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The Fellowship Circle Bulletin

OF THE FORT WAYNE BIBLE INSTITUTE

"Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with the Son Jesus."

VOL. XIV.

BERNE, IND., AND FORT WAYNE, IND., OCTOBER, 1957.

NO. 3

"Thirty-fold Sixty-fold An Hundred-fold"

Joseph H. Smith

How are we to account for the differences among well saved people? Differences, not only in their ministries, or service and in the productions or results thereof: but differences, too, in the measures and richness—of the fruitage of the Spirit in their own character and lives. That which makes us speak of this one as being so "very spiritual", or as more spiritual than another, with no intimation whatever of any thing carnal or inconsistent in the life or spirit of the other?

It can not be in the seed or in the soil: for these are *the same* in the '30', '60' and '100' fold bearers. The soil has been rid of its thorns, and the seed is the good Word of God—the whole wheat of the Kingdom. Nor can it be due altogether to time or age: for some are no nearer 100 per cent in their maturity of years than others who are but recently from their Pentecostal chamber. Nor can we explain it by circumstances or by temperament or educational advantages: for richest and most rugged saints have arisen amidst conditions as unfavorable as the isle of Patmos: temperaments as varied as those of Peter and Andrew have been known to appear equally in the beauty of Jesus: and at least two of the apostles who, like their Lord himself, had not "learned" at any of the schools, developed like courage, and zeal, and love and faith to that of the brilliant and more scholarly Paul.

Now if neither time, nor circumstances, nor temperament, nor learning, can account for the varying measures of fruitfulness among good grounded hearers of the gospel, we shall have to search for *spiritual explanations*, if perchance some of us may be advanced—if not to 100 fold at least to 60 fold bearers in the fruitage of the Kingdom. Possibly, one word spoken by the adversaries of Peter and John may account for it somewhat: "*They had been with Jesus.*" And particularly if we may insert the word "*much.*" For all we will find as explanatory of increased and enriched fruitfulness can be traced to this: "*They had been much*

with Jesus."

And taking our suggestions from Horticulture we will say: (1) It takes much "*digging about*" to insure and increase one's fruitfulness in grace. That is the digging about of *Prayer*. Important, prevailing and intercessory prayer. Our Lord himself would follow days of toil with nights of supplication. The apostle Paul depended much upon the other's prayers as well as his own, for his safety and success. And besides, "*praying without ceasing,*" he seems to have



had stated seasons of night and day prayer for the things of the Kingdom of God that were committed to his trust. Jesus tells that certain degrees of faith needed for the casting out of devils go not out but by prayer and fasting. All the saints we have ever known that have shined softly and sweetly and steadily in the purity and patience and the peace of Christ have been men and women of much prayer.

(2) It takes much *fertilizing* to secure the production we desired. And this enricher is in the *sacrifice* of ourselves. There is a lawful selfishness to be denied after the carnal selfishness has been crucified. Having taken up the cross to the destruction of the body of sin, there is a daily *self-denial* we may make to the blessings of others and the likeness of Christ in our own lives. As in other matters, Paul (our pattern) sets us example in this. Having counted himself loss for Christ: he now continued to count every-

thing—even life itself—subject to loss for the excellency of the Knowledge of Christ both in himself and in others. And this daily foregoing of his own pleasures and profits, and peace and prospects he counted but "*refused*" (or fertilizer). Now it is this feeding of the roots of faith and of love and of hope with that which we have "*refused*" of our self's pleasures, possessions or possibilities that fruitifies one's character and life in the beauty and blessedness of the Savior.

And (3) there is need of *frequent irrigation*. "*Times of refreshing must come from the presence of the Lord.*" In the beginning of his Christian life the writer's class leader would exhort us to tarry before the Lord at least once a day long enough to be softened and mellowed and sweetened by fresh droppings of the sanctuary upon our own spirit. Besides these dews there are showers, and some times "*flood*" tide blessings of the Spirit, by which the soul itself is advanced manifold in the light and in the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Thus "*beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord we are changed into the same image, from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*"

Those who feel their spiritual inferiority among those who are *better samples* of the sanctifying grace of God, need not despair so long as there are no "*works of the flesh*" to disprove their claim of full salvation. And those of us who as ministers of the more experienced, discern the deficiencies of low grade of fruitage in some, should not discredit them so long as there is no defect in their purity, their love or their faith.

But upon the other hand, none need to content themselves with mediocrity in holiness. But forgetting things that are behind, we may reach forward and press toward the mark to apprehend that for which we are apprehended of Christ Jesus. And by *distinctly marked degrees*—as of 30, 60, or 100 we may aspire to not only productiveness in service: but to increase of the beauty of Jesus in ourselves.

THE FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE BULLETIN

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Editorials

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2.

It is very commonly heard in the ranks of worldly-minded people, "Oh, well, it's none of my business what happens to him; he got himself into this mess, let him find his own way out; I have enough troubles of my own without worrying about his," etc.

