14 outstanding miracles, special events. He was a light house during that time so that people could see and know and understand the will of God. Elisha stood high above the rest morally, spiritually, and

politically. As Mt. Baker, at Bellingham, Washington appeared to be about four or six miles away, but in reality was forty miles from the City and on a clear day its snow-capped peak stood out in all its purity and majesty above the plains below; so Elisha was in his generation. He stood above the rest of the people, a man of God, in those times.

We do not have many of his prophetic utterances preserved to us. He was a prophet of works, one whose life was filled with ministries of grace. Wherever he went he was always doing something good. He was a **doing** prophet. His was a weighty life, a life that bore down upon his generation. They were made to feel there was a **tion** with tremendous force and power. A Methodist minister, at Millord, Nebraska, told us that when Wm. Taylor came on a camp ground, there seemed to be a holy hush spread over the people, and then added, "He weighed a ton, spiritually." If you want to have a weighty life, you must **live** a weighty life, a life that is weighty in secret.

Elisha was linked up with God. He was not simply a great man. We get tired hearing about **man** having done this and that, we want to hear what **God** has done. He was a man of God under unfriendly circumstances, where there was unbelief, and a low state of morality all was on a low basis. He stood true to God in these circumstances. A train was going through a district where a cyclone had mowed down everything but a lonely oak tree. The evangelist asked the conductor if he could not stop the train. And when asked the reason, he replied that he would like to hug the tree that stood amidst the storm. So this man stood true through everything. People today question the vital truths of inspiration and it is a blessing to see someone stand out boldly for the Word of God.

This man had good home training, but not much is said about him. He was not afraid of work. He was a farmer. He was busy on his farm and God made a prophet out of a farmer. One day he was plowing and was going along as a true Israelite, as a man that really enjoyed the grace and blessing of God. He was driving the twelfth yoke of oxen when suddenly a man came along who had hairy clothing. He took off his coat and threw it around Elisha. It meant that Elisha was to be the successor of Elijah. Elisha knew what Elijah had done during his life and when he threw it around him it was very significant to him.

There was no hesitation, arguing, or debate, but a readiness to say "good-

bye". He wanted to kiss his father and mother and then he was ready to go. He did that and slew the oxen and there made a feast for the folks that were around. He simply cut loose. Your present consecration will determine and give coloring to your whole future life and when you make your consecration and yield yourself to God you have to cut loose. You have to burn the bridges and whole-heartedly without any hesitation or question, you must say one eternal whole-hearted "yes" to God, if you expect to make your life count for God. If you are half-hearted, or cavillating or undecided in your consecration, that will affect you all through your life. The only thing that will redeem you from it is to dig right down and get right with the Lord. Elisha made a whole-hearted decision and said, "I am going." He went out to minister to Elijah and to become his servant. He poured the water on his master's hands when he wanted to wash them. Unless we learn to render service humbly we will never be any use to reign or lead.

One of the most illustrious of the early missionaries in China, Dr. Milne, was refused by the missionary board to which he made application first, because he was so rustic and plain that they did not think him enough of a gentleman to be sent to China. But they added, "Dr. Morrison, who is going out to China as a missionary, wants a servant. Would you be willing to go with him in that capacity?" The plain Scotch lad eagerly accepted the offer, and went out as a body servant to that missionary. That was the very pathway that led to his promotion, and it was not long until his talents and spiritual gifts made him the equal of his master in missionary service and laid the foundation of a life of unsurpassed usefulness and blessing. None are fit to rule that have not learned to serve.

What profit did Elisha derive from being with Elijah? Someone has said that four-fifths of what we learn we rub off of other folks. Elisha was told that Elijah was to be caught away from him to Heaven and he felt unfit and unqualified to take his place. He knew that he must have the same qualifications that Elijah had, and unless he had it, he was not fit to carry on the work. Elijah told him to stay at various places, but he refused to leave his master. It is a great blessing and help to people to have an objective in view and not be satisfied with anything less. Some people think they have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they get blessed. They stop too soon. He went to Jordan which meant death, and also resurrection. It is a wonderful thing to

die and go to the funeral of yourself. They went across and Elijah said, "Here is the test." He asked him what he wanted him to do for him. He was after the real thing. He said that he wanted a **double portion** of his spirit. He said he **must** have it. Elijah said that if Elisha would **see** him go he would receive it. If any man ever riveted his attention on anything or set his eyes without wavering upon it, I think Elisha did. Why is it called the double portion? The firstborn as head of the family received a double portion of the property and he thought he would be at the head of, or the leader of the cause of God, and therefore needed a double portion. He said he must have it. The horses came and he saw him going and shouted, "My father". This cry proved that he saw him go, and the mantle fell and the Spirit fell upon him. People know when they are baptized with the Holy Ghost. When God knows that you are determined and not half-hearted he will meet you. God knows all about it.

When Evangelist Harrison was hungering for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, he climbed a hill to seek until he found. It was evening when he reached the spot. Talking to his knees, he said they might as well submit, for if he did not receive the Holy Spirit in one hour, he would stay two, then three, and all night until he received Him. With that firm resolution he knelt and prayed earnestly and in half an hour the Spirit came. He needed an all-night determination for a half-hour blessing.

You cannot take your teachers along, but you can take the God of your teachers with you. The teacher was gone but he had the same God with him that his teacher had.

The young prophets said, "The Spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha", and they knew it. People will know it when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. He had an over-flowing joy to speak to the young student prophets. About the first thing that happened after he received the Holy Spirit, someone came and said that the country had a fountain of water that was bitter. He asked for a cruse of water, put salt into it and healed the fountain. He was ready to bless. The Lord can do great and mighty things with a Spirit-filled person.

