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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, JANUARY, 1925.

No. 12.

GOD'S MESSAGE TO LAODICEA Rev. 3:14-22.

Laodicea was a wealthy city located about 28 miles southeast of Philadelphia in a fertile agricultural district. It was noted for the production of fine black wool from which beautiful garments, resembling silk, were made. It was also famous for its extensive banking system and for the manufacture of a special eye remedy or salve. In it, too, were three large marble theatres and a medical school. These all combined to bring much wealth to the city so that there was a feeling of independence. When the city was destroyed by the same quake that had ruined Philadelphia, and money was offered by the Roman government to assist in its reconstruction, the Laodiceans proudly refused to accept it, for they felt that they possessed sufficient means themselves.

Laodicea represents the last form of professing Christendom. It is rather difficult to say about when the condition as characterized by this church began, but it is certain that it exists even now and will continue into the tribulation period with Thyatira and Sardis, after the Philadelphia believers have been caught up into glory. In all the other churches mentioned there had been something to commend in spite of the evils present; but in Laodicea there is absolutely nothing which seems to meet with Christ's approval.

I. The Speaker, V. 14.

Christ introduces Himself to this church

(1) As the "Amen". "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets hath in these last days spoken unto us by (literally 'in') His Son." Heb. 1:1,2. Jesus Christ is the concluding word of God; there is nothing more to be said. He is the "Amen". This should be a rebuke to the many who are claiming revelations from God above and beyond that which is written.

(2) As "the faithful and true witness." In this respect Christ stands out in sharp contrast to the many false witnesses of our day who teach that man has never fallen, that sin is merely an illusion of the mind, that there is no personal devil, that there is no hell, etc. Christ has declared the truth about these and all the other subjects about which it is essential for us to have a knowledge. Therefore, hear ye Him.

(3) As "the beginning of the creation of God." Does not this statement seem strikingly fitting for this day when the theory of evolution is

so widely taught. Evolution would make Jesus Christ its product. It places Him at the end of creation as the offspring of an ameba, tadpole, fish, monkey, and what not. The Bible places Him at the beginning of creation, as the One by whom all things were created and without whom not anything was made. Col. 1:16; Jno. 1:3.

Not only does Christ stand at the head of the material creation: He is also recognized as the head of the new or spiritual creation; for the Apostle declares, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (new creation, R. V.): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17.

II. Characteristics of the Laodicean Church. Vs. 15-17, 20.

(1) It is a lukewarm church. Vs. 15, 16.

The impression derived from the Lord's statement seems to be that it was not always so, but now it had lost its true love and spiritual fervor. Is not this only too true? Practically all the denominations of Protestantism began with hearts beating warmly for God, and with an intense zeal to do His whole will. But alas, how changed today! Gradually they have cooled—perhaps so gradually that the change has been quite imperceptible. They have not ceased to identify themselves with Christ, but neither have they continued to maintain their separation or to exercise divine power. They are seeking to serve both Christ and the devil. The modern church indulges in the same pleasures and amusements that the world does. What can be more disappointing and disgusting than such a state? The Lord says, "I would you were cold or hot! Accordingly, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, before long I will vomit you out of My mouth." (Wey.)

(2) It is a self-deceived church, V. 17.

(a) Her testimony concerning herself, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." It is quite true that the popular churches of today have a membership representing much temporal wealth, silver and gold; they have magnificent church edifices with all the modern equipments such as kitchens, gymnasiums, dance halls, bowling alleys, pool and card tables, stages, movie equipments, etc.; they have highly educated ministers drawing large salaries; they have a paid choir; everything is thoroughly organized after the world's fashion. Having all these they feel self-sufficient and self-satisfied.

In describing this church, Dr. Seiss says, "There is much religiousness, but very little religion; much sentiment, but very little of life to correspond; much profession, but very little faith; a joining of the ball-room to the communion-table, of the opera with the worship of God, and of the feasting and riot of the world with pretended charity and Christian benevolence. And it is self-satisfied, boastful, and empty. Having come down to the world's tastes, and gained the world's praise and patronage the Laodiceans think they are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing. Such splendid churches, and influential and intelligent congregations, and learned, agreeable preachers! Such admirable worship and music. Such excellently manned and endowed institutions! So many missionaries on the field! So much given for magnificent charities! Such an array in all the attributes of greatness and power! What more can be wanted?"

(b) Christ's testimony concerning Laodicea. "Thou knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked." This is the testimony of the faithful and true Witness. How deceived the Laodiceans are in thinking all is well with themselves. One thing is very evident, namely, that Christ's method or reckoning is quite different from that of the world's. They think themselves rich, and increased with goods, and in need of nothing; Christ says they are wretched and miserable and poor. The late Dr. Jowett once said, "The real measure of our wealth is how much we should be worth if we lost our money. Money is apt to hide or obscure other values. There is a glare about it which throws them to the shade, and it is only as this confusing limelight is removed that the real vital worth is revealed. We speak of a man having died 'worth so much'. That is the banker's measure, but when the banker has finished his reckoning, what is there left? When the banker is gone the real test remains. What is the man worth? The personal property was valued at so much; now for the personality. How much is it worth? 'He left \$100,000'. Yes, but how much did he take with him?" The Lord said, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Satan comes our way, with his tempting offer saying, "All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." His is an offer of things in exchange for the soul. He

would confuse us by luring us into the delusion that things are the supreme worth of life. But earthly treasures are short-lived; they often take wings. The only true and lasting riches are to be found in Christ for whom the Apostle Paul suffered the loss of all things. Did he make a mistake? No; for he could afterward say, "Having nothing, yet possessing all things".

The Laodiceans are "naked" and do not realize it. Commenting on this point, G. W. Davis has well said, "Like Adam and Eve gathering fig leaves and sewing them together to provide clothing for themselves, these modern professors are contending for self-evolution. They claim inherent divinity. They are ignorant of God's holiness and going about to establish their own righteousness, having not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God.

