

## FROM WHERE WE STAND - As Normal As It Is Going To Get

A few years ago a presidential candidate ran successfully with the slogan, "A return to normalcy".

There are many people still waiting for the agricultural situation in this country to return to normalcy.

"We had better face it," a good friend said the other day, "The situation is as normal as it is ever going to get."

He meant by that, there is not going to be a return to the low level of costs and yields of a few years ago. He meant that the farmer had just as well make up his mind to get modern or get out. The day of subsistence farming is past and we had better face up to it—and the sooner, the better.

The days of the barnyard flock of chickens which could be counted on to help buy a few groceries with little or no cash outlay is a thing of the past. The day of the 10 or 12 cow herd is all but a memory of bygone days. The farmer who raises one or two hogs to butcher in the farmyard for his own use is becoming a rare specimen.

Farming is becoming, is indeed now, a specialized business in which the person with little inclination to specialize is finding an increasingly difficult row to hoe.

There are those who will say that farming is only going through a period of transition, and that soon things will level off and return to the semblance of order which we knew in other days.

Let's face it. In the economy in which we find ourselves today, things are not going to return to the haphazard ways of farming of yesterday.

We do not deny that some of the romance has gone out of farming as specialization and mechanization has come in, but specialization and mechanization is here to stay. We had better start looking for romance in the new ways of agriculture.

Farmers will not return to the old ways for many reasons.

Competition for the markets of the world will force farmers to produce to the utmost of their ability — not only for total yield, but for quality as well.

Social demands will force farmers to continue to mechanize to keep abreast of the labor conditions in industry. This mechanization, with its increased capital requirements will make possible more production, but that increased production can not be produced at a loss to the farmer.

There are poultrymen who are hoping for the price of broilers to go again to the 20 cents per pound of a few years ago. We believe this is a vain hope. Increased efficiency of labor and rate of gain of broiler chicks have proved that some broilers producers can make a pound of broiler and realize a profit at less than 20 cents. As soon as the quantity of broiler meat falls below the demand and the price rises to a favorable level, there will be plenty of producers just waiting to get into the business. Competition is not going to let the price go very much beyond the break-even point. This is the cold fact, and we might as well accept it.

There are those dairymen who think all their troubles would be ended if they were awarded a 50 cents per

hundredweight increase in the price of milk. While we are in favor of a fair return to all farmers, and while we realize full well that food is one of the biggest bargains in the entire economy, we do not believe a wholesale rise in the price to milk producers would solve the problem for very long.

There are dairymen who are making a fair profit at today's prices. There are many more who are barely breaking even, or losing money, through inefficient management. A rise in milk prices would give temporary relief to producers, but unless the farmers concerned voluntarily controlled the volume of milk, surpluses would soon put the dairy business in the same boat broiler men have been in for the past few months.

A representative of a national feed company said to us recently, "Many of the most modern practices in farming today will be obsolete in a few years. Farming is going to have to be managed like any other business with the inefficient producers moving out to make room for the efficient. If the farmer is not willing to manage his business on such a businesslike basis, then someone else (large contract companies) will move in and do the management."

As much as we hate to do it, we have to agree that he is probably right. Farming is NOT going to return to the easy-going way of life it once was. The farming situation is just about as normal as it is going to get, and we might just as well accept that fact and go on from there.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand".

## Bangs On The Run

If present progress toward eradicating brucellosis continues, this disease can be eradicated from the United States by 1975, according to Dr. C. K. Mingle of the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Mingle, who heads up the State-Federal brucellosis program, points out that the disease now costs the livestock industry about \$25 million per year compared with \$100 million in 1954 when the intensified drive against the disease started.

By 1965, Dr. Mingle says, the entire country should qualify as a modified, certified brucellosis area, and by 1972 should be completely free of bovine brucellosis. Then, allowing an additional three years to eliminate reservoirs of infection in species other than cattle, eradication should be complete by 1975.

Once the disease is eradicated, all that will be necessary is surveillance through such devices as milk ring test and market cattle testing, and strict import regulation to prevent reintroduction. Dr. Mingle further points out that with the elimination of bovine brucellosis, the human form — undulant fever — will also disappear.

This news should be welcomed by farmers and consumers as well.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

Many other 4-H'ers will be needed to help with the production, but there are no roles in the play itself for 4-H members under the ages specified.

If you've never been in a play, you don't know what you're missing, and if you have been in one, you know what you don't want to miss. We'll see you there.

### FIFTH PLACE

We Americans eat lots of meat, but Tom King, extension livestock specialist at Penn State, says people in 4 other countries eat more. Citizens of Uruguay ate an average of 259 pounds per person last year, compared to 162 pounds per person in the U. S. New Zealanders averaged 229 pounds, Australians 226 pounds, and people of Argentina 175 pounds which places us in fifth place.

Privately owned commercial forest lands in the United States total almost 360 million acres.

## Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P. O. Box 1524  
Lancaster, Penna.

Offices:  
53 North Duke St.  
Lancaster, Penna.

Phone - Lancaster  
EXpress 4-3047

Jack Owen, Editor

Robert G. Campbell, Advertising  
Director & Business Manager

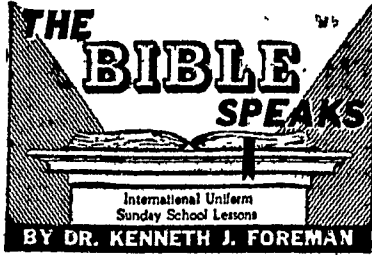
Established November 4, 1955

Published every Saturday by  
Lancaster Farming, Lancaster, Pa.

Entered as 2nd class matter at  
Lancaster, Pa. under Act of Mar.  
3, 1879 additional entry at Mount  
Joy Pa.