As he goes on step by step, not everything is smooth. Not everyone respected Elisha. The forty children came out and mocked him. They mocked his faith and the very things that he had seen. They mocked the faith of God and the man of God. (Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm.) There are folks today who are dead spiritually because they abused the men of God. To lay your hands on the man of God means spiritual death and darkness to anyone. It was not in self-defense that he called down judgment upon the children, but the honor of God was at stake. Ordinarily he was so sympathetic. Think of the widow and her two sons whom he helped. He was a blessing wherever he went. He was content with very small comforts,

the Spirit-filled life finds contentment where others fret and chafe. They are happy in the service of the Lord. Elisha served Israel and when he did that, the Assyrians said, "Who tells Elisha about us?" They said that they must get him out of the way. Having sent for an army, they surrounded the city. The servant of Elisha being afraid of the army, said, "Alas, master, what shall we do?" Elisha said, "They that are for us are more than they that are against us." But the servant did not understand their safety, so the Lord opened his eyes and he saw the armies and chariots of fire all around them. Then the Lord smote the enemy with blindness and Elisha lead them to Samaria. When the king beheld them he wanted to know whether he should smite them; but Elisha was not in the smiting business. He said, "Feed them". That sounds like the New Testament. He fed them and then let them go back. The result was that the Assyrians did not come against Samaria for a long while.

Can any of you realize the influence his life had on his generation because he was moved by the Holy Spirit in his ministries? Elisha lived this life that we might get help and blessing for ourselves. The bones of a dead prophet were mighty enough to raise a dead man to life. A man's influence does not stop when he goes beneath the sod. Let us live a life so that after we are gone there will be some influence left that will count for God and eternity. There is a plant in Washington called, "Sweet after death". After it is cut off and dies, it pours forth fragrance. Elisha's life poured forth a fragrance while he lived, and after he was dead.

He wish to say to the class of 1924, "Elisha's God will be your God. You cannot take your teachers with you, but you can take your teacher's God with you. The same angels that protected him will protect you and the same blessings that accompanied him will accompany you, if your life is fully yielded to God."

Note: Extracts from the Baccalaureate Sermon delivered by Rev. Jacob Hygema, Sunday, May 18, 1924.

A STRANGE EXPERIENCE

A special line of subjects was being put on the program of the Men's Bible class at — church in an effort to increase the membership. On this particular morning which we are describing, the subject happened to be, "The Creation of the World." The names of several persons who are prominent in educational circles were announced as speakers. At once our curiosity was aroused. We were wondering very much with what kind of instruction these men were filling the tender minds of the young boys and girls who are daily sitting at their feet to acquire knowledge. The temptation was too great to withstand; we yielded even though it meant the forsaking of the Sunday school which we were accustomed to attend.

On arriving at the church, we were

greeted at the door by several men who directed us to the gymnasium where the class usually met. At the appointed hour the class was called to order and the preliminary exercises followed. There was nothing very striking or unusual about these, except perhaps, their stiffness and coldness—lacking that quality which the Spirit of God alone can supply. These being over, the class leader announced the subject for the morning, making a few remarks as to its importance. Then he introduced the first speaker who presented the idea which the Greeks had regarding the creation of the earth and man. A second speaker briefly set forth the theory of the Norsemen. We will not burden our readers with what these two said, for one who is not familiar with the theories of these people can readily obtain such information by turning to an encyclopedia or an ancient history.

The third speaker spoke at greater length, presenting what he thought to be the correct idea about creation. This was nothing less than theistic evolution. The members of the class were given the privilege of giving God the credit for bringing into existence the ninety some different materials of which the universe consists. In fact, he went a little farther. He said he would have no particular objections if we chose to attribute the introduction of the laws of nature to God. But once these ninety some substances were brought into existence and the laws of nature were introduced, then God was relegated to some out-of-the-way place—there was no further need of Him. The present form of the earth and the innumerable varieties of plant and animal life, according to his idea, have all come about by the natural process of evolution. Man, also, is the product of evolution, and can look back into the dim past to that first, lonely, living cell, the amoeba, as his first parent. All this was explained in greater detail, tracing him through various stages of animal life, the fish being the first to have any backbone. (Perhaps this accounts for the expression: "You big fish", which one hears so frequently today, if fish are among man's ancestors.) But the class period was much too brief for the professor to tell us all he knew on this great subject; hence, when the hour was up, the class leader arose to inform us that they had found the subject much larger than they had thought at first, and that they would continue it on the following Sunday. He also added that they would have a "fundamentalist" present if possible. "Fundamentalists", he said, "have the idea that the Bible and evolution contradict each other." With this the class was dismissed.

"How Does Evolution Affect Religion and Belief in the Bible?"

This was the question announced in the next Saturday's papers as the one to be discussed by this Bible class on the morrow. Sunday morning found us back in the gymnasium. The class meeting opened promptly at

9:30 with the song, "America", and a gentleman led in prayer. Immediately after this, basket-ball matters were discussed and twenty-five dollars were raised by the class to back up the team of the church. Then the social committee reported having arranged to have a supper at a certain place on Friday night, and urged the men to be present. A club meeting was to follow the supper. Three or four other committees reported, each in its turn, so that by the time they were ready to direct their attention toward the lesson of the morning it was 10:15.

The teacher, Mr. —, introduced the subject by making reference to the six creative days "according to the writer of Genesis **whoever he was,**" adding that the Jews evidently received this story from the Babylonians. Some sneering remarks were also made regarding their idea of the firmament. A brief review and a hearty endorsement of the message given by the third speaker on the preceding Sunday followed. Finally, an instructor in embryology was called upon to address the class for five minutes. He spoke briefly about the basic law of embryology, namely, the absolute necessity of the union of cells of opposite sex in order to make reproduction possible. Then he went on trying to prove the theory which had been advanced before in the class to the effect that man has evolved from one single life cell. He referred to the strange horse with four toes on its front feet and with three on its hind, which had been found and is now on display in one of the large museums in Europe. He thought this was probably one of the "missing links". Before closing, he said that some people seem to think that evolution and the Bible conflict, but that he saw no reason for such a notion; for he himself was a staunch believer in evolution and at the same time he believed all the Bible. Now he gave the class an opportunity to ask questions.