Many Christians have by their actions, if not by word, been guilty of this same feeling toward their fellowmen. The Priest and the Levite of the 10th chapter of Luke, when they saw the wounded man by the wayside, "passed by on the other side." Those from whom we should the most expect deeds of kindness and compassion, are often the ones who are the least sympathetic and helpful. It remained for the poor, despised Samaritan to demonstrate the love of God in his heart by ministering to the needs of the unfortunate way-farer.

Our Lord was never too busy, during His earthly ministry, to minister to the needs of the multitudes. Neither was He too occupied to ignore the petitions of the individual. Time and again He paused in the midst of a journey or discourse long enough to help those who had faith in Him.

But what responsibility rests upon us, as God's children of ministering to the needs of others? Is it a matter that is optional with us or is it the necessary result of a close walk with God? Can we withhold from some needy brother that which is in our power to give him and still continue in fellowship with Christ? Let us see what the Word tells us, "Whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" And not only is this true of material

things, but also of spiritual. Many of us may never meet together in this life, but we can meet at the Throne of Grace and there help to bear one another's burdens.

Now for a little practical application of what we have just said. You, as a member of the Fellowship Circle, can help to a large degree in bearing our Editorial burdens by simply writing us a few lines concerning yourself and the work you are engaged in, any marriages, births or deaths that have come to your notice, or any changes in address.

Then too, the Treasurer informs me that the balance in the treasury is low, barely enough to pay for this issue of the Bulletin. How long has it been since you paid your subscription to the Bulletin? The amount is small, only thirty-five cents per year or three years for one dollar. You can make glad the heart of the Treasurer by sending in your subscription now, while it is fresh in your mind.

A Job for All

While jobs continue at a premium in the economic world there is no dirth in God's harvest field and He has a job for each of us—that of witnessing. Just before Jesus went away He said to His disciples: "And ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me." (Acts 1:8). That injunction which Jesus gave to those first disciples is as binding upon us, His disciples of today. "Ye shall be witnesses unto me" is His plan for us and His expectation from us. His program includes every born again person.

Since we have this job whether we are busy on it or not, we inquire what are we to do? A witness is one who testifies of that which he knows; and that is the epitome of our job—simply to tell abroad what we know of the power of Jesus Christ in the life. Let us never lose sight of the phrase "unto Me." It is of Christ we are to speak. We have nothing to witness of in ourselves, but we can all testify to what we know of Jesus—not about Him, but of Him—for only the know-so witness bears any weight. John the Baptist said he came to bear witness of "that Light that all men through Him (that Light) might believe." Recall other Bible witnesses and you will discover their testimony was "unto Him" and that they were immediate witnesses of as much as they knew. One more thought—witnessing is not al-

ways done only by spoken testimony. "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as unto the Lord." We can not separate our life into a secular and spiritual division. Our lives are a constant witness for or against this Christ whom we love. A life lived in humility before Him is the greatest witness we can bear for it proves the truth of what we say concerning our Saviour.

This anticipates a part of the next thought—when do we witness? This job God has for us is a steady job, there is no time off, and consciously or not we are His witnesses.

What is the importance of our job? To His faithful witnesses working in the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus has committed the task and privilege of spreading the glorious all-sufficient Gospel which is the "power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." May this grip our hearts anew. I found this quotation recently: "God is building history by means of men and women whom He can trust, men and women of faith and of vision who apprehend the Divine revelation and say, 'Here am I, Lord; take me, equip me, send me, use me.' Even God cannot work without man. We are called to co-operate." Let us be faithful co-operators and constant witnesses.

Miss Virginia White.

NOTICE

We have had printed a quantity of the Revised Fellowship Circle Constitution which was adopted at the last Annual Meeting. You may have one by writing to the Editor. Please include postage.

Great Revival Shall We Have Another?

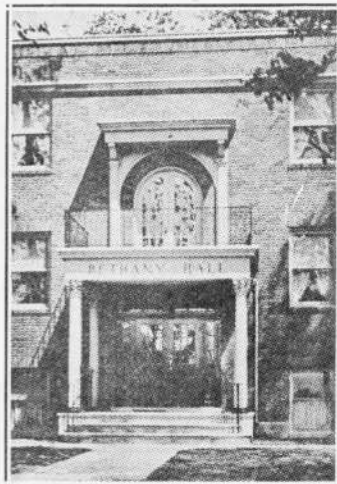
By J. E. Ramseyer

The question is often asked by earnest Christians, "Is it scriptural to pray for another general revival in the church?" Some well meaning brethren say, "No, it is not in keeping with the revealed will of God." Then they call attention to such passages as the following: "Many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many; and because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matt. 24:11, 12.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." I Tim. 4:1.

"This know also that in the last days

Bethany Hall Indebtedness



The recent Conference of the Missionary Church Association appointed a committee to work on the liquidation of the debt on Bethany Hall. As most readers know Bethany Hall is a modern, well-equipped brick building erected almost five years ago as a much needed unit for the Fort Wayne Bible Institute. The lower floor is used for class rooms and the two upper floors for a women's dormitory. The building with furnishings cost about \$60,000. The indebtedness is today a little less than \$13,000. Considering the years of depression that have been experienced since the building was erected, the remaining indebtedness is not large. It is an occasion of deep thanksgiving to God that so much of the cost has been

paid. During this time the building has been giving fine service to the Institute. Just recently one of the professors of Princeton Theological Seminary went through Bethany Hall and remarked, "Those class rooms are better than what we have at Princeton."