"They cultivate a beautiful exterior, and congratulate themselves on the progress of religion and the race. They are blind even to nature's instructions, for does not nature teach us, that no living thing clothes itself from without? Trees, birds, creatures are all adorned from within."

How sad to be deceived, especially regarding eternal things! Since God's ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts our thoughts, it behooves us to forsake the ideas we may have of ourselves and find out what God says about us. It is far better to have a knowledge of our true condition now than to wake up to the facts at some future time when it may be forever too late.

(3) It is a Christless Church, V. 20. Christ is outside the door knocking for entrance. He may not be shut out by any deliberate action on their part. He may be left outside simply because they feel they have no particular need of Him; or, it may be because they are so pre-occupied with other things that there is no room left for Him. Just as was the case when He came as a babe to Bethlehem's manger. He was not shut out of the inn by any hateful motive of the innkeeper, but simply because the rooms had already been occupied. (See also Matt. 13:22.) Surely, if Satan can, he will keep folks so busy with all manners of "things"—some may even be good things—if by these he will be able to crowd Christ out of their lives. According to what one sees he has been quite successful. Think how busy church members are with all kinds of clubs, socials, bazaars, etc., and how little genuine work is being done for the Lord! Christ is crowded out.

III. Christ's Admonition to Laodicea. Vs. 18,19.

(1) "Buy of Me gold tried in the fire." These deluded people are depending entirely upon their own resources not realizing that they will not stand the fires of judgment. He therefore counsels them to buy of Him gold tried in the fire. Gold is a symbol of divinity. If they would but come to Him, He would impart

unto them divine life and also the divine nature. Jno. 5:40; 6:33,51; II Cor. 5:17; II Pet. 1:4; Heb. 12:10.

(2) Buy of Me "white raiments". Garments are frequently used in Scripture to represent righteousness. Isa. 61:10; Rev. 19:8. The white raiment no doubt refers to the righteousness of God imputed to the believer at justification and imparted to him at sanctification. This is intended to cover the shame of their nakedness mentioned in V. 17; cf. Matt. 22:11; Rom. 14:6; II Cor. 5:21.

In the introduction we stated that the Laodiceans dealt in fine black garments. These were of their own making. The garments which Christ offers them are white. White is a symbol of purity. Black is the very opposite of white. Is not this suggestive? See Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:10-20.

(3) "Anoint thine eyes with eyesalve that thou mayest see." The salve recommended by Christ is not that manufactured in Laodicea, but the anointing with the Holy Spirit. Men may have great intellectual qualifications and yet remain totally blind to spiritual things. The world by wisdom has never learned to know God. The Apostle says, "For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so, the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we may know the things that are freely given to us of God. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. I Cor. 2:11, 12, 14. What Christ urges upon them for their spiritual blindness is the acceptance of the Holy Spirit.

(4) "Be zealous and repent." These are words spoken to the few who have not drifted beyond the limits of God's patience. To induce them to repent, He lets the heavy hand of chastening fall upon them and sends to them His word of reproof. Oh, that men would understand the meaning of the sorrows that overtake them and repent while He patiently pleads.

IV. His Promise to the Overcomer. Vs. 20, 21.

(1) Communion with Him, V. 20. This is a promise to the individual overcomer. Christ is outside the door of our hearts, knocking. He desires to enter. The latch is on the inside. We must open to Him and welcome Him in. He will not break down the door in order to get in; but if any man will open the door He will come in and sup with him. What a privilege to entertain such a wonderful Guest! We may be reluctant in opening to Him, for we have nothing to set before Him, but praise God! when He moves in He brings His riches with Him. He will provide the feast. Why not then hasten to open the door and invite Him in?

He wants to sup with us. Supper is the last meal of the day. It is the meal which precedes the coming of

the morning. Unless we sup with Him now in earth's evening or night, we will not be able to breakfast (break-fast) with Him when the day dawns.

(2) To reign with Him, V. 21.

Why should anyone care for the prominent seats among the wealthy high class society folks which make up the Laodicean church when such a position as this is offered? Think of it, to the overcomer will be granted the privilege of sitting with Christ in His throne. At present He is sitting with the Father upon His throne. Soon the Son's throne will be established. Shall we share the glory with Him? "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Christ is now knocking at our door for entrance. It may not be long before men will be knocking at His door when once it is shut, and will have to hear the sad words spoken: "Depart from Me, I know you not. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."—A lesson in Exposition on Revelation, by B. F. Leightner.

YOUR NEED AND MINE

Grace when the sun is shining, Lord,
Grace when the sky is black,
Grace when I get an unkind word,
Grace on the too smooth track.

Grace when I'm elbowed in a nook,
Grace when I get my turn,
Grace when the dinner will not cook,
Grace when the fire won't burn.

Grace when my duties all go wrong,
Grace when they all seem right,
Grace when it's gladness, praise and song,
Grace when I have to fight.

Grace when my dress is fresh and new,
Grace when it's worn and old,
Grace when my purse is empty, too,
Grace when it's full of gold.

Grace when the saved ones don't act saved,
And put the blame on me,
Grace when the grace I've asked and craved
Seems denied, Lord, by Thee.
—Selected.

CONSCIENCE

The word conscience or consciousness occurs in the Scriptures 32 times, and has often been used wrongly. It is necessary to place a scriptural meaning on the words we use, else we get into error, for the scriptures speak of different kinds or moods of conscience.

Webster says: "Conscience is that faculty, power or inward principle which decides as to the character of one's actions, purposes and affections; warring against and condemning that which is wrong, and approving or prompting that which is right." It is also often spoken of as "The voice of God in the human heart." God

placed it there, and it has a wonderfulunction to perform, but to depend on the conscience alone without it being directed by the Word of God would result in error.

Near the Bible Training School is a sun dial. When the sun shines it tells the correct time for it was made to depend on the sun, but at night by means of a lamp or candle or even by the moon it tells all sorts of time and what is right seems wrong and the wrong seems right. So conscience, then, adjusted and directed by the Word of God is alone reliable as a guide.

