

From Where We Stand . . .

A Malthusian Views The Farmer

GUEST EDITORIAL

A grim figure of the past seems to be pointing his finger with contempt at our modern generation. Thomas Robert Malthus looking from his grave into such areas as China, India, Indonesia and other areas bulging with humanity must have a contented, "I told you so," pursed on his lips.

If you are not acquainted with Thomas Robert Malthus and you are a farmer, then I suggest you consider his grim prophecy which was penned in 1798. This man has hurled at you the most demanding challenge ever to befall a single group of working people. In short, Mr. Malthus predicted that the world's population would eventually outgrow its ability to produce enough food to sustain it. The choice he seemed to leave is that you farmers of the world devise methods of keeping up or mankind will be reduced to dog eat dog, survival of the fittest, type of society.

At this point you are probably thinking that the dog eat dog concept already exists, and this whole thing is so much clap-trap. I believe, however, that the United Nations standing in its weakest form is still a symbol that we do not prefer to be at one another's throats, and have advanced considerably since ancient times.

United States in general and Lancaster County in particular abounds with the means to survive as far as our stomachs are concerned. Only a blind, deaf, mute, however, would be unaware of privations suffered by our fellowman throughout the world. Indeed, we are becoming so concerned with these areas that we spend many hours in the halls of our highest government offices trying to work out the methods for giving or lending food stuffs to both friends and enemy.

A feature article in one of our nation's leading magazines seems to add fuel to the Malthus fire. Titled, "Why Hunger Is to Be The World's No. 1 Problem," the article cites the slow rise of grain output in some areas of the world and even an output decline in other areas. The big jolt, however, is the rise of population from 1,551,000,000 in 1900 to an estimated 4,219,000,000 by 1980. Plainly speaking, that is putting almost four more chairs at every table, just since 1900.

The only bright spot in this depressing picture, seems to be the American Farmers. You have not been sitting idle over the years and the result is gigantic surpluses here in this county. You have experimented with your work and never seem to tire in your efforts to produce more and better crops. Because you have done this, however, you are going to be looked on for the guidance and help others will need. You also will have to continue the long gruelling hours of labor; and retirement will be available for few.

Your reward for all of this will probably be only the satisfaction that you have lived a life that was beneficial to mankind, and I doubt if you will even get a medal. The backbone of the man who will dare challenge the prophecy of Malthus better be strong and straight for his plow will be heavy, awkward and hard to push.

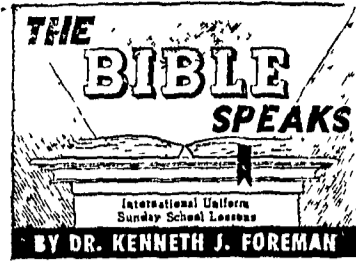
Our tables are already surrounded by many. What happens when we slap in eight or sixteen more chairs as the chain of population keeps doubling its length? That, Mr. Farmer, is your big problem, and the rest of us, including the rich, the poor, the strong and the weak, the scientist and the spaceman, must tumble around on this globe and pray you will come through.

That haunting finger of the past rests on a trigger that can doom more lives than a nuclear holocaust. Not scientists, not generals, not even heads of states can plug that awesome barrel. Only the dusty hands of the farmer can do the job, and with you ride our hopes, our dreams and our prayers.

William B. Helsel
Elementary Teacher

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Editor's Note: While we do not agree entirely with the Malthusian theory, we do agree with Mr. Helsel that a growing population does present a challenge to the American farmer. However, we have faith in the inventive and productive ability of America. We believe agricultural technology will continue to increase production at a faster pace than the population can grow. While population has grown at a tremendous rate in the past half century, agriculture production has grown faster, and we believe it will continue to do so.

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



EVANGELISTS

Lesson for January 12, 1964

Background Scriptures: Mark 3:14-19a; John 1:35-41; 6:6-14; 12:20-22; 14:1-12; Acts 1:15.
Devotional Reading: John 14:1-11.

THE BIBLE studies selected for us this quarter are focused on persons, characters, rather than events and stories. The Bible seldom uses adjectives. We seldom or never hear, from the pages of the Bible, of a man who was mean, charming, resourceful, lazy, cowardly, courageous . . . not in so many words, at all events. We hear about people of those and many other kinds; but the Bible lets us see Dr. Foreman what a man is like (just as it lets us see what God is like) not by adjectives but by verbs—not so much by saying what he is as saying what he did.