The Conference appointed John Von Gunten, Henry Amstutz and S. A. Witmer to serve on the Debt Liquidating Committee. The Committee met recently with the Chairman of the Trustees to effect its organization and outline its work. Henry Amstutz of Berne, Ind., is Secretary of the Committee. For the sake of convenience to donors and ease in handling business, it was thought advisable to have the treasury at the Bible Institute. Rev. S. A. Witmer was appointed Treasurer and Miss Myrle Gaskill was named Assistant in handling secretarial matters. All monies and pledges should therefore be sent to Rev. S. A. Witmer, Bible Institute Building, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

There are still outstanding about \$5,000 in unpaid pledges, and one of the first efforts of the Committee will be to write to the pledgers to give them an opportunity to pay or renew their pledges for a period of a year.

We expect to keep the readers of the Fellowship Circle Bulletin informed from time to time as to the progress made in reducing this debt. The Liquidation Committee is glad to report the following recent contributions toward Bethany Hall:

W. D.	\$ 50.00
A. A.	10.00
J. N. (Annuity)	1000.00

These have been made since the Conference report, and while not made in response to the appeal of this committee, yet they serve as a heartening beginning to the task of reducing the debt on Bethany Hall.

Interested Christian people may help in one of the following ways:

1. Cash contributions large or small.

2. Subscription payable within a year. We have pledge cards that we shall be glad to send to all who request them. They are payable quarterly, semi-annually, or according to the schedule which is most convenient to the subscribers.

3. Annuities. By this form of benevolence donors receive interest, which varies with age on their contributions during the course of their natural lives.

Correspondence may be addressed to the

TREASURER OF BETHANY HALL
The Bible Institute
Fort Wayne, Indiana

perilous times shall come," II Tim. 3:1.

"And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:26.

Then they point out that everywhere about us we see last day prophecies rapidly fulfilling. This fact cannot be denied. Surely we are *living* in the "End" days. However, thousands of Godly people all over the world are praying for one more heaven-sent revival among His people everywhere. Will God not answer this mighty heart-cry of His "willing people"?

After Israel had gone into captivity, it was prophesied again and again that Judah would soon be visited with similar judgment. They, too, had drifted far from the Lord their God, who had brought them out of Egypt and had wrought so miraculously in their behalf, when He gave them the "Goodly Land."

But there were still a number of praying people in Judah, and undoubtedly, in answer to their heart cry, God raised up Josiah, of whom we have an account in II Chron. chapter 34 and 35. We read that "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and he walked in the ways of David his father," and he "declined neither to the right hand nor to the left."

Then we read of the great revival that followed, near the conclusion of which they celebrated one of the greatest spiritual gatherings in their history, for we read, "And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests and the Levites and all Judah and Israel that were present and the inhabitants of Jerusalem." After the death of Josiah, shortly after the revival, the foretold judgment came.

Notice: The revival did not ward off the impending judgment—neither did the impending judgment prevent the mighty revival. Is it not so even now? We already see the angry clouds of God's judgment coming, because of the ripeness of wickedness in the world and because of the apostasy in the church.

Oh, yes, this is only too sadly true, but, there is a praying host scattered throughout the land and world. Will God turn a deaf ear to their earnest plea?

When God's people pray like this for revival, something will happen. Every manifestation of God among His people is preceded by a preparation on their part. Nothing prepares the heart like continued prayer.

The Welsh revival, no doubt, was a

forerunner of what God's true people are expecting now. Here is a part of the report that came to us during that time:

"It was said that a great many preachers of London made their way down to centers of activity to learn what might be the power behind it all. They are unable to give a final analysis beyond a belief, that it is a definite outpouring of the Spirit of God for a particular purpose which will hereafter manifest itself. So equal to the situation are the people themselves that even Gen. Booth passed among them without adding a ripple to the tide of blessing, and Campbell Morgan came and went, few knowing who he was. The people are quite sufficient and there is no call for outside help. Mr. Evan Roberts looks scarcely more than a boy. Thin, pale, undaunted, plain and simple, direct and pointed. Wherein lies his power?

"A great effort has been made to get him to London and induce him to go to Scotland, but his reply is, *'You do not need me, I have no power to give salvation; invite the Spirit now, and if I am led, later I will come to you.'*"

No evangelist or evangelistic party got the honor of having been instrumental in starting that great revival; and so it will be undoubtedly in the coming one.

Let us not give ourselves to putting things over "big," but to humble ourselves deeply before God and continue in believing prayer. God has never limited believing prayer, as we read in Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

THE FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE

By Rev. Jared F. Gerig

"If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Col. 3:1-4.