Question 1.—"Since it requires the union of two cells, male and female, to make reproduction possible, how was it possible for the first lonely cell to reproduce?"—The real issue of the question was evaded by simply answering that when cells grow and reproduce they usually produce a variety of cells.

Question 2.—"You stated a few moments ago that you believe in evolution and you also believe all the Bible. How therefore, would you harmonize these two Scripture passages with evolution: Gen. 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul," and Luke 3:38 l. c., "**Adam, which was the son of God?**" When the second question was asked, the teacher of the class quickly and said there was not enough time to answer this one as it was now time to close. "But," said he, "we have invited Attorney— to address us this morning. Since he is here, I

wonder how many would be willing to remain a little longer and let him speak to us for a few minutes." Of course, all gladly consented to this suggestion.

A Fundamentalist Speaks

The attorney began by reading a number of quotations of different writers as follows: "The book of Daniel belongs to that Apocalyptic literature of which there was a large lot in his age, the Maccabean period, all fanciful and fictitious."

"If God the Father freely forgives sinners, no atonement is necessary. If there is an atonement required, God does not freely forgive."

"Christ fully expected the Jewish rulers and people to accept Him up to His entry into Jerusalem at the last, and then changed His plan."

"Christ then decided He must die for His views of the kingdom He came to found."

"The Bible has many contradictions and inaccuracies, and never claims to be inerrant."

"Thus said the Lord," claimed by the prophets, is a psychological phenomenon of these men, never to be regarded as direct revelation from God."

Addressing the class, the attorney asked, "Who wrote these statements?" There was no reply. "Where do they come from?" he asked again; but there was no response. Then he said, "I can tell you where they come from. They are taken from text books used in the Minister's Course of Study of the —Church (which happen to be of the same denomination as the church in which he was now speaking) and approved by a majority of the Board of Bishops." He continued by asking repeatedly: "What do you call such statements as these?" Receiving no response, he turned to the black-board and wrote in large letters, "BLASPHEMY".

By this time many of the men were greatly aroused and excited. But the speaker just reminded them of the fact that such blasphemous statements as had been quoted by him were largely the result of belief in evolution.

Then he went on to show that evolution is simply an old theory revived, —one which had been advanced by a few Greek philosophers in early history, a theory without any real foundation, and one which the best scientists never accepted. He said, "The possibility of the formation of new species has never been demonstrated nor proven. Genesis says that God made every plant and every living thing after his kind. There we have the origin of species, and there have been no new species since."

"Evolution robs Christ of His glory and His deity. If we believe in evolution, then we must make Christ the product of evolution, the descendant of a monkey and of other forms of animals. But the Scriptures say, 'Without Him (Christ) was not anything made that was made'.

"Infidels and atheis's welcomed the

theory of evolution. It was their way of ignoring the fact of the existence of God. Where evolution is taught in educational institutions today, only about six students out of every hundred come out of them without having their faith shattered in God and the Bible. This is what Paul meant in his epistles when he warned the Christians against vain philosophy, and science, falsely so called."

The speaker threw out a challenge, stating that he would give any one a hundred dollars if he brought to this office, any time during the following week, real proof that man has been in existence for a longer period than the Bible states, i. e., at the most not over 7,000 years.

The question was then asked the speaker as to how he accounted for the strange horse to which the instructor in embryology had referred. He replied that there are abundant proofs that the one-hoofed horse was in existence long before the three-toed horse was. He added that the chief trouble with evolutionists has been that they have been basing their theories on freaks rather than on that which is the rule.

The teacher of the class then arose and made some statements in defense of evolution. He also invited the men back, saying that they had not yet completed the subject under discussion. He said, what they as a class were wanting to find out was, not what the attorney believes, nor what a few others believe, but what "thinking men" as a whole believe, and what the world would continue to believe in a hundred years from now. Then he added that he was quite certain that by the time the class had heard more on the subject, they would come to the conclusion that the evolutionist's God is a more wonderful, more dignified, more glorious being than the God who, as the colored brother put it, picked up some mud and shaped it into the form of a man and then put it on a rock to dry and finally put life into it,—that, thought he, is a very low conception of God.

The class was dismissed without prayer, but in the midst of great excitement. The attorney found a few sympathizers in the class, who afterwards congratulated him for his courage to express his convictions and for the firm Scriptural stand he had taken. It was very evident, however, that the majority were lined up on the side of evolution.

Conversation with the Teacher

The two visitors exchanged greetings with several as they were making their way toward the door. Finally they came to the teacher of the class. As they were shaking hands with him, one of them said to him, "I do not agree with you as to what should be the aim of your Bible class as you expressed it, namely, to find out what thinking men believe regarding these things, and what the world will continue to believe in a hundred years from now. The greatest concern of this class regarding this subject should not be about what you think, or what

I think, or what any one else thinks and believes, but to find out **what God says**. It makes no difference what men think; but it does make all the difference in the world as to what God says."

Teacher—"But what does God say? How can you know what God says?"

Visitor—"What do you have under your arm? In that Book (the Bible) you will find out what God says."

Teacher—"Do you mean to say that this is God's Word?"

Visitor—"I certainly do."

Teacher—"Do you believe that it is verbally inspired?"

Visitor—"I believe the entire record from cover to cover is inspired."

Teacher—"I can not believe that all is inspired of God."

Visitor—"Who will decide what is, and what is not, if not all is inspired?"

Who is capable of deciding such an important matter, and on what basis would one distinguish between the inspired and the uninspired?"

Teacher—"That part of the Bible which works in the world today, I consider inspired, and that which does not, is not inspired.—But I cannot believe in the kind of a God who kills people by the hundreds and thousands, as for example, the God who is represented as killing Pharaoh and the firstborn of the Egyptians. I have no use for a God who will harden a man and then turn around and kill him."