In I Tim. 1:5 Paul speaks of a good conscience, one that works, (not like a door bell out of order that fools or disappoints folks;) one that arrives at proper conclusions. Little Donny was kneeling at Grandma's knee before being put to bed and prayed, as so many have done:

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray Thee Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake," — and there he stopped. His Grandma prompted him, he started again at the beginning and went so far, and then said, "Wait Grandma." He ran out of the room and returned in a few minutes saying, "Now I'll finish," and he did. As Grandma tucked him in she said, "You didn't think what you were praying, did you?" "Yes, I did," he said. "I had scattered brother's playing things all over the floor and stood his toy animals on their heads and 'If I should die before I wake', I would not want him to find them that way in the morning," and he was right. It was the voice of good conscience that spoke to Joseph's brethren in Gen. 42:21.

Paul in writing to the Corinthians in his second letter 8:10 speaks of a "weak conscience". Some are liable to stumble at the thoughtless actions or mistakes of others because of a weak conscience. Then again in Titus 1:15 we read of a "defiled conscience". Just as some people are of a sunny disposition and see the funny side of everything, so some whose conscience has been defiled think of the vulgar, and immoral, or turn to such, almost any statement made by others, putting a wrong construction on their words, but Paul says, "To the pure all things are pure."

In the book of Hebrews 10:22 we read of another kind of conscience and this is a deeper step into sin and its consequences — an evil conscience. Some people have lived in sin so long and disregarded the voice of God as it comes through Word to their hearts that they will believe a lie, and fool themselves, and lead others astray from the right path, but the words might be applicable here "Be not deceived" or "Don't fool yourself" as someone has translated it.

There is a fifth kind of conscience that we should consider — a seared

conscience I Tim. 4:2, which means to burn or brand as with a hot iron, sin having its marks burned in, being ever conscious of guilt as a branded slave or criminal, dead to the impressions from God, with a lost sense of feeling. Just as the alarm clock's warning, if passed by without heeding, will finally fail to make any impression on the sleeper, so God, cannot even speak to that sinner by conscience but must seek other means to arouse him.

There is just one more kind of conscience we can look at now. In Acts 24:16 Paul in making his defense, says he seeks to have a "Conscience void of offense". This should be the true Christian's conscience, that as nearly as he understands God's Word he lives void of offense toward God or man. John in his epistles, meaning the same thing, uses the word "heart", and says (I John 3: 20,21) "Beloved if our hearts condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." So God has given man a conscience and it is so delicately constructed that it will respond perfectly to His light and truth. When then, in this light it registers what is right or wrong, it does so with perfect accuracy. "If therefore the light that is within thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." (Matt. 6:23).

Shall we then seek to always, by His grace, have a conscience that is sensitive and responsive to the word of God and the light it throws on our daily path?

W. H. L.

PROV. 6:20-23

"My son, keep thy father's commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother. Bind them continually upon thine heart and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest it shall lead thee, when thou sleepest it shall keep thee, and when thou wakest it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp and the law is light and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."

This is the exhortation of the wise man Solomon to the young. He realized the need of the Word of God in the heart and life of the young people.

"Bind them continually upon thine heart." How beautifully it accords with the words of the Psalmist when he says, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." Psa. 119:11. And again with Paul of the New Testament when we read, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Col. 3:16.

Why all this exhortation to a knowledge and understanding of the Word? Paul says "it is the power of God unto salvation." Rom. 3:16. The Psalmist says, "That I might not sin." Solomon says, "When thou goest it shall lead thee and when thou sleepest it shall keep thee." Again Paul says it will comfort us, (I Thess. 4: 18) and also be our sword or weapon of warfare. Eph. 6:17. Surely this

is reason enough for us to want to store our hearts and minds full of His precious truths.

"When thou goest it shall lead thee." We are all going somewhere. Time is carrying us onward. We are all going, going many of us without a leader or guide. When we are young our habits are forming. Our likes and dislikes are strong. We are choosing our friends who will influence our whole lives. Later we are forming business or family relations or choosing a life profession which will either make or mar our whole life and perhaps even settle our destiny. Why not take the guide which is offered so freely to us? Take it in the very early years of our life, that all those important steps may be taken according to its wise and unflinching counsel. That we may through a long and well ordered life continually hear the voice behind us saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isa. 30:21. "When thou goest it shall lead thee."

And then at the close of day when we lay aside our tasks and seek our rest, who shall protect us from the evil about? Whose eye shall see when sin is let loose under the cover of darkness? "And when thou sleepest it shall keep thee." How precious to seek our rest with our hearts filled and fortified with such promises as these: "He that keepeth thee will not slumber" (Psa. 121:3) and, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him" (II Chron. 16:9), again, "The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are His everlasting arms." Deut. 35:21. "When thou sleepest it shall keep thee."

And then when we arise in the morning, of whom should we seek counsel? Who will warn us against pitfalls and dangers? Who will encourage and cheer us as we step forth into a new untried and unsoiled day? "And when thou awakest it shall talk with thee." God Himself speaks through His Word, God the Omniscient will give us counsel. What a privilege to be in communication with the God of the universe, the Creator of heaven and earth by simply reading and meditating upon His holy Word. "When thou awakest it shall talk with thee."

As young people we have our whole lives before us and yet as to the future we are in total darkness. Solomon says, "The commandment is a lamp and the law is a light." The Psalmist says, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway." Psa. 119:105. Shall we step forth into uncertainty and doubt? or shall we light the lamp which sends forth such powerful illumination by storing our hearts and minds with His precious Word. How can we fail when it affords to our very needy souls such a limitless source of comfort, help and protection? It is indeed a searchlight and searches out the deepest recesses of our hearts and lives, showing unto us the imper-

ished condition of our soul and our great need of God, His will and the path before us.

"My son, keep thy father's commandments and forsake not the law of thy mother. Bind them continually upon thine heart and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest it shall lead thee, when thou sleepest it shall keep thee and when thou wakest it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp and the law is a light and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."

Bertha Canfield.

LETTERS

Hunan Bible Institute
Changsha, Hunan, China.
Oct. 15, 1924.