Our fellowship with Christ is ultimately glorious because it is a fellowship of life. The future holds nothing but life—glorious, abundant, eternal life, for the believer. Paul in writing to the church at Colosse expresses a threefold fellowship of life. This life with Christ, is a life of truth, the depths of which we do well to sound, not only

intellectual, but, experimentally.

The Resurrected Life

"If we then be risen with Christ."

This is a past experience with many and presupposes a fellowship in Christ's death. Paul expresses this prior experience in chapter 2:20 in the following words: "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ." It must be understood that as far as God is concerned this death to self, to the old man, occurred at Calvary when we were identified with Christ on the cross. We manifested this truth of self-crucifixion to the world through baptism; but let us further see that although before God this was accomplished at Calvary and was confessed to the world by baptism, there are thousands of believers who know nothing of it in actual practical experience. This can be attributed to either of two causes, a lack of light or a rejection of light, with the latter, no doubt prevailing.

Now Paul adds an injunction by stating that, if in the sight of God we have been crucified with Christ, hence also risen with Him, let us practice it and act like it by seeking those things which are above, and by setting our affection on things above, not on things on earth. Paul wrote the same message to the Romans in chapter 6:6, 11. "Our old man is crucified with him" . . . therefore "likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but *alive unto God* through Jesus Christ our Lord." Self-seeking and earthly-mindedness are characteristics of those who are enemies of the cross of Christ knowing not the death, hence not the life, which God has provided for them therein.

Paul closes this thought with the repetition and special exposition; "For ye are dead." He implies an unanswerable question. How then, being dead, could you be concerned about and engrossed in earthly things?

The Reserved Life.

"And your life is hid with Christ in God."

This is the life which the believer possesses prior to the *Parousia*, but which has not yet appeared (I Jno. 3:2). It is reserved for him. This is the life which Paul says, *is to come*. (I Tim. 4:8).

This life is with Christ, hence located in heaven. It is the inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven.

It is hidden, reserved for us who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. This is our treasure laid up in heaven. It is all that eternity holds

through the blood of Christ for the worthy believer. We have the testament, but this is the estate. We get glimpses of it, but the revealing of its value is still future: so we give all here to inherit there, we die to live, we sacrifice to save, we suffer to reign. Glorification and exaltation make up the hidden, reserved life for those who go the way of the cross, losing there lives here to find them there. Let respect for the recompense of the reward, move us to choose rather to suffer with the people of God and to esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than all the treasures of this world.

Paul in the two words *your life* expresses the fact of possession. It is possessed in hope. This is the salvation by hope which is ours but which we do **not see**, for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? This reserved life is the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in us. (Eph. 1:18). Let us lay hold upon the hope set before us, and like our Lord, endure the cross for the joy that is set before us.

The Revealed Life.

"When Christ, our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in Glory." It is enrapturing to know that all that eternity holds for the believer is in and through Christ. He will eclipse all honors and rewards. What will it be to see Him? Our crowns will be cast at His feet; our voices will shout His praise.

This revealed life follows the translation of the saints. It is the manifestation of Christ in power and great glory. It is the appearance to every eye.

The saints are *with Him*. Glory! His coming in the Revelation will exhibit our union with Him. Now we are just other men or women in the world. No visible connection. We are mocked for confessing Him, ridiculed for believing in Him, and scoffed at for watching for Him. Ah, that vital, invisible union, a union imparting spiritual life to the child of God will then be seen. What a vision Enoch had! The Lord coming with ten thousands of His saints.

In glory! A revelation of the glory. A dreamer? A fool? a half-wit? The off-scouring of the earth? The world is passing judgment on us but we have a secret. One of these days it will be glory for us. With Christ. Coming with Him. Revealed with Him. Yes, *every* child of God who dares to climb Calvary's brow, counts himself crucified to this world, but abundantly alive unto God.

Opening Notes from the Institute

September 19, marked the opening of another school year for the Bible Institute. On this date students, numbering approximately 109, from various points all over the United States, as well as some from outside the States (as far north as Canada, east as the Azores Islands, and west as Hawaii), gathered to begin the year's work. Several students came early that they might get their rooms prepared and everything in readiness to greet the new-comers.

The main opening service took place in the chapel with our president, Rev. J. E. Ramseyer, presiding. As Prof. Gerber, accompanied by Prof. Weaver, led us in the congregational singing, the students seemed to sing with the greatest enthusiasm that might be expected from such a group of consecrated young people. The chapel was practically filled to capacity, and all seemed to sing "as unto the Lord." We were also favored with some special selections, then Bro. Ramseyer brought us the message of the evening, after which the students, faculty and friends were given opportunity to give words of testimony and praise. Mrs. Ramseyer reminded us that we had some "grandchildren" of the Institute attending here this year, since parents of these young people had received their Bible instruction at the school in other years. At the close of the service, some time was spent in rather an informal "get-acquainted" meeting in the hall.