Visitor—"Pray, tell me, why do we have the gallows and the electric chairs today? Is not punishment due the transgressor? Is it not necessary for the safety of the law-abiding citizens? Pharaoh, for a long time, had been imposing on God's people; he greatly oppressed them. Have you really read what the Bible has to say concerning him?"

Teacher—"Yes."

Visitor—"Then you certainly must not have read carefully if you did not observe that Pharaoh hardened his own heart five times before it is said that God hardened His heart. The Lord was very merciful to him and performed marvelous things before his eyes to lead him to repentance and to cause him to put his trust in Him; but Pharaoh repeatedly and persistently hardened his heart, being determined to have his own way, after which God finally hardened His heart. This is in full harmony with II Thes. 2:8-12. This Scripture passage describes a class of people who refuse to receive the love of the truth that they might be saved; instead, they choose to believe lies and to continue in unrighteousness. Since they refuse to yield to the gracious wooings of His Spirit and deliberately make lies their choice, God shall give them their fill of lies and shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. It means just this: if God can not be glorified in the salvation of men, He will be glorified in their judgment."

Teacher—"You insist that all the

Bible is inspired? That can not be, for there are contradictions in it. For example, in II Samuel it is said that God moved David to number Israel, while in Chronicles it is said that Satan did it. This is a contradiction." Then without waiting for an explanation of the seeming contradiction, he proceeded to explain that the reason Satan is mentioned in Chronicles is this: the Israelites had not known anything about Satan before this time, but that the idea of existence of such a being had just now been introduced by some of the heathen nations around them; consequently, they attributed the work to this new being instead of to God.

Visitor—"Do you mean to say that God's people had no knowledge of the existence of Satan before the time of the writing of the book of Chronicles? Why, Satan is referred to already in the early chapters of Genesis."

Teacher—"When and by whom was Genesis written?"

Visitor—"Genesis was written by Moses in his own time."

Teacher—"No, that can't be. A man can't write an account of his own funeral. (He evidently had reference to the entire Pentateuch and not only to the book of Genesis.) Genesis was written about 250 B. C."

Visitor—"Do you believe that Jesus Christ always spoke the truth?" (The visitor expected that he would unhesitatingly answer, "Yes," and if so, he would have to recognize the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch because Jesus said Moses wrote them.)

Teacher—"It depends upon what you mean by truth."

Visitor—"I mean by truth just what truth is usually understood to mean. Did Jesus Christ always speak the truth?"

Teacher—"Well, (said with a great deal of hesitancy) I suppose He tried to speak the truth as far as He knew. He often used fables, etc., to express Himself."

Visitor—"As far as He knew? My dear friend, when you bring Christ down to that level—when He ceases to be **the truth**, when He is robbed of His omniscience, He ceases to be your Saviour."

Teacher—"Oh, no. He is my Saviour. I believe He gave us the most wonderful teaching the world has had. He approached nearer to the ideal than any other."

*Visitor—"But even so, when you rob Christ of His omniscience you bring Christ down to the level of mere man—you rob Him of His deity."

Teacher—"No, I do not rob Him of His deity by placing Him on the same level with man, for I believe in the divinity of man. I do not believe in the doctrine of the fall of man."

Visitor—"Then you do not believe your Bible? The Word of God says, 'There is none righteous; no, not one: for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.' 'Death has passed upon all men for that all have sinned.' The last text tells us that death is a proof of the universality of sin."

Just at this point the conversation was interrupted by another gentleman who said, addressing the teacher, "Come on, —, stop your talking evolution." Then he drew him away. Thus the exciting "palaver" came to a rather sudden and unexpected close, and the two visitors left the church with their hearts greatly grieved and burdened for the sad condition which prevailed in this place.

* The quotations in the above are as nearly verbatim as the memory could recall them.

COMMENCEMENT SEASON, 1924

Baccalaureate News

The Baccalaureate services were held in the First Missionary church, Sunday afternoon, May 18th, Rev. T. P. Potts, presiding.

W. O. Klopfenstein read the Scripture lesson and we were then led in prayer by Rev. J. E. Ramseyer. A vocal solo, "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains", sung by Mr. C. A. Gerber, immediately preceded the Class Message, given by Rev. Jacob Hygema, one of the Bible teachers, who had been chosen by the class to give the message. The sermon was a benediction, and we will not soon forget it. The text, "A Ministering Prophet", was used by Bro. Hygema to bring out with no uncertain sound, the calling and the equipment necessary for every member of the class to make them a power for God. The young man, Elisha, pouring water on the hands of the old prophet, was held up as a fitting example for all young people who want to be their best for God. May the Lord bless Bro. Hygema and enable him to ever give forth the truth with boldness. His message was followed by a duet, entitled, "The Prophet's Call", rendered by two of our students, Misses Beckhart and Figg, of Louisville, Kentucky. The Lord bless those precious girls. They sang the truth down into our hearts.

When the meeting came to a close and we were led in prayer by Rev. B. F. Leightner, we said in our hearts, "It was good for us to have been here."

Students' Recital

Wednesday evening, May 21st we were favored with a splendid program prepared by the music teachers, C. A. Gerber, and Miss Rosina Ramseyer.

The numbers were rendered very proficiently and showed excellent work on the part of the teachers. We appreciate this department of the Bible Training School and bid them Gods speed in their work.

Commencement Day

Thursday, May 22nd, at 2:00 P. M., we again assembled in the first Missionary church for the last meeting with the dear class of 1924.

Rev. J. E. Ramseyer presided. The program was carried out as per plan. After the singing of a hymn by the congregation and prayer the class sang the chorus, "Walking Still With Jesus." Rev. Jacob Hygema read the Scripture lesson and led in prayer. Mrs. Warren Manges then rendered a

solo entitled, "O Word of God." The young ladies in the class then sang a chorus, "Hear Our Prayer." This led up to the message of the afternoon.