Dear Fellowship Circle Friends:

I picked up my Pekin Daily this noon and here is what I read: "Desperate three-day battle north of the capital. A grim tale of horrors of modern warfare as practiced by the latest engines of destruction. The carnage is awful. It is not a battlefield, it is a slaughter house. Rumors that poison gas will be used on both sides." Thus China has learned all the wickedness of self destruction, brought to them from western lands. When we think of the leaps and bounds of western civilization, as over against the slow progress of the gospel, it surely makes us think as to whether Christianity has the dominant influence in our western country that we love to think it has.

Now, over against this, I want to tell you that during the month of September, the Hunan Bible Institute (which is the China department of the Los Angeles Bible Institute) held a wonderful Bible conference at the foot of one of the 5 sacred mountains in China, Nanyoh. There was a total attendance of nearly 400 men, students of our Institute, evangelists and workers, and delegates from various missions in Hunan. Our program in general was as follows: in the morning on the sound of the bugle the Quiet Hour commenced. Breakfast was followed by morning prayers conducted by one of the prominent delegates. The remainder of the morning was divided into three lecture periods, which were led by prominent Chinese and missionaries. This year we had Dr. John MacInnis from Los Angeles with us. It fell to my happy lot to interpret for him. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Porteous, members of the China Inland Mission, gave some excellent devotional and practical talks in connection with evangelism.

The afternoons were devoted to personal work among the thousands of pilgrims who at that time of the year, are making their annual pilgrimage. At the foot of this high mountain, is a very large and beautiful temple. Through the temple courtyard group after group of 10 to 20 march along in single file, burning incense sticks in one hand and holding paper money to be burned in the other hand. Tramp-Tramp-Tramp, went

their weary feet, together with the weird chant calling upon the sacred mount to bestow them a blessing. While going up the hillside, one day, I turned back and looked over the little town that lay at the foot and saw the incense slowly ascending to heaven, and the multitudes bowing here and there to this and that shrine, I felt something of the heart of the Master as He stood on the mountain side, overlooking Jerusalem, and realizing somewhat of His Words, "They would not".

Our students never approach the pilgrims as they go up to fulfill their sacred vow, but meet them as they return. Just a word here and a tract handed there, and who can tell how much is being accomplished by these personal touches. The Word of God is faithfully distributed and He has promised that it shall not return void. Here is the fulfillment. One evening during the conference session, a man got up to give his testimony. He told us that three years ago, he came to Nanyoh on his tenth annual pilgrimage. That year he was given a little tract which he read, and later on, returning home, sought out a gospel hall to find more about the Good News. This year he returned to Nanyoh for three purposes. First, to have a look at the old place where in his heathen blindness, he used to come seeking peace. Second, that he might give testimony to the Saving Grace of God, and if possible, win some other souls for the Master. Third, that he might attend the conference in order to get a little more spiritual food, that on his return to his home church, he might impart it to them. Think of it. Three years ago, without God and without hope in the world, today, an elder in the church of God. This is not an isolated case, but in various ways could be duplicated had we time to write.

Just a word, that is Prayer. We have 150 students in the school this year and our work in particular is teaching the Old and New Testament. We are anxious that God's Spirit will reveal Himself through the covenants that these students' lives might be moulded and fashioned like unto Him.

Ever yours,

In His happy service,

Chas. A. Roberts.

Extracts From a Letter Written By Edna Amstutz, Aba, Sudan Africa.

Sept. 18.

Greetings. A happy thanksgiving. Certainly I have lots and lots to be thankful for, you could not begin to have so many blessings to count. First, for good health. For all spiritual blessings in Christ my Lord. For all needs supplied in Him. For a lot of work to keep me out of mischief. For good boys here at hospital who are trying to make my work as light as they know how. For a good little cook who tries to feed me properly. For a good house boy who sees what I want before I make the want known. For good fellow workers

who have love and patience with my many mistakes. For fresh air and sunshine a plenty. For fresh spring water that does not have to be boiled. For a bike that takes me quickly to the place I am bound for daily. For an Edison that gives me music when I have finished my day's work and I am most too tired to care. For friends who don't forget to pray and write. And for the ones who are always being faithful in hearing God's voice and sending the needed money and supplies. And for the lot of friends who remember and pray although they don't find time to pray. And I could keep on until I would fill a book if only I had the time. No need to say I am happy for if I were not after all these blessings, I should be punished. What say you?

Seine, France.

I so often think of all you dear ones and wish I had time to write to each one personally, but just don't find the time. This week a large box came from Chicago, addressed to me and what do you think it contained but a hectograph. It had no name enclosed and I had not the least idea who might have sent it. Whoever was so kind, I surely thank them and I really think they should tell me so that I might thank them personally.

God has been so precious and real to me these days in Paris, when it seems every one around is running after the things of the world which never can satisfy. Dear old Dr. Dixon has been holding a convention here this week. Dr. Saillens translates for him. I can understand a French sermon quite well now but it does seem so good to hear a sermon in one's own language.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble" has come to me with such new meaning as Dr. Dixon told of some of his wonderful experiences during the recent war. Mrs. Dixon, formerly Mrs. Charles Alexander, has also brought us some very good messages.

We have a fine crowd of dear French students here at the school this year. They are so bright and consecrated. The Americans are having quite an influence over them in leading them out into the deeper life and the liberty that is in Christ Jesus. Just a year ago they would have been afraid to give a tract away on the street for fear the people would not like it; now they are anxious to give them out even though they are scoffed at. This week a crowd of about forty would ride on the same car going to and from the Dixon meetings and we sang gospel songs all the way. It seems almost like being with a Bible school crowd at home. Pray for these dear French young people as it is not easy to live a Christian life in a Catholic country.

We are quite a party of Americans here and we are praying that God will make our lives count for Him while we are here. At present there are ten Alliance missionaries, two under the mid-African board and three

under the Mennonite board, but boards don't make any difference to us, we are all one in Christ.

At present I am rooming with a French girl whose parents are missionaries in Madagascar. The trees and gardens are still very beautiful as we have not yet had a frost. It seems more like spring than fall.

