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STAFF

Alfred C. Alspach Publisher
 Ernest J. Neill Editor
 C. Wallace Abel Business Manager
 Robert G. Campbell Advertising Director
 Robert J. Wiggins Circulation Director

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THANKS, FROM LANCASTER FARMING

Now that Thanksgiving Day is passed, we might add our word of thanks to those many fine people who have written us to thank us and comment favorably upon the new Lancaster Farming. It's gratifying. It's encouraging. If we do not acknowledge your letter, be assured it has been received and has been appreciated.

Starting a new project is always a tricky proposition. Rule No. 1 is to get off on the right foot. From what our readers write, we have. So far we've not experienced the feelings one rural editor in West Virginia did when he received this letter from a subscriber:

When you talked me into subscribing to your sheet a year ago, you promised that if I wasn't satisfied at the end of a year, I could have my money back. Well send it back, please."

A hastily added postscript read:

"Come to think of it, to save some trouble, just apply the money to my next year's subscription."

At the beginning, like in farming, there were problems. Some were overcome, some new ones arose. But they are being solved as time goes on.

It's encouraging to be received so well, to meet such a friendly response. We made our pledge from the start to serve you as best we know how. We renew that pledge, and appreciate deeply your kind comments.

IRRIGATION ONE ANSWER

Irrigation, once considered strictly the domain of the western states has moved farther and farther east, until today there are few farmers who haven't considered installation of such a system.

Investment is heavy, but increased crop yields may pay for the system in a season or two. And if one considers his dairy or beef herd saved by irrigated pastures, the value is realized much more quickly.

In the lower Susquehanna Valley 1955's unusual weather included both drought and too much rain. Problem No. 1 in all areas is insuring an adequate supply of water — uncontaminated water. It takes a one-acre pond to irrigate approximately 10 acres of land. Another item to be considered: does the lack of rainfall occur often enough to justify an irrigation system in a region that can normally expect 35 to 45 inches of rain each each year?

For those who find the investment too large, increased conservation practices may be a practical answer. Higher fertilizer rates, longer periods of hay in rotation, contour strip cropping, furrows plowed parallel to slopes are a few of the suggestions, many already included in normal Lancaster farming practices.

There is much to be learned about irrigation, and 1956 will surely see immense increases in its use.

Following Benjamin Franklin's advice, which can be inverted and applied to the weather outlook, one might well remember "... in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

FARMERS, EXCHANGE STUDENTS

One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly the exchange visits of American farmers to Russia and Russian farmers to America. Both groups made some friends. Both were, to a certain extent, students, and future exchanges might well be considered. Nebraska's College of Agriculture Dean W. V. Lambert best summarized this by saying:

"We think we made some friends and drove some wedges in the barriers that have been between the two countries for the past 15 years. We hope we paved the way for future exchanges such as these."

Voice Of Lancaster Farms

NEW HOLLAND — I want to be one of the first subscribers to your paper. I am enclosing \$1.00, which I think is the special price for the year. I read the paper with interest. I suggest that in your market reports the Rohrerstown Poultry Auction be included. — Titus Martin.

(Editor's Note: Rohrerstown Poultry is being reported in Lancaster Farming.)

MANHEIM — Enclosed you will find \$1.00 for one year charter subscription. I don't receive a daily paper, so will try your weekly. As a farmer I was looking for a paper that doesn't have a lot of funnies, tobacco, liquor etc but one that gives events of the county markets, etc. I don't care for a lot of world news, as we get that on our radio. — Earl K. Metzler.

LANCASTER — I read through the first issue of Lancaster Farming carefully and want to congratulate you on it. The contents are very interesting and the get-up has an attractive and professional aspect which is rare in first issues of magazines. You deserve to have great success in it and I certainly hope you will. — Robert Rupp, attorney.

NARVON — I have just received my second copy of your paper. Congratulations on a fine paper. Wish you success. It is the kind of paper we need in Lancaster County. I am a Lancaster County farmer and Granger. — S. Ralph Wanner.

STRASBURG — Please put my name on your list of charter subscribers. I looked through the first issue and it looks very good. I was pleased to see no liquor or tobacco ads, as I hate to have them laying around my home. I certainly wish you success. — Merle D. LeFevre.

NATIONAL STOCK YARDS, Ill. — This is to acknowledge, with thanks, the long awaited full-fledged Lancaster Farming, Vol. 1, No. 1, all of which I appreciated very much. First, my congratulations on the very fine issue of Nov. 4. Especially enjoyed copy below your picture, (LAN - background in agricultural por.) — Miss Gertrude Noll, Associate Secretary, The St. Louis Live Stock Exchange.

(Editor's Note: Corrected copy, where typographical errors mentioned above were removed, has been forwarded to Miss Noll. That was one of the midnight or wee-hour-of-the-morning errors that crept in and was corrected before the entire, huge press run was completed. Good to hear from one of the nation's major markets. E.J.N.)

LANCASTER — My heartiest congratulations to your newest paper. It is a pleasure to read as well-written copy as yours. — John E. Lyng.

BAREVILLE — Enjoy your new newspaper. — Mrs. John B. Becker.

MANHEIM — We thank you for the introductory issues of Lancaster Farming. I enjoy the Women's Page. — Mrs. Mervin Wenger.

LANCASTER Co. — Just received a copy of your Lancaster Farming and sure enjoyed it. Good luck. — Isaac T. Rogers.

SALUNGA — Thanks so much for your sample copies of Lancaster Farming. It was a very nice surprise and you have a nice, all-around paper. I'm sure glad you have a column "The Bible Speaks." — Mrs. Frank N. Baer.

MT. JOY — Enclosed is check for one year's subscription to Lancaster Farming. Enjoy reading up-to-the-minute news on farming. — Auram N. Eshelman.