Rev. L. H. Ziemer had been chosen by the class to give the message to them. He very appropriately chose as the subject for his message, "The Glorious Gospel." The Gospel is glorious because of its saving, sanctifying, healing and keeping power. Then he emphasized the sacredness of this trust, "committed unto us also". And then, he exhorted the class to be faithful in the mission God has committed unto them.

The class song was then rendered. Mrs. Warren Manges, a student in the Bible-Music course wrote the music and the words were written by another member of the class, Miss Lillian Moyer. The words were in keeping with the class motto, "Jesus, Our Vision—Souls, Our Goal."

The class chose as the "class flower" the Ophelia rose and a beautiful basket of these roses were presented to them by Faculty and Workers as a token of love and appreciation.

The principal, Rev. B. F. Leightner, presented diplomas to the following: Ruth V. Eicher, Elkton, Mich.; Herbert M. Haller, Bucklin, Kans.; Edith M. Harrison, Detroit, Mich.; Silvan J. Honderich, Crystal, Mich.; Mabel Hygema, Nappanee, Ind.; William Hygema, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Marie E. Imbach, Woodburn, Ind.; Barbara M. Liechty, Berne, Ind.; Mrs. Warren Manges, Bremen, Ind.; Warren E. Manges, Bremen, Ind.; Lillian Moyer, Buffalo, N. Y.; Martha Schitz, Bremen, Ind.; Paul Ummel, Elkhart, Ind. Esthe V. Wagler, Peoria, Ill.

Some of these young people will be out in active service this summer and we bid them God's speed on the way, and joy to do His blessed will at all times.

Fellowship Circle Meeting

Thursday evening, May 22nd, a goodly number of the students of former years were present to take part in the "reunion" of the Bible School Family. The meeting was an informal one. After a short program the business of the year was entered upon. Some new officers were elected and some of the former officers were re-elected.

Thus closes the most profitable year in the history of the school so far. To God alone be all the glory.

By One of the Family.

NOTICE

We have entered upon another year of the B. T. S. Fellowship Circle and we just wish to take this opportunity to remind the members of the Circle to send in their gifts. This may seem soon to mention this matter but why not start the year right? We feel sure that if each of the members will do as the Lord guides, we can exceed any amount of any previous year. And surely the money will be used to the glory of God. Please send your offering to the Treasurer,

Chris J. Gerig,

3110 Fairfield Ave., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

ANNUAL REPORT—FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

May 22, 1924.

The annual meeting of the B. T. S. Fellowship Circle met in the First Missionary church.

The meeting was opened with a song service in charge of P. L. Eicher.

Mr. Franklin Chant who presided at the meeting, due to the absence of the president, I. F. Glock, read Phil. 3:7-21, and made a few comments on—"The basis of true fellowship." Our fellowship with one another centers around our Savior—Jesus Christ. Rev. Weldon Klopfenstein led in prayer.

Prof. Gerber and Roth rendered a vocal duet. A Ladies' Octette also rendered a special number, both of which were much appreciated by all.

The recommendation of the Executive Committee, regarding the change in the Bulletin was read. It was then moved and seconded that this recommendation be carried.

It was moved and seconded that we send flowers to Mrs. J. S. House, whose husband was killed, as a little token of our love and friendship.

Clarence Birky, of the class of 1923, presented to the B. T. S. some linen napkins, which were given by his class. These were much appreciated, especially by the matron, who received them with hearty thanks.

While the ballots were being counted we had a good testimony meeting in which many took part.

The result of the election is as follows: President, Elton Roth; Cor. Secy., Dersie Quince; Rec. Secy., Mrs. Maude Becker; Treas., Mr. C. Gerig; Nominating Committee, Safara Gerig, Esther Roth, W. H. Luginbill.

Miss Mary Lee (China), Mr. P. L. Eicher (India), and Mr. E. Bethel, were the three interesting speakers of the evening.

Miss Lee in her sweet humble way, represented the needs of her own people, in China. She set forth in a very vivid way the awful darkness of that great and oldest nation of the world, and begged that we who bear the light might speedily carry it forth that their darkened hearts might also be penetrated by the blessed light of the Gospel.

We were then favored with a piano quartette, after which, Mr. P. L. Eicher brought a very stirring message, representing India. He urged all to heed the call of the Lord in view of the great need which is so prevalent everywhere. In closing his message he sang the song—"Calling."

After a solo by Elton Roth, Mr. E. Bethel gave a wonderful testimony of what the power of God can do. He then testified with his fingers—playing, "Nearer My God to Thee", in variations. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Mrs. W. P. Stauffer, Secy.

Middlesboro, Kentucky,

General Delivery,

May 22, 1924.

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

Greetings in the Name of Jesus. "They that know Thy Name will put

their trust in Thee."

As to our trip, wish to say that it has been very delightful, and will try and give you a brief account of a few things that came to our observation since in the Blue Grass State.

In crossing the State, we have been mostly following the Dixie Highway, the roads in general have been exceptionally good, except in some of the detours and mountainous regions, where we struck some places that were quite rugged and steep. Occasionally we had to climb an incline of probably several hundred feet high, and one or two miles long, then down grade for about the same distance.

As to the construction of the roads, in some of these districts; a part of the roads are paved with concrete, then some of them are waterbound with an asphalt dressing on top; then through some of the mountainous districts some are macadamized with crushed rock. As to the method in crushing the rock, I could not tell, but in some sections where the roads needed repairing, they gathered flat rocks and placed them into the ruts, then men with heavy hammers sat on the road and crushed the rocks. Somehow this gave us an illustration of the condition of some of the people living in those localities. They seem to be under the idea that if they belong to the church and are baptized, that they will be sure to get to heaven. Like as to these hills, they seem to be hard to reach; and, when you get to them, you have to use the Hammer, the Word, to crush their stony hearts.