It is lots of fun to listen to the new crowd who has just arrived. They are always making some sort of break. The second day one of the men was here he went to the store and bought some rolls. The woman told him the price several times but he could not understand so he pulled a hand full of change from his pocket and told her to help herself. In America we often say "I'm full" when we mean we have had enough to eat. One of the new girls translated that literally into French. One of the French girls was horrified for she had said, "I'm drunk".

One of the girls sitting at the table with me is writing to a friend of hers and telling her she hasn't seen a piece of pie or a bath tub since she is in France. The French just can't understand why we should want to take a bath at least once a week. To them it is a luxury which only the rich enjoy.

As a whole I am enjoying my stay in France very much and feel it was all in the Lord's plan, but I am longing for the day when I shall reach dark Africa.

Mr. Snead who is in Africa now expects to visit here in December, and we are looking forward with joy to seeing him. Nora, the girl who sailed with me, and I are hoping to sail soon after that.

God has wonderfully kept me in body and I weigh more than I did when I left home. Nora and I lived with a peasant family in a mountain village all summer. We had many opportunities for testimony. We both spoke to the young people several times through an interpreter. The young people were so interested in us and helped us so much in our language. We asked them to correct us every time we made a mistake and it kept them quite busy.

Quite a number of them were saved and definitely consecrated their lives to the Lord during the summer.

Now I must close, thank you all for your faithfulness in prayer. Don't forget that you can go farther and faster, and carry a heavier load on your knees than any other way.

Yours looking for the Uppertaker,
Clara Klint.

FELLOWSHIP WITH FORMER STUDENTS

We had the pleasure recently, when on a trip through the middle west, of meeting a number of students of former years. In the heart of each one we found a warm spot for the "dear old B. T. S."

Rev. A. A. Schmidt, of Elbing Kansas is the pastor of the Missionary Church at Elbing, where they had a

blessed revival in November. Mr. Schmidt was at the school in 1906 and 1907. His wife who was Miss Amelia Kliever, was here in 1904 and 1905. They have a nice little family of children, five girls and one boy. We met Miss Margaret Epp who is now Mrs. Cornelius Regier. She was here in school in 1916.

Rev. Henry Schmidt also lives in Elbing. He is at present not engaged in active service for the Lord. He was here in school in 1915.

We next went to Hillsboro, Kansas where we met Miss Mary Funk. She is at home with her aged parents, who much need her services at present. Miss Funk is a member of the class of 1914.

We spent one night with Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schleighting, also of Hillsboro. Mrs. Schleighting was Miss Martha Harmes and was in school in 1914. Her husband is one of the teachers at Tabor college in Hillsboro.

We also visited the girl's dormitory at Tabor college. This building was erected by Miss Mary Regier, who is the matron. It is a nice, well built building with all the modern conveniences and Miss Regier and her girls are a happy family. Miss Regier was in school at the Bible Training School in 1906 and 1907. We wish her God's speed in her work. She is a member of the faculty at Tabor. In the meeting the night we were at Hillsboro we met Mr. and Mrs. Baltzer, the parents of Miss Susie Baltzer. From what we hear from China the wedding bells will be ringing soon if they have not already pealed forth. Miss Baltzer is

From Hillsboro we went to Moundridge where we visited Mr. and Mrs. John Regier, parents of Miss Anna Regier who graduated from B. T. S. in 1911. The parents are at home alone. All the children have gone to make homes for themselves. The dear father is totally blind, but it is a blessing to be around him as there is so much sunshine in his life.

We visited the mother of Miss Mary Lorenz just before leaving Moundridge but did not see Miss Lorenz as she is at Newton, Kansas, at present engaged in hospital work. Miss Lorenz has been nursing for a number of years, having gone into training soon after she left school in 1911. Miss Lorenz belongs to the class of 1911.

After leaving Moundridge we went to Buhler, Kansas. We were glad to see Mr. Jacob Friesen. Mr. Friesen was in school last year and hopes to be back again some time when the way opens so he can return.

We went to Sterling, Kansas next where we met Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Honderich. Mr. Honderich belongs to the class of 1924. He and his wife with his mother, Mrs. M. R. Honderich, were engaged in evangelistic meetings the past summer in Michigan and had the joy of seeing many souls come to Jesus for pardon and heads of families encouraged to live

closer to God and thus be more of a help to their children. On election day a little daughter came to bless their home. Mr. and Mrs. Honderich expect to return to Michigan in the early part of the New Year.

We also met Miss Clara Miller at Sterling. She was then ministering at her father's bed side and since we saw her, her father has passed away. He was glad to go for he was ready. Miss Miller is a graduate nurse, having gone into training soon after leaving school in 1917 (as best we remember). Her ministry as nurse has been a blessing to many she has met within the hospital walls. She appreciated the privilege of being with her father in his last days. We also met Mr and Mrs. Edward Seitz of the class of 1922. Mrs. Seitz was Miss Mildred Barndollar of Loraine, Ohio. Miss Lizzie Wagler, who is now Mrs. Gottfried Krauter, has three children, a boy and two girls. We had the pleasure of seeing the little family in the church on Sunday morning. We visited Mrs. John Norquist with her three children, two boys and a girl. She is the widow of John Norquist who was called home a few years ago. He was a student here in 1904 and 1905. Also saw Mr. and Mrs. Chris Fliginher who were here a short while when the school was in its infancy. Mr. Fliginher has charge of the church in the country near Sterling.

From Sterling we went to Bucklin, Kansas, where we saw Rev. Aaron Schweitzer who was in school in 1914. He is now pastor of the Liberty church near Bucklin. They are holding revival services at present conducted by Rev. E. F. Clauser. Mr. Herbert Haller of the class of 1924 is a member of the church at Liberty Chapel and is at home helping on the farm at present. We praise God for his faithful testimony among the many young people he comes in contact with. We had with us at Bucklin, Rev. G. P. Kliever of the class of 1918. He with his little family consisting of wife and two little boys will, the Lord willing, sail for India soon after the New Year.