With the other activities of this week we have had the privilege of having Rev. Joseph H. Smith, of Redlands, Calif., with us. He has addressed us at each chapel service and also each evening in the First Missionary Church of Fort Wayne. In Mr. Smith's opening address he gave us for a life's slogan the words found in Acts 27:23, "Whose I am and whom I serve." The key-note of all his messages was "Perfect Love." He showed us how that in order for us to be made perfect in love, certain conditions within us must be made perfect since the Love of God is perfect. He also gave us two refreshing "drinks" from Sychar's well (John 4), and showed us the need of going forth to reap the already ripened grain. In his closing evening service, Bro. Smith laid great stress on the word "must" found in the text, "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work." John 9:4. "Twilight is gathering and soon night will be up-

on us so that if we do anything for the Lord we must work harder and more quickly than we ever have before," he said.

We thank God for the privilege of having this veteran of Christian warfare in our midst and for the blessing his ministry has been to us.

During these exciting days we have missed very greatly from our midst, one whose friendly spirit and kind words made our beginning last fall more pleasant,—Rev. Byron G. Smith. Though he has gone on to his reward, the example of his undaunted courage in standing for the things of God and right, still lingers in our memories and urges us on.

Some changes have also been made in our faculty. Prof. Raymond Weaver, who was a member of our music department, as instructor in piano during the school years of 1927-1930, is with us again this year. Rev. Jacob Hygema, whom most of the alumni will remember for the help he has been to them spiritually, will be back with us again next semester. One new teacher has been added in our Bible department, Rev. H. S. Miller of Houghton, N. Y. Teaching, however, is not new work to Bro. Miller, for he comes to us after having taught fifteen years in the National Bible Institute, New York City. He recognizes the Holy Spirit as his teacher and instructs us to do likewise.

We believe God has rich things in store for us this year and we are trusting Him that the spiritual zeal and enthusiasm with which our year has begun may continue and deepen throughout the year.

—Betty R. Scott.

Alumni News

Oliver Steiner and Blanchard Leightner have been engaged in evangelistic services in London, Ontario. Reports are to the effect that God had graciously blessed their efforts.

George Condit has been engaged in evangelistic services this past summer at Fort Wayne, Elkhart, and Auburn. He expects to make an evangelistic tour into Kansas and Nebraska during the fall months.

Elda Amstutz is preparing to return to her work in the Ramabai Mukti Mission in India.

P. P. Baltzer is scheduled to return to China this fall where he will resume missionary work.

Martha Amstutz and Luella Burley are

in nurses' training at the William Booth Memorial Hospital in New York.

Clarence I. Birkey and family will return to the Belgian Congo this fall.

Frank Foster has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Missionary Church of Jackson, Mich.

David Siemens is to return to missionary work in Ecuador soon.

Donald Schindler has taken the position of Associate Pastor of the Missionary Church of Honedale, Penna.

Susie Guiff has discontinued her Home Missionary duties at Jackson, Mich., for the sake of some needed rest. She is at her home in New Haven, Ind.

Virginia White is teaching in the public schools of Memphis, Tenn.

Alice Kronman has been engaged as a nurse in Memphis, Tenn., during the past two years and is now visiting friends and relatives in Indiana and Detroit.

The following interesting excerpt is taken from a letter from William H. Dynes: "Well do I remember the glorious hours spent at the B. T. S. I surely did enjoy them and the Lord greatly blessed those days to me. Many times I talk of the good times I used to have. At present I am pastor of the Hiawatha Street Baptist church at St. Thomas, Ontario. The Lord has been good to us and has blessed our ministry. Some have found the Lord while others have followed him in baptism."

Mr. Dynes also discloses that he is happily married and that a little girl has come into their new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Smith of Mansfield, Ohio, announce the arrival of a baby girl, Janet Rhoda. Mrs. Smith is a graduate of the class of '34.

Announcement has been received of the marriage of Harold E. Wiswell, '31, to Eldora Bartow on September 6, 1934. The ceremony was solemnized in the Goshen Friend's Church near Zanesfield, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. John Nussbaum have spent several months in evangelistic services in Selma and Prattville, Alabama. Mr. Nussbaum has returned to the Institute to take up Post-Graduate work this fall.

William D. Koehnlein and Harriet Van Dyke were united in marriage on Aug. 13, 1934. At present they are in charge of four Methodist Protestant Churches near Fort Wayne.

Rev. T. P. Chant writes: "We wish to be remembered to the friends at the Institute. The longer we are away and the more we meet the public the more we

appreciate what the Bible Institute has done for us. May the Lord bless it in all of its labors."

Lawrence R. Schoenhals reports a gathering of 16 B. I. Alumni members at Brown City, Mich., during the summer.

HOW "PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"?

Psalm 116:12-19; Luke 17:11-19

One of the national holidays which should be faithfully observed in the spirit in which it was initiated, is Thanksgiving Day. When the Pilgrim Fathers set aside one day in which to return special thanks to Almighty God for the temporal and spiritual blessings that had been granted them, they were beginning a most worthy custom that we do well to honor. There is no sin more despicable than that of ingratitude. It is always a sign of the noble soul to acknowledge benefits received. And yet the observance of a day of gladness because of bountiful harvests is almost worldwide. Nearly all the heathen peoples celebrate the completion of harvests with gifts and rejoicing. The idols which are supposed to have been beneficent are decorated and worshipped. If those in darkness can express gratitude to dumb idols that have eyes and see not, and ears and hear not, how much more should Christians acknowledge their indebtedness for infinitely greater blessings received from our Father which is in heaven.

