

FROM WHERE WE STAND - Did You Dig Weeds Or Carry The Hoe?

Fast away the old year passes
As the strains of the old caroling
song die on the night air in these last
few days before Janus turns his for-
ward face, maybe we ought to take a
last look backward before we look in
to the new year

We used to tell the high school stu-
dents to look back only to remember
the pleasant moments and look for-
ward only with hope and faith in your
future.

We still believe this is good advice,
but in farming it sometimes pays to
look back to see if we dug out all the
weeds. It sometimes pays to look back
to see how straight our furrow is turn-
ing—to see if we can straighten out
some of the zigs and zags.

There is not one of us farming to
100 per cent of our potential, but if we
go on doing things the same way year
after year without ever looking for the
mistakes we made in the past year, we
may never know where we are failing
to come up to our potential.

Where did we waste money last
year on materials, feed, fertilizer or

machinery that failed to increase our
income or our potential for income
production? Where did we waste mon-
ey on inefficient livestock, plant varie-
ties, or practices?

Where did we waste money by
skimping on feed or fertilizer? Where
did we waste potential through lack of
capital and failure to make good use
of credit?

When did we waste our resources
through poor planning or poor use of
labor? When did we work so hard and
long that our efficiency was impaired
and we became a health hazard to co-
workers as well as ourselves?

When did we get so involved in
community affairs that we neglected
our business, or when did we get so
involved in our businesses that we
neglected our civic responsibilities and
the responsibilities to our families?

We could go on and on, but you get
the idea, and anyway, we don't know
where you dug last year and where
you carried the hoe. But you can tell
if you look back down the row.

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

Farm Safety - Whose Responsibility Is It?

Farm safety rules, like safe driving
rules, have become so trite and stereo-
typed that their repetition seems al-
most a waste of time.

Everyone knows the rules of safety
anyway. Every man who has ever had
fingers or a hand or arm gnawed off in
the rollers of a corn picker knew full
well that he was supposed to shut off
the power before pulling stalks out of
the machine. Any person brought up
on a farm knows the danger of bulls,
boars, sows with young pigs, and cows
with young calves. They understand
the dangers of riding double on trac-
tors with machinery attached or of
driving a tractor on the highway with-
out proper warning flags and lights.
They also realize that to operate a ma-
chine without all the safety shields in
place is an invitation to disaster. Still
all of these rules and many more are
violated every day on farms through-
out the country.

All safety rules, after all, are com-
mon sense rules, and as a group, rural
people are traditionally more practical

and imbued with the value of common
sense than any other people. Despite
this, farm families continue to take
chances, and farm accidents mount up
at an alarming rate. In fact, more
farm accidents occur per capita than
in any other major occupation.

The senseless maiming and killing
of farmers and their families should be
stopped.

Actually there is little that editors,
Safety Council publicity men, or any
other group can do to reduce farm ac-
cidents. It is up to every farmer to
take the subject seriously, then come
up with his own program for making
his farm a safer place to work and
bring up his children.

There is no reason why America's
farms should be listed among the most
dangerous places in the nation to live
and work. Only individual farmers
with an every day awareness of the
dangers of operating machinery and
handling livestock, however, can make
it otherwise.

Livestock Reporter,
East St. Louis, Ill.

Extension Assn. Swine Forecast Sponsors Truck Shows More Pigs To Farm Show

The Extension Association
will again sponsor a truck
to the Pennsylvania State
Farm Show in Harrisburg
next month, County Agent
M. M. Smith said this week.

The truck will transport
small exhibits, both agricul-
tural and home economics
exhibits, to the farm show
for any farmer in the
county. However, Smith spe-
cifies the truck is for small
exhibits only.

Persons wishing to have
their exhibits transported by
the truck must have them
at the Farm Bureau Coop-
erative Assn. building on the
Dillerville Road, Lancaster
by 8 a.m. on January 6.

There will be an addition-
al stop at Newcomer's Hard-
ware store in Mount Joy
at 8:30 a.m. for agricultural
exhibits only.

All home economics exhi-
bits must be at the Farm
Bureau building by Noon on
Friday, January 5 and must
have a completed entry
blank attached.

Place a good creep ration
before your pigs when they
are one week old. Pigs will
usually start eating feed in
meal form quicker than the
pellets, however, after the
pigs have been eating a few
days a pelleted ration may
be preferred to meal. A
good cheap ration should in-
crease weaning weights.

Three per cent more pigs
are expected on the nation's
farms during the spring of
1962 than there were in the
spring of 1961.

Based on farmers' reports

Crop Records Set In 1961

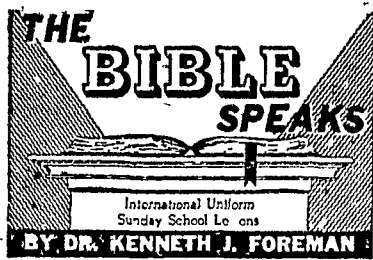
The all-crop production
index for major crops was
reported at 119 in the U.S.
Department of Agriculture
Crop Reporting Board's An-
nual Crop Production Sum-
mary for 1961.

The 105 page publication
points out that this is above
all previous years except
1960 when the index reach-
ed 121.

However, the composite
yield per acre index, cover-
ing 28 leading crops was
147, two per cent above last
year and a new record high.

Among the major field
crops reported yields per
acre were set for corn for
grain, corn silage, sorghum
grain and silage, soybeans,
popcorn, dry beans, and
clover-timothy hay.

The acreage planted or
grown to the 59 major crops
was 310 million acres in
1961, down 45 per cent
from last year and the
smallest planted acreage since
1912. The acreage har-
vested for the 59 crops was
296 million acres the lowest
since comparable records be-
gan in 1909.



BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: 1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 4:11-24
Devotional Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Are We Growing

Lesson for December 31, 1961

BEFORE the Old Year dies, it
is well to look back over it and
do some serious thinking. How are
we different from what we were
a year ago? The world has
changed, but have we changed? We
are a year older, each one of us.
But "older" means different
things at different stages of life.
A child has grown larger and strong-
er by growing older; his grand-
father has perhaps shrunken and
grown weaker by growing older.



Dr. Foreman

But the question is about our
real selves. Do our souls have to
shrink, grow sickly and feeble
with age, as bodies do? The Apo-
stle Paul felt his age, as we say;
he was conscious of becoming an
old and shaky man. But he can
write of himself, "Though our out-
ward nature is wasting away, our
inner nature is being renewed
every day." (II Cor. 4:16.)

Measure of growth

How shall we measure the
growth of a soul? How can we
measure our true selves? A child's
progress can be shown by pencil-
marks on a wall. A young man's
progress can be seen by his pass-
ing examinations in more and
more difficult subjects. But to
grow taller is not necessarily to
grow better; and a mind may be
highly developed while the soul is
shrinking. Paul gives us a stand-
ard which we can test our-
selves—the standard of the one
perfect Life, Jesus Christ. We are
to "grow up in every way" into
him.

Let it be remembered that only
God is the true and final Judge
of us all. Our own opinion of our-
selves may well be distorted by
pride. Nevertheless we need to
examine ourselves, and the one
basic test and standard is this:
Are we growing more, or less,
like the Christ whom we say we
adore, and whose name we bear?

One way to make this test is to
read over the Gospels and pay
special attention to the things
Jesus said. Do they seem, from
time to time, more true, more
living, are they more attractive,
do they reach us,—or do they
seem, from year to year, stranger
and stranger to our ears? Are
we, or are we not, more sympa-
thetic and responsive to the mind
of Jesus than we used to be? Or
is he becoming a kind of eccentric
stranger?

Goal of growth

Some one may object at this
point: "Isn't this impossible? How
can I ever be the man Christ
was?" Two answers can be given
to this question. One was put by
Dr. E. D. Soper years ago: "If
you're not aiming at perfection
then you're aiming at imperfec-
tion." And the other is, that in
all walks and activities of life,
people do aim at more than they
may ever accomplish. Every
breeder of horses aims at the
perfect horse; every artist tries
to produce the perfect painting,
poem or what not; every minis-
ter tries for the perfect sermon;
—even criminals attempt the per-
fect crime. They never succeed—
though maybe some criminals
do; it's easier to be perfectly bad
than perfectly good! But even if
they never succeed, "Not failure,
but low aim, is crime." And the
fact remains that perfection, in
any line, is the bright background
against which we can trace our
direction up or down.

Secret of growth

So Christ is the standard, Christ
the goal, of the Christian's life.
Yet we are troubled by a dark
thought. That question, "Isn't this
impossible?" haunts us. Humanly
speaking, it is impossible. Yet if
the New Testament makes any-
thing clear, it is this: the Chris-
tian life is a supernatural life. It
is spoken of as "life in the spirit"
or "life in the Christ" or "life in
God." The process of becoming
Christ-like is not something we
do all by ourselves. The secret
of Christian growth—that is to
say, the growth of a Christian's
inner and true self, is that we
have a Power that is not our own.
—Or do we? If in this year now
past we can detect no signs of
growth, is it perhaps because we
have not wanted to grow? Our
heavenly father is ready to give
the Holy Spirit to all who ask him.
In the year now dawning, we may
pray for many blessings, but what
are other blessings worth, if we
do not welcome God himself?

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO ATTEND FARM SHOW MEETINGS—
The 1962 State Farm Show will open on
January 8th, many people go there to see
the exhibits, or the events in the big
arena, or just to eat "hot dogs." However,
there is an educational value in the many
state-wide meetings and educational ses-
sions held during the show. The Farm
Show Program will list these sessions and
local farmers are urged to attend those of
their particular interests.

TO PREPARE FARM SHOW EXHIBITS CAREFULLY --
Extreme care should be used in selecting and packing farm
show exhibits; exhibitors should obtain a copy of the Pre-
mium List and follow directions carefully. It is very im-
portant that an Entry Blank be filled out for each exhibit
showing the exact class number as well as the correct name
and address of the exhibitor. Some exhibits not properly
entered and identified may never be placed upon the exhibit
table.

TO LEARN ABOUT CORRESPONDENCE COURSES --
Many folks throughout Pennsylvania are benefiting from
the Correspondence Courses at Penn State University. These
are available at any time of the year on a wide variety of
subjects. These courses by mail are very practical and
provide a chance for more education during leisure hours.
More details are available.

TO KILL RODENTS—Reports indicate a heavy population
of rats and mice on many farms and in buildings. All farm-
ers and property owners are urged to stage a special eradica-
tion program to eliminate these rodents. With costs of
production on the increase in most commodities it is very
important to reduce the waste from rats and mice. Poison
bait stations and a real strict sanitation program in all
buildings is recommended.

TO GIVE BREEDING ANIMALS EXERCISE -- During the
winter months with snow covered ground it is very easy to
forget about the merits of daily exercise in herds and
flocks. However, this is very important with the flock of
breeding ewes, the herd of brood sows, and the milking
herd of cows. In case of the sheep and hogs it is urged
that the animals be forced to move about by scattering the
watering and feeding equipment. Larger returns will be
obtained with outside daily exercise.

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