We next went to Mineola, Kansas, where we met several of the former students, Rev. Wm. Schleighting who was here for a short while in 1914, and who has charge of the German church near Mineola, also Rev. Joseph Schwitzer, who was here in 1906 and 1907 as near as we can recall. He has charge of the Concord church out from Dodge City. We saw Mr. Ezra Zimmerman who was here in 1922. He hopes to be back in school again as soon as the way opens. Mr. Peter Kroeger who was here in 1916 and 1917 has recently taken unto himself a wife and we had the pleasure of meeting her. All that is mortal of dear Albert Oyer lies out in the grave yard just beside the Concord church. Albert belonged to the class of 1917. We saw Mr. Ezra Rupp and family at Dodge City. Mr Rupp has charge of a choir in a Methodist church in Dodge City and other classes in schools besides. They have a nice

sunny home on the slope of a hill, very inviting indeed.

In Nebraska we met Rev. Chris Egle and family. He has charge of the Missionary church at Eden, near Palisade. Mr. Egle was in school in 1907. His wife nee Miss Delphine Scheidegger was here the first year of school in 1905. They have four children, three girls and one boy. Mr. Elmer Schwank who was here in 1921 hopes to come to school next year and bring his brother Victor, the Lord willing. The Schwank boys have a happy little brother named Olan who is a real Sunshine Maker. We met Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gautschy. Mr. Gautschy has charge of the Pleasant Valley Sunday school. Mrs. Gautschy was Miss Katie Scheidegger. She is the mother of two dear children, Pauline and Harland, the latter being named for dear Dr. Welton.

We were in the home of Mrs. Walter Sander. Now you wonder who that is! It is none other than dear Edna Potter of the class of 1918, and the fond mother of two children. They live near Palisade, Nebraska.

We were in the home of Rev. J. J. Christner, pastor of the Methodist church at Palisade. Mr. Christner was here in 1905 and 1906. At that time he could walk from his home on Indiana Avenue, cutting across lots till he reached the campus of the school and never see a side walk, now the entire space is built up with comfortable homes, paved streets and side walks all the way. The little home he lived in is unchanged by time still looking as though the dear Christner family ought to walk out the front door and wend their way to the school building on Sunday morning just as they used to, only they would not find the church worshipping in the school chapel now, but in a beautiful church across the way.

At Denver, Colorado, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Joseph Egle and his wife and little daughter, Nola. Mr. Egle lives at Littleton, Colorado, and has charge of a Sunday school in a Presbyterian church there. Mr. Egle was here in 1907.

At Henderson, Nebraska, we met Mr. and Mrs. Peter Unruh. They were here in 1907. Mrs. Unruh was here as Miss Mary Wall. They have one child, a girl, having lost a dear little boy some years ago. At Milford, Nebraska, we met Joseph Burkey. He is not enjoying victory at present and we must pray for him. He wants our prayers, so do take him on your heart as you read these lines. He is so capable and if he would only give God a chance he would be made a blessing to many. From Milford we went to Omaha to visit the Wanner sisters, Barbara and Martha. They have charge of the South Omaha Mission on "N" street. They are doing well and we had a blessed meeting with them and some of their people. Barbara belongs to the class of 1917 and Martha to the class of 1919.

For Friday of this week we are expecting Miss Edith Beyerle to visit the school for over the week end. Miss

Beyerle is of the 1911 class and has just returned from China on her first furlough. She is just recovering from a nervous breakdown and hopes to return to the field just as soon as the way opens.

While in Illinois we were in the home of Mr. Carl Norquist. Mr. Norquist has a nice little family of three girls and one boy. He was in school in 1905 and 1906. He has served as Superintendent of the Sunday school at Groveland and is an active member of the church there. We were with Mr. and Mrs. Menno Amstutz in Peoria. Mr. Amstutz is pastor of the Peoria church. He belongs to the class of 1914 and Mrs. Amstutz nee Miss Rilla Klopfenstein, was in school in 1905, 1906 and 1907. We also saw Miss Esther Wagler of the class of 1924 and Miss Nora Anderson who was here in 1920 and Miss Esther Anderson of the class of 1921.

Mr. William Smith, of Grand Rapids made a visit recently to the school. Mr. Smith was here in 1907 and 1908. We were glad to see him again.

Mrs. J. E. R.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

We lift our hearts in praise to God for the signal deliverance of Miss Ina Birkey '23, now in China. The last report at hand was dated December 22, 1924, in which the welcome news came that she was convalescing and was expecting to leave the hospital on the following day. She was stricken with "malignant malaria" and on two occasions was at the point of death. On Thursday and Saturday of one week she had suffered two such severe attacks of the fever that her pulse could not be felt. She rallied from these, however, but fear was entertained for the third attack, which according to the cycle of tertian malaria, was expected on the Monday following. Requests for prayer were sent to missionaries and friends for her deliverance, and God, in a remarkable way, answered the prayers of His saints by raising up our sister that she might continue the noble work of bringing lost souls to Christ.

The Fellowship Circle will be glad to know that its farthest lines will be strengthened by the addition of two new missionaries, namely, Rev. and Mrs. Gerhard Kliever. They left for New York on January 8, and sailed on the thirtieth of the same month. We rejoice with them in seeing their hopes realized, and pray that they may bear many precious sheaves from India's whitened harvest fields to the waiting arms of the Master.

If "nine people out of ten" are in trouble, then the world itself is in trouble, and one of its most serious troubles is **prayerlessness**—it is out of touch with God, the source of all beneficent power. "Give me **ten, fully consecrated, praying men, and I will turn the world upside down,**" said D. L. Moody.

GOSPEL TEAMS AT THE B. T. S.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to God that this report is being written. We acknowledge to Him all the glory and honor. And to the end that He be honored and that the members of the Fellowship Circle may be enabled to pray more intelligently do we comply with the wishes of the secretary in submitting this report.

It does not seem to be clear to every one as to the nature of the Gospel Team work. It is, first of all, one particular phase of the Practical Work Department. The students go out with the primary aim of winning souls for Christ. They do not go out to advertise the school, directly. Nothing is said about the policies and the curriculum of the B. T. S., unless the entertaining church requests it. With this definite evangelical objective the Lord has been using the students in the salvation of souls.