Since we had some of the most needy localities on our heart, we did not feel justified in stopping, or working in those districts, except as we traveled across the state and came in contact with them. Nevertheless, we met some that were hungry for the Gospel.

After crossing the Kentucky River on a ferry, we struck quite a rough country, but some of the roads were very good. Sometimes we'd be traveling through the woods, then there would be high hills (they are called mountains by the mountaineers), on the one side towering over our heads, while on the other side there would be a chasm probably one or two hundred feet deep. At times we couldn't help but marvel at the handiwork of God as we gazed upon these scenes. "Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out."

The other day as we were passing through the vicinity of Mt. Vernon, Ky., we took notice of some of the hills that were covered with trees, which were in bloom, wafting a sweet fragrance across our pathway. Our prayer is that we may send forth the fragrance of Christ wherever we go.

There was an abundance of flowers along the highway, which made the trip very delightful. At times I felt tempted to stop and gather some, but our purpose is not to gather flowers, but jewels, along the byways for our King.

One of the first flowers to attract my attention was of a flashy yellow color and just a little larger than a buttercup, which reminded me of the golden opportunities that lie before us. The violets in the valleys gave us a glimpse of true humility. Then, as we were climbing the hills, we couldn't help but admire the crimson, star-shaped flower which reminded us of the fact that it is only by the Blood of the Lamb that we are able to rise above this world of sin.

Once in a while we'd stop along the road and paint some text on rocks, such as: "Jesus Saves", "Seek ye the Lord," "Eternity, where will you send it?", while some of the others went out to do visitation work.

In the vicinity of Corbin we came in contact with quite a few who seemed hungry for the Gospel, and some requested prayer.

For the last few days we have been working in a mining town by the name of Wilton. The Lord has given us open doors, and enabled us to hold some meetings in the M. E. church. Joshua gave the message last night, and we had a splendid crowd. As we were practicing a few songs to sing in the evening, we attracted a small crowd to our camping site, then gave them an invitation to the services.

This afternoon we had the privilege of going through the mine. We had a guide who entertained us and gave us some interesting facts about mining. People, in general, in this town have treated us with much hospitality.

As to the climate here in Kentucky, it has been very cool. Once in a while it has been quite warm through the day. The other day we had a heavy rain; it came down in torrents.

If the Lord is willing, we intend to leave this town tomorrow. Our next address will be Middlesboro, Kentucky, General Delivery.

"Now I beseech you brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." Rom. 15:39.

Lovingly yours in His service,
Emanuel W. Stauffer.

Fort Wayne, Ind.,
June 6, 1924.

My Dear Dersie:

Will you please extend to the good friends of the Fellowship Circle, my sincere appreciation of their lovely flowers?

The sympathy of friends has been expressed in so many thoughtful ways during these days of our sorrows.

We have a tender feeling for Bible School friends for much of the early inspiration of Papa's spiritual life came through the school. And Bro. Ramseyer has been such a blessing and comfort to us.

We sorrow truly and are lonely, and so lonely at times—but praise God, Dersie, we know that Papa is with the Redeemed, who have been bought with the precious Blood of the Lamb.

Thank you all for your sympathy.

Sincerely,

Lucile House Wood,
Elizabeth and Leonard House.

HOW TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

The new president of The Fellowship Circle sends all its members greetings in Jesus' name. It seems but a short while since I was a student at the good old B. T. S. The last seven years of my life have been spent singing the Gospel, and have seen thousands respond to the message of life, turning from a life of sin to a living Savior.

I am home for a little vacation this summer, but already feel discontented. I want to be on errands of love and keep the melodies ringing; the highest joy in the Christian's life comes by faithfully performing the work to which the Master has called us. The year 1921, I was with the Taylor Party from California, 1922 with the Harper Party from Iowa, and last year with the B. B. Crimm Party from Texas. The south seems to respond more readily to the Gospel than the north, our tabernacles were usually filled, and some nights thousands had no room inside, the world is still hungry, and responds to the blessed story of love wherever it is told. In one of our meetings the town sheriff got converted, and as a proof of his regeneration he started noon-day prayer meetings in the court house the next day, and continued throughout the meetings. The Lord still performs miracles.

Members of the choir found great joy in loading several trucks and singing songs up and down the streets in behalf of the meetings, sometimes in the early morning hours, calling them from slumber-land, with such choruses as "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder", "In the Sweet By and By", and other familiar strains. One old mother was seen standing in the doorway of her humble dwelling waving her hand in response to the echoes of "Tell Mother I'll Be There". We would sometimes stop on street corners and hold short meetings previous to the evening service, it is an easy way of approach and arouses the curiosity of many listeners who perhaps never go to church. The Master said, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in".

There are many evangelists today who do all their preaching from Gospel trucks especially built for that purpose, touring from town to town, spreading the message of life on busy street corners. Some of our leading Bible schools have already awakened to these opportunities and have secured adequate Gospel trucks for their students.

At the last meeting of the executive committee of the Fellowship Circle, June 17, 1924, we decided to make a drive for a B. T. S. Gospel Truck, the Lord willing, we hope to have this truck for the opening of school in fall. There are between four and five hundred members in the circle, now everybody join hands, hearts and prayers, there is none so small, weak or poor but what the Lord wants to use if the heart is willing. There is joy in loving service, and we can easily and cheerfully raise enough money in thir-

ty or sixty days, and what is left over will go into the treasury to be used as an up-keep fund.