Subscription Rates: \$2 per year  
three years \$5. Single copy Price  
5 cents.

Members Pa. Newspaper Publishers  
Association; National Editorial  
Association.



BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 10:1-24; Acts 4:13-21

Devotional Reading: Acts 1:6-11.

## Witness

Lesson for December 3, 1961

THE Christian church is no secret society. To be sure, Christians know the secret of a truly happy life, they have more than they can understand, for theirs is the peace that passes understanding. But this is an open secret.



What the Christian knows about Christ he is bound to share, that's part of being a Christian. The church's word for this sharing, this joyful passing-on of the Good News, is Witness. Let's Dr. Foreman get the courtroom out of our head. Christian witness is sometimes like courtroom witness, giving evidence at a trial. The Christian should be ready to give as reason for the hope that is in him. But this is in emergencies, it's a bit unusual. Witness, as the church uses the word today (we get the word from Acts 1:8) means all that a Christian may do to show that he is a Christian.

### Witness by Being

Not that a Christian is to be a show-off. Never. Jesus uses two meaningful figures of speech in this connection. He calls His followers light, and salt. Now both light and salt can be nuisances, even harmful, if you get too much salt into the food or if a glaring light gives you a headache. Both light and salt must be modest, so to speak, unobtrusive. But what do light and salt do to justify their existence? Strictly speaking, they do not do a thing. They just ARE. The light gives light and the salt tastes salt. This suggests a way for the Christian to witness for Christ. Just BEING what the preacher talks about, just BEING (as it were) like the pictures in the catalogue, that is witness, that is evangelism. We use the word "evangelism" in the church too exclusively for talk. Everybody knows one picture is worth a thou-

sand arguments. If you are Christian, why is it? Isn't it because you somewhere have known a real Christian or two? Talk important, Christian talk very important; but the salesman ought to be able to point to some good samples?

### Witness by Doing

You can't really separate being and doing. Part of being a Christian—an indispensable part—doing. What? Well, here we come on all sorts of strange ideas. Centuries ago there were men who thought, the thing to do, for a Christian, would be to suffer as much pain as possible. So if they didn't have any wounds they would cut themselves, and if they were not sick they would do things almost guaranteed to make them sick. They would stand in cold water all night long to keep from going to sleep. One man (Simeon Stylites, the Pillar-Monk) stood on top of a post for 38 years just to show what a good Christian he was. Most of the church has got over those grotesque ideas. Some thinkers have rushed to the opposite extreme and denied that a Christian can do anything to show he's a Christian. The Bible truth is simple. St. John put it into words of one syllable: "He who says he abides in Him (Christ) ought to walk in the same way in which He walked."

Some people are better talkers than others, true enough. But does seem strange that Christians very often find it harder, or think it's harder, to say a good word for Jesus Christ than it is to "walk as He walked" or to have Christ-like attitudes. Nevertheless, witness by saying is very important. A professor in a classroom of chemistry makes a demonstration at the desk; and that's a very effective form of teaching. But if he never once says what he is doing, never explains at all, he's a poor teacher. A Christian if he is anything like the Christians of the early days, will not only witness by doing and being, he will say a good word for the Savior. Man is a talking animal. The word Gospel means Good News. News can be pictures, but some time or other it calls out to be told. If witness-by-saying seems frightening because you realize it hardly fits your being and your doing, then isn't it better not to refuse to speak, but to work at your doing and being so that saying will fit? There is nothing you can try, of which you may be more sure of God's help.

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## Now Is The Time . . .



MAX SMITH

TO APPLY LIME—Fall and early winter when the ground is not frozen is a good time to apply lime to lawns, pastures, and grassland that is on the sour side. This will give ample time for the rain and snow to work the lime into the soil where it will do more good next summer.

TO MULCH STRAWBERRY BEDS—Freezing temperatures are due at any time and this is the signal for strawberry growers to put their plants to bed for the winter. Materials such as seed-free wheat straw or early-cut hay, chopped cornstalks, or leaves may be used. Cover the plants to conceal all plant leaves. The purpose of the mulch is to prevent alternate freezing and thawing of the soil around the plants and thus prevent heaving and more winter injury.

TO PREVENT CHILLING OF UDDERS—In the dairy herd careful management should be exercised to prevent the udder from being chilled either by way of drafts, lying on bare concrete, or lying on the cold ground. Any or all of these may bring on udder trouble. Herd owners who depend upon the manual control of doors and windows for proper ventilation should seriously consider an exhaust fan system for improving their ventilation system. Details and assistance are available.

TO EXERCISE BREEDING HERD OR FLOCK—During the winter months it is very important that breeding herds of sows and flocks of sheep get outside daily exercise. In many cases the animals may have to be forced to move about by way of scattered hay racks, watering places, or salt licks. The animals will continue more healthy on stronger feet and legs, and in most cases will produce stronger offspring.

TO PERMIT EXERCISE FOR DAIRY HERD—Dairy herds in stanchions should be given outside exercise daily to maintain good herd health and breeding conditions. This practice should be installed in the fall of the year and performed until spring. Many herds with a breeding problem will benefit from this daily exercise; the cows should not be permitted outside long enough to try and lie down on the cold ground or concrete.

## 4-H Play Tryouts Are Scheduled

By: Elvin Hess

Tryouts for the annual 4-H play will be held December 5th at 7 pm in the Production Credit Association building on Roseville Road.

The play, scheduled for presentation in early February will be directed this year by Mr. Robert Hartman, dramatics director and instructor of English at the Solanco High School. The play is sponsored by the county 4-H Council.

The play committee is asking for any interested 4-H boy over 14 and 4-H girl over 12 years of age. The three act comedy, "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis" will have 25 acting roles.