Down on the Farm

(This Week In 1905)
 By JACK REICHARD

... According to Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, in his report to President Roosevelt, the nation's 1905 farm crops reached an all-time high in production and value. Wilson stated the unprecedented prosperity on the farms in the country was due to the fine cooperation of the farmer with the Agriculture Department. Corn reached the highest production ever recorded, more than 2,700,000 bushels, estimated value \$1,216,000,000. Wheat production ran over 684 million bushels, valued at \$525 million.

... In Berks county, where a scarcity of farm labor was reported, hundreds of fields of corn had not been husked. Farmers in that area made a special appeal for help to get their corn from the fields into the cribs.

... In Washington the Department of Agriculture announced that its annual distribution of

vegetables and flower seeds would start in 1905, aggregating 38 million packages. For a number of years Congress had appropriated \$290,000 for the purpose. The bulk of the 38 million packages was subject to the order of senators and congressmen for distribution among their constituents. One-fifth of the seeds were earmarked for experimental purposes for the agriculture department. The country was divided into six zones, with special regard to climate and soils. Seeds were sent only to those localities in which propagation was believed to be adapted.

... Among Pennsylvania inventors applying for patents during November, 1905, was B. F. Lutz, a butcher residing at Lititz. Lutz had invented a device attached to an alarm clock, so arranged that when the alarm went off the draft of a stove would open, thus making a room warm before one arose on a cold morning.

... All patrons of rural routes were notified by the postmasters from whose offices the routes started, that designated numbers assigned to them would have to be legibly inscribed or painted on the box in a conspicuous place. The new post office ruling was made to keep "Fake schemers from getting the correct names and addresses of persons residing along the routes.

... When Katie Bair, Providence Township, left her soap boiling to go into the house for a short time, she found a good sized pig cooked to death in her kettle upon her return. The pig, a frequent visitor at the Bair place, belonged to Reuben Bowman, a neighbor.

PERSONAL INCOME.

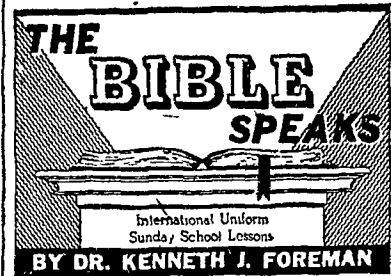
Personal income in September set a record annual rate of \$307,500,000,000, the government recently disclosed. The figure was \$2 billion higher than the level set in August and almost \$20 million above that for September, 1954. All major types of income registered gains in September, it was reported.

You would think that if we could only get Jesus Christ in person, as he was in Galilee, into our church, we could convert everybody. Well, he didn't. No one ever brought or preached the Gospel better than he; but he did not meet with 100% success. He gave a reason for this that any farmer or gardener can understand. Preaching the Gospel is like sowing seed, he said. Sometimes when you look at two fields you may find it hard to believe that the same seed was sown in both; but so it was. The difference is in the soils. In Hutchinson, Kansas, there is a grain elevator with a capacity of ten million bushels of wheat. Every bushel in the hundreds of bins can be traced back to the area where it grew. On the wall in the testing-laboratory of that elevator there is a map of Kansas, county by county; and the kind of wheat each county is producing, this year, is marked there. The same seed wheat, in different counties or in different parts of the same county, may have different protein content or vary in number of bushels to the acre. So some people are better Gospel-soil than others.

To Preach and to Heal

When Jesus sent out his disciples to preach, he sent them to heal too. Health is the church's business. Whatever affects man's health of body, mind or soul, that is the church's affair. When she preaches and brings the Gospel, she has no right to say, "What we preach is only for your soul." The good news about God has transformed whole communities, it has changed the world for women, for children, for slaves, for downtrodden minorities. A gospel which is only for souls is not the Gospel Jesus preached and brought.

(Based on outline copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)



Background Scripture: Luke 8:1-21; 9:8, 10, 12-24
 Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55.

The Good News

Lesson for November 27, 1955

THERE is no such thing as the Christian religion, except in human beings. There is no such thing as the growth of Christianity, unless it grows in people. So how does Christianity spread? Only by one way: people who are Christians must win people who are not Christians. People who know Jesus Christ must introduce other people to him. The church has a word for this: it is called Evangelism. Anybody who thinks he doesn't believe in evangelism is really saying that he doesn't care whether there are any new Christians or not. He is saying (though perhaps without realizing it) that what he calls his "faith" is not worth talking about, or recommending to any one else.



Dr. Foreman

Preaching and Bringing—

Our rather technical word "Gospel" means simply "Good News." That is what it is called in the New Testament. Not good advice, or good answers to philosophers' riddles; just good news—about God, about Jesus, about destiny. Luke gives us some interesting and valuable hints about how this Good News was broadcast in Jesus' own time and by his direction. One is in three words (Luke 8:1): Jesus came "preaching and bringing" the good news of the kingdom of God. The Gospel is not something just for talk. A tape-recorder can give out a sermon; but a tape-recorder cannot be a preacher of the Gospel. A minister who preaches on Sunday and disappears the rest of the week (if such there be) may be preaching the Gospel but he is not bringing it. Jesus lived by what he preached. The good news can be told by a clever tongue; but it can be brought only by a consecrated life. What would be thought of a grocery store where, if you went in, you would see only empty shelves, and a flock of clerks who would button-hole you and tell you all about the wonderful groceries—that aren't there! And what can one think of a church where all you can find out about the love of God is just talk, and nobody brings the Gospel? The Gospel can't be brought in a little parcel you can tuck under your arm like a prayer-book. It has to be brought in a man-sized package, a live sample. After a few months you can buy a "demonstrator" car or tractor cheap; but a "demonstrator" Christian is beyond price.