The truck would have seating capacity of about twenty students, with two side seats the length of the car, a platform in the rear which can be unfolded, giving ample room for speaker, player and organ. In such a truck a load of students can go equipped with tracts, Gospels, instruments, megaphones and hearts full of fire and love for lost souls, and spread the glad tidings of salvation on street corners, parks and needy sections of the city, making various stops in one evening, witnessing for the Master. There are many people in Fort Wayne who do not know there is a B. T. S. This will help put us on the map. Bands of students are assigned certain nights at the mission. A Gospel truck will save car fare for needy students and provide a better way to the mission on rainy nights. Neighboring towns would be glad to have the students come over in the Gospel truck and put on perhaps one or more nights of evangelistic services, and would be more than pleased to give a free-will offering toward keeping up the expense of same. A body of eager students can find new pleasures and blessings, and more real happiness, with countless opportunities to witness for the Master from a Gospel truck than in any other way. Let's give them a lift. I'll start this budget with \$50.00 and other amounts are already coming in. Ask God how much He would have you give. If you have it now, send it immediately to the treasurer, Christ Gerig, B. T. S. We will also mail you pledge blanks within a few days.

I have another thousand copies of "Campaign Melodies" off the press, containing twenty-five of my latest songs, and I will mail free one copy to each contributor to the B. T. S. Gospel truck fund.

Now another word, let's keep a little better acquainted, many members of the circle have lost track of one another, and would be glad to know where you are and what you are doing. We want articles from fifty members of the circle not exceeding one hundred words, giving a brief account of yourself during the last year, these articles will be most interesting, and will appear in the next issue of the Fellowship Circle Bulletin. They must be in by the 1st of September. (WRITE IT NOW!) Mail it to the secretary, Miss Dersie Quince, B. T. S.

Yours in song,
Elton M. Roth.

NOTICE

One of the objects of the Bible Training School Fellowship Circle is to help to promote the interests of the school in every legitimate way. One way in which you can help to do this is by sending the school names of persons who are wanting a Bible School education and who ought to have a catalog. If you know of any such, please send in their names today.

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS

Roy Birkey of the class of "1923" now in Liuha Honan Province, China writes:

"Christian greetings with Isa. 45:2, 3. "I will go before thee and make the crooked places straight. I will break in pieces the gates of the bars of iron, and I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which called thee by thy name, am the God of Israel."

Try to place your name instead of Israel to the last verse and notice how real the promises become. Notice the terms of determination: "I will go before thee," "I will break," "I will give," Why? In order that His name may receive the honor and glory. These verses have often been made a special blessing to me so that I would pass them on to you.

After a very stormy voyage we arrived at the lower dock in the Shanghai harbor and China and all that goes with it soon became a genuine reality.—It would be needless to say that we had a happy meeting with the natives upon our arrival. Nearly everyone in our yard turned out to meet me. (I came several days later than Ina an account of some delayed baggage.) Some came all the way while others only part way, several were even here from our out station about seventeen miles southwest from here. What made my heart rejoice was the increased number of Christians. In spite of the awful darkness, some are turning and are being saved. Praise His precious name.

Mother, sis and I were at one of our out stations for the week end. We stayed in what you would call native quarters, mud walls, brick for flooring and cobwebs covered with plenty of fine dust furnished the undesired drapery. Mother and sis were doing light housekeeping—be sure you put the emphasis on the light—because conditions required it as such. However we had a pleasant time on Sunday; it just seemed like Heaven was so near. I trust and believe much was accomplished.

Although the privations at times cut quite severe, yet they aren't as bad as the trials of the natives who as yet haven't been established, and they truly need our prayers in that respect.

We just had a very severe trial with one while on this trip, but God in a most gracious way heard our prayers and gave the desired victory."

A former student, who is now a pastor writes in part as follows, under date of May 19, 1924:

"Enclosed find my personal check for the sum of \$5.00 to the Fellowship Circle. We certainly enjoy reading the Bulletin.

"We enjoyed the Baccalaureate service. That was a great sermon by Bro. Hygema. It was very helpful and inspiring. From the impression I received of the services, the school is

still forward making real progress. I appreciate more and more the fact that there are two diplomas hanging on our wall here in our home.

"Also find enclosed \$10.00 to apply on the repair work of the school."

The same brother brought with him a fifty-pound can of lard for the school when he came to attend the commencement a few days later

William Oyer of the class of "1919" now in Fresno, California, writes:

"I am well and busy and above all happy in Him. My desire is to stand true for I find a hundred and one things ready to draw one away from God out here on this Coast.

"I wish you all a calm and happy closing season and like to consider myself as being there.

"I am looking and praying for the Lord's coming, and although the world at large does not know much of me, yet in my small, humble way I am striving to be busy winning souls for Jesus. I do not want to meet my Savior empty handed."

Miss Ina Birkey of the class of "1923" now in Liuhon Nonan Province, China writes:

We have been rejoicing in God's faithfulness in bringing us back safely to China. We are happy in His will for us. Out side of that there is nothing to attract one to stay and labor with these darkened people.

Political conditions are not altogether settled. However locally speaking it is again peaceful. The bandits are rather quiet at present. Bolshevism is fast creeping into China. The Boxers are reviving too so that there are vast numbers in this locality. All these things remind us of the fact that we are but pilgrims and strangers, that our King is soon to come.

Missionary work at present is very encouraging. Our services are well attended. Our chapel is really too small to properly accommodate the crowds. We are building a new chapel this spring and are anxiously awaiting its completion. At present the masons are pounding the ground preparing to lay the foundation. Building is a "big affair" in China. I think Father realizes that these days. Between bargaining for building material and keeping (or rather trying) the men at work he has about all he can handle.

Mother, Roy and I are planning to go to Lung tang Kang one of our out stations. Chinese evangelists are stationed there.

Kindly pray that our lives may be lives of unselfish service for Him.

Brother Olen Schlatter, who attended the B. T. S. about six years ago, writes from Nargaon, E. Kandish, India:

Greetings in the name of Him whose coming we await. "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."