Thanksgiving Day has an important patriotic meaning. It is one of the occasions when the unity of a country is strengthened by the recognition of its worthy past. When the people of all sections of the Union join in a ceremony of thanksgiving on the same day, their common heritage is emphasized.

Thanksgiving is also a home day. On this occasion scattered families are wont to return home to share in the joys of the home celebration as well as in public services. When so many influences unite to destroy the home, every occasion intended to strengthen it should be carefully guarded. There are no real homes except where the Gospel is known and obeyed. In heathen lands there are houses and palaces, but the love and mutual respect that go to make the home atmosphere are wanting.

The individual also has a personal responsibility and privilege on Thanksgiving Day. We can thank God fervently

for the multitude of our blessings, even though there be no other voice to join with ours. In the Scripture in Luke, we are told that only one leper of the ten who were healed returned to give thanks to Jesus for his deliverance. Probably this proportion was intended to indicate the smallness of the number who properly honor God for His benefits.

Our topic asks the question, "How may we praise God from whom all blessings flow?" Following are some suggestions as to the methods that will help us to be thankful:

I. Cultivate A Thankful Heart.

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

We are not born with thankful tendencies but need to trust God for a grateful spirit. The human heart is naturally selfish and seeks its own. We are apt to seize all possible benefits as our right, not recognizing our dependence upon God. Whenever we ask God for anything we should thank Him for requests already granted, and for blessings already received. If we make it a rule never to ask anything in prayer without first thanking God, it will help us to form the habit of gratitude.

II. Recognize the Lord's Open Benefits.

It is not difficult for anyone to make a long list of benefits and blessings that are easily recognized. Those who live in a Christian land are favored with such numberless blessings which come to them apart from their own deserts that no one may be excused from the necessity of gratitude.

III. Give Thanks for His Blessings in Disguise.

When we learn that all things work together for good, we begin to look for blessings in the most unlikely circumstances. Calamities turn to blessings as we continue in faith and prayer with thanksgiving to God. The ugly worm becomes the beautiful butterfly. Some of the choicest experi-

ences that come our way wear an impenetrable mask. The sacrifice of thanksgiving consists in praise and joyfulness, while the dark aspect of some circumstance is still before us.

IV. Express Your Gratitude Substantially.

We should never allow any great occasion of thanksgiving to pass without making some love offering unto the Lord. We owe unto the Lord a tithe of all we possess, but in addition it is our privilege to make special offerings because of the gratitude that wells up in our hearts.

It is not sufficient to express our feelings in words only. We love to show our affection for our friends by occasional gifts that are tangible, and this same principle holds good in our expressions of love toward God.

God does not need our gifts, but we need to make our love offerings to prevent our hearts from shriveling. A thankful soul is ever a generous soul. While we love to "count the blessings,"

Grateful for the year that's gone,
Faith would sweep a wider vision,

Hope would gaze yet farther on,
For the signals all around us

Seem with one accord to say,
"Christ is coming soon to bring us
Earth's last, best, Thanksgiving
Day!"

Myrle Gaskill.

FELLOWSHIP

"But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

Praise the Lord for fellowship one with another! My heart is rejoicing to day because the Spirit itself beareth witness with my Spirit that I am a child of God.

We have been enjoying such wonderful fellowship with God's children here in the last few months. Perhaps just a glimpse into a bit of it will prove a blessing to you.

Our town is very small, a population of about two hundred. As our church is the only one in town it enables us to get well acquainted with practically every one. In this way we come in contact with many every day. How it gladdens our hearts to watch several of the Christians grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus. We have quite a large number of those who have been truly saved, of these

there are a few I want to mention. Their spiritual birthday was just 6 months ago.

One is a father of three children. Since last March he has been living true to God. The Lord has been speaking to him about becoming a minister of the Gospel. But he feels that first, the Lord wants him to attend the Fort Wayne Bible Institute. The enemy is trying in every way to hinder him from following the leadings of the Lord. But he is pressing on! Restitutions—and difficult ones—are being made. He is witnessing effectively to those with whom he is employed. The Lord spoke to him about tithing. It came as a still small voice, "What are you doing with my money?" to which he answered, "I guess you're getting it." Then the Lord said to him, "I don't guess about the things I do." Oh, how sweet to be in the place where God can speak. He is also a devoted reader of God's Word. In just three weeks he read the Bible thru. One night while reading the book of Job, he pushed aside his supper. Don't we need more of that hunger for God's Word than for our three meals a day?