Sometimes the students merely assist in a service in the singing of songs, personal work and in testimony; again they take charge of an entire service or a series of services. They have been in churches of eleven different denominations to testify to the saving and sanctifying power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Nearly all of these services have been held at points outside of Fort Wayne within a radius of eighty miles.

According to the detailed report teams have held or taken part of 65 services. Twenty-eight addresses have been given, and two hundred thirty-six special songs have been rendered. Furthermore, the records show that the work has sustained itself financially. No remuneration has been asked, but where the entertaining churches have desired to help in this manner, we have suggested a free-will offering for the defrayal of traveling expenses.

The signal blessing of God has attended this work. In a number of meetings conducted entirely by the students genuine Holy Ghost conviction gripped the hearers and souls were saved. Brethren Browett, Stockman, Parlee, Meier, and Schlink witnessed for the Lord in a Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church at Elkhart one Sunday in December, and in the evening service nine were saved or reclaimed. In another meeting held in the city of Fort Wayne the same number were at the altar for a definite experience.

This unique form of service has not only been a blessing to others, but it has also afforded reflex blessings for the students. It has provided a change of environment and a means of disseminating what has been gathered in the class room. It has given them unusual opportunities to lift up Christ and testify to their own experiences. In short, it has afforded them opportunities to put into practise what they learn by giving them battles to fight and souls to win. Of course, not all are enabled to go, but we believe

that one of the main secrets of the success attending these labors is to be found within the walls of the B. T. S., where students hold up faithfully to the throne of grace the ones who are at the forefront. Will you not join us in praying for this work? Dec 19, 1924.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION BAND

Perhaps the members of the "Fellowship Circle" are anxious to learn of the activities of the Mission Band during this school year.

The motto for the first term was "The love of Christ constraineth us." A goal of \$225.00 was set for the term and there were a few who said we could never reach it, but "Thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph", we not only reached the goal but went "Over the Top".

The committee for last term secured some excellent speakers. Among these were Rev. Stephenson, missionary from S. Africa; Miss Cobb, of the Ebenezer Mission, China; R. B. Clark, missionary from S. America, (stereopticon lecture); Rev. James Diehl, Akron, Ohio, missionary from China; Rev. and Mrs. D. C. Rupp, missionaries from Africa; Samuel Polovina, converted Austrian, well known as Methodist Sam; Miss Amelie Bertsche, missionary from Africa, (stereopticon lecture); Mrs. Ruby Stull, outgoing missionary to South America, and Rev. P. L. Eicher, missionary from India, (stereopticon lecture).

Each of these speakers gave messages that were very helpful and inspiring and we feel that eternity alone will tell of the good that has been accomplished during the past term.

The new officers chosen for this term are as follows: Pres., Harold Browett; Vice-Pres., Martha Kliever; Sec., Margaret Baker; Treas., O. W. Stockman; Pianist, Ada Beckhart; Chorister, Oliver Steiner; Curators, Joseph Klopfenstein and Mary Clauser.

The motto is "That in All Things He might have the pre-eminence", and the goal has been set at \$250.00.

At the present writing we have had but two meetings this term. The speakers were Rev. I. P. Moore, Elkhart, Ind., evangelist, and Rev. Howard Paschal, pastor of Nazarene Church of Fort Wayne.

On the whole, the Mission Band meetings have been very good and well attended. We are pleased to have so many come in from the outside. Some of the students who attend the night classes have been bringing some of their friends with them and we believe the Lord is speaking to a number of unsaved people through the Mission Band services.

Will you not continue to pray for the services and also for the committee that they may secure just the right speakers?

Margaret M. Baker,
Sec. Student's Mission Band.

B. T. S. BRIEFS

The second term of the school year 1924-25 opened on January 25th. The final day of examinations was Tuesday, January 20. Most of the students were grateful for the breathing spell of one day between terms, the forenoon of which was devoted to a season of prayer in the chapel.

About twelve new students enrolled for the second semester; this brings the total enrollment for the year to 111, not including seventeen who have enrolled for a one hour per week class. The "family" has so increased in numbers that the present equipment is becoming rapidly inadequate. There is a special need for more dormitory and class room space. It certainly is not too early to begin praying for this need, that the equipment may keep pace with the other growths of the institution.

One of the newly enrolled students is Mr. She Doh Tung, the second Chinese student to join our number. Brother Tung has no difficulty with the English language, having studied it in China and in America. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois.

The class in Missions is now studying the text-book "The Progress of World Wide Missions," by Dr. R. H. Glover, D.D. This book was to have been used last year, but delayed publication precluded its use. The book is now on sale at the book room, and may be secured by any former students who may desire it.

Mr. Elsworth Bethel, the colored brother who has been in our midst for the past two years, left in January to engage in active Christian service. Without question there has been no single individual of the past few years who has left as deep and lasting imprint upon the student body as our dear Brother Bethel. His steady consistent Christian life, his powerful gripping testimony, and his courteous and Christ-becoming behaviour will ever be remembered by those who have had the pleasure of knowing Brother Bethel. As a token of remembrance from the students he was presented with a loose-leaf note book and a Biblical concordance. We are confident that his exemplary life will be used to bless many others.

Dr. Cottingham, missionary to the Philippine Islands with Mrs. Cottingham visited the School in January. Dr. Cottingham in addressing the school was wonderfully used by the Spirit to bring to our hearts the great spiritual needs of the Orient.

Miss Edith Beyerle of Kansu Province, China, spent several days at the School in December. In one address she gave an account of some of the providential deliverances she experienced in Western China. Miss Beyerle is now in Columbus, Ohio.

Among recent visitors at the School were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Seitz of Sterling, Kansas, both graduates of the class of 1922. They spent a number of weeks at Elyria, Ohio at the home of Mrs. Seitz's parents, and on their return to Kansas stopped at the School for a few days.