In our last convention on the field which was held in October, we had a

fine spirit of prayer. We were unable to get an outside speaker as we had expected, but the Lord had something far better than we had looked for. It was refreshing to see the business meetings give way to prayer, and meal time pass and still in prayer, also to be out in the prayer tents until the early hours of morning. Surely it is a time never to be forgotten. We believe that the Spirit was given to us in a measure that we had not realized before, and we are not satisfied with the mere blessing which we had there, but we are now looking for the Power, which He has promised with the Spirit, and that there might be a great ingathering of souls here if He should tarry.

You will notice by the above address that I have been transferred from Akola. Mr. Siegel and I were stationed here for language study with a senior Missionary by the name of Mr. Smith. This is our Bible Training School for this language district so we have the boys of the school to help us somewhat in the study. One of the Indian Masters also helps us somewhat. I am rather sorry that I do not have a good Pundit to help me at this time especially, for I will be taking my first examination in about a month. But Mr. Siegel is a great help to me for he has passed his examination and is a better grammar student than I can ever hope to be. But trying to memorize the paradigms of verbs with twenty tenses in the indicative mode alone, along with all the other things to learn seems a big job to me. But the Lord has been helping, for which I am thankful. I would much rather go out and try to get the language by hearing it, but for the examinations we must know the "whys" and "wherefores."

Trust you are having a very fruitful term this last half of the school year, and may the blessings of it reach the ends of the earth for His glory.

A VISION OF JESUS (Class Song)

We are called to be witnesses holy,
Send tidings to every lost soul;
The uttermost part is our vision,
And blood bought souls our goal.

CHORUS:

Oh, for a vision of Jesus,
Oh, for a vision of Him.
Oh, for a vision of Jesus,
That precious souls we may win.

We have sat at the feet of the Master,
The Author of God's Holy Word;
We're sealed with the Spirit of Promise,
His call, "Go ye", we've heard.

Blessed Lord, to Thy Word we have yielded,
Obedience brings joy to our hearts;
Lord, send us as bread for the hungry,
To earth's remotest parts.

—Lillian Moyer.

TO THE CLASS OF 1916

Some time ago, several members of our class met and we thought it would be nice if we as a class would in some way show to the B. T. S. the love and appreciation we feel towards the school. In other schools, each class as it leaves the school presents pictures, books, etc., to be left there in memory of the class. When we as a class left the B. T. S. we didn't leave anything, not even our class picture. Wouldn't it be a good plan to give something even at this late hour? There are different things we might give, an endless number of things that would be appreciated, but let us give something useful. It has been suggested that we give small rugs for the bathrooms, etc. a whole new set of curtains or dishes. Did any of us ever break dishes when we were in school? If any member of the class has any other suggestions please communicate with Mrs. W. P. Stauffer, 4313 Tacoma Ave., Fort Wayne, Indiana. Let us each one respond heartily and give as unto the Lord. Send all money to the above address. There will be a report in the bulletin as soon as something definite is done.

NEWS ITEMS

Born to Rev. and Mrs. John Lauby a boy, the 28th of May, 1924. "Little Paul". Mr. Lauby belongs to the class of 1914.

* * *

Born to Rev. and Mrs. Arthur F. Albro, a boy, the 4th day of June, 1924. Named Robert Edward. Mr. and Mrs. Albro belong to the class of 1916.

* * *

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krause, Elkton, Mich., a girl. Mrs. Krause is known by the Bible School family as Miss Priscilla Herford.

* * *

Miss Clara Klint (class of 1920) set sail for Africa on May 24, 1924. She goes to France first to study the French language.

* * *

Miss Rena Leu and Mr. George Barnes were united in marriage on June the 1st. Miss Leu was a member of the class of 1921.

* * *

Rev. and Mrs. S. J. Grabill are back in Fort Wayne after an extended trip to the west coast. Mrs. Grabill visited her brother, W. S. Miller, at Van Nuys while in California. Both Mrs. Grabill and her brother were students of the B. T. S. 1905 and 1906.

* * *

Rev. W. H. Lugibihl is laying down his pastorate at Pettisville, O., and moving to Fort Wayne to take charge of the business management of the Bible Training School. Mr. and Mrs. Lugibihl were students during the years 1906, 1907 and 1908.

* * *

Miss Eleanor Haberling of the class of 1918 writes that the Lord is open-

In My Heart There Rings a Melody.

E. M. R.

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Elton M. Roth.

1. I have a song that Je - sus gave me, It was sent from
2. I love the Christ who died on Cal - v'ry, For He washed my
3. 'Twill be my end - less theme in glo - ry, With the an - gels

heav'n a - bove; There nev - er was a sweet - er mel - o - dy, 'Tis a
sins a - way; He put with - in my heart a mel - o - dy, And I
I will sing; 'Twill be a song with glo - rious har - mo - ny, When the

CHORUS.

mel - o - dy of love,
know it's there to stay. In - my heart there rings a mel - o - dy, There
courts of heav - en ring.

rings a mel - o - dy with heav - en's har - mo - ny; In my heart there

rings a mel - o - dy; There rings a mel - o - dy of love.

ing a door for service for her. Miss Haberling is a worthy young lady and we bid her God's speed.

* * *

Miss Mary Oyer of the class of 1918 who engaged in mission work with her brother, Mr. Ben M. Oyer, writes that the Lord is blessing the work. Mr. William Oyer of the class of 1919 is also helping in this work.

* * *

Mr. Bert Lewis a student in the Bible Training School (1916-1922) was married to a lady at Anderson, Ind., in February of this year, 1924. We wish (Bert) as we called him, God's

blessing, and a life of usefulness in the Master's service.

NOTICE

In regards to the recommendation of the Executive Committees, concerning change in sending out the Bulletin. All members of the Fellowship Circle will receive a Bulletin without fee, as we could not obtain 2nd class rates as we hoped to.

Help to make the Bulletin entertaining this year by sending a little news about yourself to Dersie Quince, 2521 Broadway, Fort Wayne, Indiana.