Another one is a little girl of twelve. She is our little warrior. Just the other day she came to our house during the noon hour. She said to my wife, "Mrs. Moser, can a person pray too much? Why, I pray about everything!" How it touched our hearts. The other Sunday she was so broken. She said, "I want to go home—to Jesus! I'm just so lonesome for Him. Can you tell me what to do?" Such a child like spirit! She believes God's Word just as it is and He is doing wonders for her. "Except ye become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven."

The third one is a father of four children. He was a noted sinner of our town. The devil had him bound hand and foot. But much prayer and faith overcame the power of Satan, and on his birthday last March he was marvelously changed from death unto life. Immediately he began to read the Bible and to tell his old associates of the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus. His spiritual tide has been rising higher and higher. We are made to realize more and more that God is no respecter of persons and that the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

These are a few of the fruits of the preaching of the Gospel. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where-

to I sent it." Isaiah 55:11.

It's a real joy to labor together for Him. We have fellowship not only with these but with all who love our Christ.

Let us each help by prayer and giving to make this a *Real Fellowship Circle* with

Jesus as the center. At the throne of God by prayer is the common meeting place of all saints. "If we will walk in the light as he is in the light, we will have fellowship one with another."

Rev. Clinton Moser, Vice Pres.

News from Venezuela? South America

Mrs. Silvan Hausser

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."—Gal. 6:14.

In the month of January, this year, I began making preparations to return to the homeland, after four years and four months of service for our Lord in dark Venezuela, S. A. On the morning of Feb. 11th, Silvan and I left the little group of believers of Guasipati, who had gathered to bid farewell, and now our tiresome truck ride to the Orinoco River began. After a day and a half we reached San Felix, where my passports were vised, and necessary permits gotten, and passage on the river boat secured. On the night of Feb. 14th, I was carried into a row-boat, rowed out to the larger boat in the middle of the great river, leaving behind my husband to "carry on." This separation was not easy, but for the sake of "the Cross of Christ" we submitted to God's will for us. Should Silvan have returned he could not have re-entered, because of a law passed in 1930, prohibiting the entrance of "foreign priests or ministers" into Venezuela. This came about through the propaganda of Roman Catholic priests against the Civil government—and the law includes Gospel ministers.

I reached home March 1st, weighing only 100 lbs.—very worn and tired. Since then I've gained strength and weight, and once more I'm turning toward the land that calls—sad Venezuela. The Lord willing, I shall again sail in January.

How I wish that the needs of that country were impressed upon the hearts of those who know how to pray. Satan is making mighty efforts to overthrow God's work there. He has had control so long—but praise God—our Lord triumphs, when prevailing prayer is offered.

Our work is new, for it has only been a few years that the Gospel has been preached in the interior of Venezuela. But there are growing groups of believers there. The work in El Callao is in the hands of a native Pastor, and we expect soon to have the work of Upata and Guasipati in charge of natives, while

we will go farther on into the interior. Silvan is now on an itinerating trip, and reports the Lord's blessing. Traveling isn't pleasant in the lands far removed from modern conveniences. His latest report tells of a 20-mile bicycle trip, ending in muddy disaster. His hammock, extra clothes and books were strapped to the bicycle, and the trail became muddy and slippery. Just before reaching his destination, the wheel slipped, throwing clothes, rider and all into the "lovely" red mud of El Callao. After cleaning up as best he could, he went to take charge of a service, and in spite of the mishap and his rather unpresentable appearance, the blessing of the Lord was keenly felt. But that's all "common event" there, one day caught in a tropical down-pour, another day thoroughly bitten up by mosquitoes or small flies, while another day might be "jigger" day, and several hours must be spent painfully digging out these tiny creatures, who like to make their nests under the skin of our toes and heels. It's all in the Venezuelan life. But we don't mind when we are working for our Lord who has done so much for us, and who has placed a burden for the lost upon our hearts.

I want to take a light Ford truck back with me. I feel assured that it will be supplied, for as soon as I mentioned the need, money began to come in for it. Auto roads are there, sometimes scarcely passable, but how much simpler it will make traveling for us. There are so many towns as yet unreached, waiting to hear the "good news," and when the roads are in condition, we can easily and quickly reach them.

I praise God for every opportunity to tell of the power of the Gospel in that land, and as I tell of the many who have turned from darkness to light, my own heart throbs anew with an increased longing to return, and once more take up the work begun. And here or there, my one desire is to "glory in the Cross of Christ"—till He comes.

Delighting in the Lord

Love delights in its object, there-

fore if we love the Lord with all that is within us, as a natural result we delight ourselves in Him.

The Psalmist would have us realize the sweetness of delighting in the Lord, consequently he says to us, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Ps. 37:4.

The word "delight" is defined as meaning "extreme satisfaction." When we delight ourselves in the Lord we have an "extreme satisfaction" in Him. The natural result then is we constantly smile in our heart to Him.

As those who really love the Lord it should not be expected that things, objects, earth's joys and the like have any place in our heart. Himself is our delight, our "Extreme Satisfaction." The voice of our heart naturally cries

out: "Whom have I in Heaven but Thee? and there is none upon the earth that I desire beside Thee." Ps. 73:25.

