

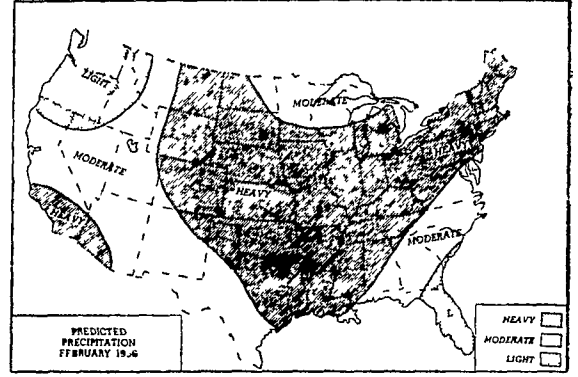
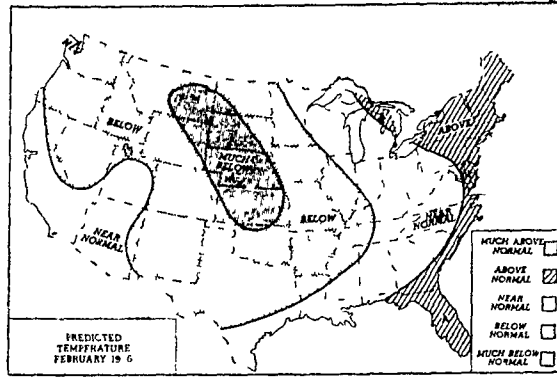
**"CATS"**

The following essay on "cats" was turned in by a 10 year-old pupil:  
 "Cats and people are funny animals. Cats have four paws but only one ma. People have forefathers and only one mother."  
 "When a cat smells a rat, he gets excited, so do people."  
 "Cats carry tails and a lot of people carry tales, also."  
 "All cats have fur coats. Some people have fur coats and the ones who don't have fur coats say catty things about the ones who do have them."

**CURIOSITY PAYS \$160.**

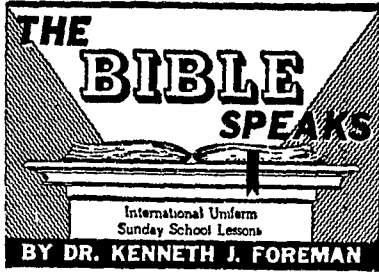
ELKIN, N. C. — While playing in a smokehouse behind her home, Janice Marshall, 6, saw a mouse run into a hole in one of the logs. She gouged into the hole and uncovered a small tobacco sack containing some money but couldn't manage to get the sack out. Her father sawed the log in two and found \$160 in old U. S. currency. Marshall didn't know how the money got there but plans to use it to buy U. S. savings bonds in Janice's name.

**Outlook for February 1956**



The Weather Bureau's 30-day outlook for February calls for temperatures to average below seasonal normals in most of the country west of the Mississippi, with greatest departures in the Great Plains. In the eastern third of the nation temperatures are

expected to average near normal, except above in the Northeast and South Atlantic States. Precipitation is predicted to be sub-normal in the Pacific Northwest and in the Southeast. In the remainder of the country above normal amounts are indicated.



BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN  
 Background Scripture: Luke 17:20-18:17.  
 Devotional Reading: James 5:7-20.

**Effective Praying**

Lesson for February 12, 1956

WHEN most people think of prayer they think of only one kind though there are several. The word "prayer" suggests asking for something; though it ought to suggest thankfulness, confession of sin, aspiration, trust. But leaving all these other kinds of prayer out of account, what a wonderful thing prayer is! If I could go to a millionaire once a year and ask him for anything I wanted; or if I could have an interview with the most famous person in the world with the privilege of asking one favor,—how dizzy I would be at the pleasure of the prospect! Yet God has more treasure than a millionaire, and the fame of the most renowned men is nothing compared to his glory. It is such a God to whom I can take my desires and requests, every day, every night of the year. It is only because prayer is so free that we take it for granted and fail to appreciate it. We might value the opportunity more if we had to pay well for it.



In a way, prayer does have a price. That is to say, if prayer is to be effective, certain conditions have to be met. Jesus told some stories which bring out what these conditions are. One is the tale of two men who went into the same temple to pray. One was an old hand at it,—if there was a "praying class" of Jews (corresponding to a working class, or a professional class) in those days, he was a prominent member of it. The other man had perhaps very seldom prayed. The first man was a regular contributor to his church; the other man—if he was like the average in his profession—seldom darkened the door of a place of worship. But in Jesus' story these two men found themselves side by side in the same temple, and only one was "justified," that is to say, only one got favorable attention from God. And that one was the man who had nothing to say but "God, be merciful to me a sinner." To ask God for this and for that, as if we deserved it, as if it were our right to demand gifts from God,—this is no way to pray. Effective prayer begins with confession and repentance, not with demands.

**Not to the Proud**

Let us make a short list of some differences between wrong prayer and right prayer. Wrong prayer is really talking to oneself, or talking so as to be overheard by some one we want to impress. Right prayer is addressed to God alone. Wrong prayer is proud; right prayer is humble. Wrong prayer wants God to support the pride of the prayer. Right prayer casts pride away and comes to God without a claim. In wrong prayer, I come to God asking him to do something for me which will give me a better reason than I now have for being proud of myself. In right prayer, I come to God asking him to cleanse me of the pride which makes me feel that God himself is hardly necessary. In wrong prayer, the one who prays rises from his knees just as he was, for he has no wish to be changed; in right prayer, the one who prays rises a better man, for he asked God to forgive and change him.

**Keeping at It**

Jesus seldom if ever tried to put all the truth into one parable. He was generally content with setting out one truth at a time. So the parable of the bothersome widow, the woman who finally wore out a stubborn and selfish judge just by keeping after him,—that parable does not say everything about prayer. But it does teach one thing: Keep at it! Jesus is careful not to say that God is anything like that judge. What he does mean is that if even a bad character like that judge can be moved to do the right thing by a persistent woman, surely God our Father in heaven, who is neither lazy nor stubborn nor ill-willed, will listen to persistent prayer. We must be careful not to read into this parable more than Jesus said. There is no promise here that God counts the number of times we pray for a thing, and that if we only pray enough times he will be sure to answer. There is no guarantee that God will answer any prayer we can think of if we say it often enough. What Jesus promises is that God will bring justice at last . . . if we keep on wanting it.

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

Feb. 23 — Annual Meeting, Lancaster County Soil Conservation District, Lampeter-Strasburg High School, 7:30 p. m.



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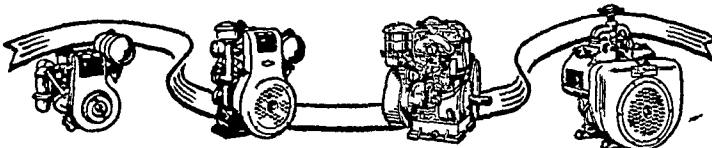
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**\$25,734 FOR INJURIES.**

Baltimore, Md. — Mack Roe, 57, was recently awarded a \$25,734 damage verdict for neck injuries suffered when the standing automobile in which Roe was seated was struck in the rear by a truck. The verdict was against the Jacobs Candy and Tobacco Company and Edward Rudd, driver.

**TELEVISION SETS**

Two-thirds of the homes in this country had television sets as of June, according to a survey made by the Census Bureau. Seventy-eight per cent of households in large metropolitan areas had sets, 56 per cent in small cities and towns and 46 per cent in rural homes. Two per cent of the families had two or more sets.

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