It was in the first term of the present school year that a stranger paid the School a visit,—a total stranger to the student body and seemingly so to the whole B. T. S. family. However, occasional references to the past revealed his being acquainted with two of the workers whom even he had failed to recognize. He informed us that he had attended the School in 1907, and had not visited the School since that time. He again walked through the halls of the B. T. S.; once again looked upon some sacred scenes, stopped and mused as undoubtedly memories crowded fast upon him. It was not difficult to imagine the recollections that would come to one's mind on such an occasion as that.

He remained for the evening meal and mingled his prayer and testimony with those of the students of a younger generation. His rare appreciation for the School viewed from a perspective of eighteen years was blessed to all with whom he conversed. We were made to know if not to realize fully our privileges at the B. T. S. The name of our visitor was William J. Smith, and he lives near Grand Rapids, Michigan. His visit was a blessing to us, and we trust that in turn he was blessed in once again coming to the B. T. S.

A new course in the B. T. S. curriculum is that of Public Speaking. The course is designed especially as a senior elective. It takes up the mechanical elements of speech construction and delivery, but more attention is given to the practical phase of public speaking. The students are frequently required to speak in the class room under the supervision of the instructor who offers helpful criticisms. Two hours per week for one semester is given to the subject, which is being taught by Miss Lillian Zeller.

Our President, Rev. J. E. Ramseyer and Mrs. Ramseyer have been absent from the School for some weeks. They have been engaged in an extended tour in the South.

WHY HAVE I NOT RECEIVED MY BULLETIN?

Is the question that has been coming to me from every side. I will answer your question by asking you one.

Why do we neglect the treasury of the Circle?

I feel that it is just neglect. We read the Bulletin and say we must send in our allowance and then get busy and forget.

Our treasury is very low. There are not sufficient funds to send the paper so have been waiting.

Let's each one do our part whether small or great and then I am sure we will not need to remind you again. It is really an unpleasant thing for us to do.

We want to thank you for the contributions we have received for the Gospel Truck. We have quite a nice little sum on hand for same. But have not the required amount yet to buy the truck.

Bro. Chris. Gerig, Treas., of Pettisville, Ohio, will be very happy to receive any money for the treasury of circle or the Gospel Truck fund that the Lord would have you send.

Dersie Quince, Corr. Sec.

PRAYER RADIO

We are living in a swift and wonderful working age. One discovery follows another in such quick succession, and with ever-increasing revelations of the mysteries that surround us, that one is scarcely surprised at anything that is demonstrated by undeniable facts. Recently a message was sent by radio 12,000 miles in five minutes, which is said to establish a new record. A message was sent from Hartford, Connecticut, to Captain Donald B. MacMillan's schooner Bowdoin, then frozen in off Greenland. It was relayed via Catalina Island, California, to the vessel and an answer received soon afterward, the whole operation taking only 5 minutes, 16 seconds. A previous message was sent and its answer received in 6 minutes, 8 seconds. This is also the first time that any station in the East has heard direct from the Bowdoin, as interference in New England has made it almost impossible for the ship to establish communication with this part of the country. This is quick transmission, but communication with our Advocate in the heavens is infinitely more wonderful. "Before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isa. 65:24). And we may have direct communication—no "interference"—with the throne of grace as we plead the blood of the Lamb.

"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity in any church. If we want to see mighty wonders of Divine grace and power wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let the whole church answer God's standing challenge: 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.'" Jer. 33:3. Why not give GOD a chance?

The explanation of Psalm 40:11 by that sunny, happy-hearted Christian known as Aunt Sophia may not be far out of the way. "Let Thy loving kindness and Thy truth continually preserve me." Aunt Sophia said, "Dat just like de deah Lawd. He puts His trusting children right in de big saucepan of His lub, and He sweetens dem wid de sweetness ob His grace, so dey nebber get sour. And when you see one who is cross and fretful and gloomy, bress you, honies, day's not preserved; dey's only pickled!"

ARRIVALS

Rev. and Mrs. B. F. Leightner are the happy parents of Robert Mere-

dith Leightner, born November 23rd.

Mr. Silvan Honderich and Mrs. Honderich, nee Edna Engbrecht, are the proud parents of a baby girl, according to reports from Sterling, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wiederkehr of Branning Avenue, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, announce the birth of Gereth Lee, January 11th.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Leightner of Pandora, Ohio, welcomed a little daughter, Amy Lucile, into their home on Jan. 24th.

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Roth of China, are the happy parents of a baby girl, Margaret Ruth, since Nov. 20.

S. A. Witmer.

Jesus.

C. A. G.

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C. A. Gerber.

1. The sto-ry of Je-sus our Sav-iour, The One whom we love and a-dore,
2. We sat at His feet and we worshiped, He spoke to our hearts words of cheer; . . .
3. O Je-sus, our Lord and our Saviour, Our all on the al-tar we lay;
1. and a-dore,

Of Him un-to oth-ers we're tell-ing, His prais-es we'll sing ev-er-more;
And now un-to oth-ers we're tell-ing The sto-ry to our hearts so dear;
Oh, use us, dear Lord, as Thou pleasest, We'll glad-ly Thy mes-sage con-vey;

Of Him un-to oth-ers we're tell-ing, His prais-es we'll sing ev-er-more.
And now un-to oth-ers we're tell-ing The sto-ry to our hearts so dear.
Oh, use us, dear Lord, as Thou pleasest, We'll glad-ly Thy mes-sage con-vey.

CHORUS.
Je-sus is our theme and song, Je-sus on-ly, all day long;

Rit. Sound His prais-es ev-'ry-where, Christ the Lamb for sin-ners slain.

MARRIED

Peter D Kiehn and Susie Anna Baltzer, Nov. 27, 1924 at Shanhsien Shantung, China.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please place X after the name you wish to vote for and send slip to Cor. Sec., Dersie Quince, 2521 Broadway, Fort Wayne, Ind.

President

William Hygema
F. P. Chant
Weldon Klopfenstein

Corresponding Secretary

Edith Squires
Lillian Roth
Esther Wagler.