Earthly place and position may be offered to us. It finds no acceptance—we delight in the Lord! What care we for prominence or predominance on earth when we have Him? Oh, yes, we shall have no name on earth if we center our affection, joy and life in Christ! We may not be esteemed in the eyes of men, in the eyes of those who feel they are doing something which men's eyes can see. We may serve and suffer behind the scenes while others stand prominently on the upper platform of human applause and approval. We may have been placed in a position of least significance in men's minds. But all these things urge us the more to delight in Him.

Earthly inheritance may be assured us if we forfeit our Heavenly position and relationship, but our delight is in Christ. He is our Inheritance. We delight in Him because having been rich He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. All the wealth of Heaven is ours when He is ours and when we delight ourselves in Him.

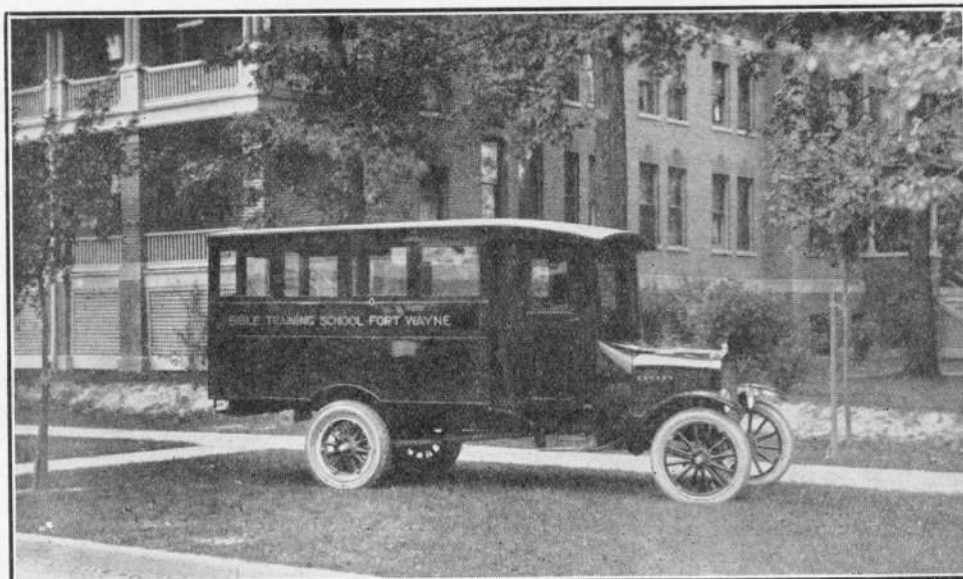
Let us then regardless of all else, delight ourselves in the Lord, in Him whom to know is knowing and enjoying all things eternal and Divine. It is "extreme satisfaction" to have Him, to enjoy Him, to realize the unspeakable wealth of His love. When He is our "Extreme Satisfaction" we can say to Him as the Bridegroom in the Song of Solomon said to his bride: "How fair and how pleasant art Thou, O Love for delights"! Chap. 7:6.

Selected by L. Miller.

"THE GOSPEL TRUCK" 1924-1934

When the Alumni gave the "Truck" to the Institute ten years ago, they probably were not aware that they were starting a new day in Gospel Team work at the Institute. For six years following this gift, the Truck was the sole means of transportation for the students in carrying on Gospel work. Often from 100 to 200 or more miles were traveled on a week-end in this "T" chariot to carry on a revival effort. During more recent years the Truck has been obliged to stay nearer home on account of its "old age" and the infirmity which is the inevitable accompaniment. But everything has its day and the Truck has given faithful service,—it deserves retirement.

If the "Truck" were a person its labors in Gospel work would certainly deserve a reward. Were we to draw a map showing the points where soul saving ministries were made possible by it there would be occasion to marvel that a little "Ford" could do such an extensive service and then to learn that at these points souls have almost invariably been won to Christ we would marvel that such eternal good can be done through the instrumentality of this most modest of cars. But God does not reward "Trucks." His reward is for those faithful stewards whose vision and sincere devotion led



Bible Institute Bus used by Gospel Teams

them to equip the Gospel Team Department with a truck during these ten years. Without question the talents invested in that gift have been greatly multiplied and the givers have pleased God by their faithfulness.

The opportunity is here for Alumni to repeat their investment by the purchase of a new "Gospel Bus." The field for Gospel Team services has been much enlarged during ten years. The reasons for having bought the Truck hold doubly for the purchase of a bus now.

It is the hope of the Service Department that, in making this purchase, an up to date equipment may be gotten.

Experience has shown that it pays to buy something that may be expected to serve for years to come. This need not be elaborate, but should be substantial. Henry Ford did so well ten years ago that we believe his new "V-8" would be worth buying.

Someone suggested recently that Mr. Ford being a good man, might give a "V-8" to the Gospel Team Department. Probably he might, but this is a rare privilege and the first opportunity ought to be given to the B. I. Alumni. We need the bus for the work of the coming year which has already begun. We have \$186.65. Won't you help us please?