Two in the outer circle

Everybody has heard of the inner circle of Jesus' friends, those closest to him, who shared his most sublime and most agonizing experiences. Peter, James and John are as familiar as they are important. But most Christians would be hard put to it to name the other nine of the special disciples who were later to be called Apostles.

Two of these meet us in the first chapter of John: Philip and Nathaniel. Maybe Nathaniel was the same as Bartholomew; but if this guess is true, still we hear nothing of either Nathaniel or Philip after that Pentecost time (We hear of other Philips, but none of the Apostles by that name) All that is known of Nathaniel is in this fragment of the Gospel by John. We do know a little more about Philip, but it adds up only to the fact that the man was a little stupid.

However, the point here is that Jesus needed, invited, made friends with and made use of ordinary men

These two men, Philip and Nathaniel, are sometimes called "evangelists." In 20th century America, with the kind of church organizations we have now, it sounds a little odd to call these men evangelists. They were not Billy Grahams. They had no organization of their own; we never hear of either of them preaching a sermon; they had no choir to accompany them, they had no publicity at all. They never issued an "altar call," they were not known for the large number of their converts. Then why called evangelists? Because that word evangelism just means spreading the good news, and these two men did that in the simplest way possible. The good news was about Jesus. These men were not theologians, they might have made a low grade in a seminary class; but they could do this much—they would tell others about Jesus.

Laymen

In an age of specialization, the present-day church follows the usual pattern and thinks of the minister (parson, pastor, rector, whatever they call him) as the only person in the outfit "licensed to preach." That was not the way in the New Testament. Undoubtedly in our churches today we need organization and specialization; but the point here is that non-ministers, laymen, have just as much right—and just as much duty—to tell others about Jesus, as any minister has. There is a seminary which has a rule forbidding students to preach during their first year. But not so many years ago two young men who didn't know this rule, during the summer before they enrolled as students in the seminary, brought fifty-eight persons to Christ.

Is there a secret?

What did those boys have? What does any successful evangelist have, in or out of the pulpit? Is it some mysterious gift? No, what Philip and Nathaniel had we can all have—if in our hearts we desire it so. We note that these two men were open-minded. They believed the good news with minds free from prejudice, or at least willing to be convinced. Then they had the open mouth (in a good sense)—that is, they did not keep quiet about the Master. (What a contrast to most of us!) And they were men of the open hand. It is not just loyalty to Jesus that makes the evangelist, it is friendliness with other persons. Suppose these two men had had no friends with whom to share the News?

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● Brubaker

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you start" he said, explaining that he lays aside the "nice" apples at picking time and makes his selection from these. It would take a lot more if you picked them from "tree run", he added.

Brubaker selects his corn for exhibit in much the same way, picking all his corn by hand and reserving the better ears in rodent-proof storage.

But not all the 25,000 ribbons came from the Farm Show. During the past years he has exhibited at the New Holland, Ephrata and Manheim community fairs in the county as well as the larger state shows at Allentown, Carlisle, Abbotstown, Reading, Bloomsburg, Bedford, Ebensburg and Indiana.

Years ago, he said, he also showed at Lehigh and Kutztown in Pennsylvania and at the International Livestock show in Chicago, the corn shows at Des Moines and Waterloo, Iowa.

But even though he has exhibited at every Farm Show that has been held since 1939, Brubaker has no intention of quitting. You will be seeing his name mentioned frequently in the premium lists next week.

● Tobacco Growers

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ville, told tobacco growers that several new chemicals for tobacco sucker control look very promising in preliminary tests.

He said several compounds derived from fatty acids were tested by the Department of Agriculture's research staff last year in comparisons with MH-30 (see Lancaster Farming, Dec. 28, 1963). While none of the new compounds have been approved, several of them were very effective in controlling the unwanted growth "If they are approved", he said, "they should be cheaper and give better control than Maelic Hydraside (MH-30)."

● Osborne

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herd has led the state in milk production for two consecutive years.

Last year, on Dairy Herd Improvement Assn test, the Peach Bottom R2 herd averaged 10,178 pounds of milk and 568 pounds of butterfat.

A member of Southeastern Artificial Breeding Cooperative's Jersey sire purchasing committee, Osborne is also president of the Lancaster County Jersey Cattle Club.

A U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, Osborne is married to the former Shirley Brisco, Lancaster County, Neb., and is the father of five children.

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Do Farm Planning

During the next few months we have a good time to make our plans for the coming crop season; farm records should be studied and evaluated to determine the proper direction for this year's enterprises. Planning ahead and then following through with the decisions prior to the crop planting time is good farm management.

To Get Your Farmer's Tax Guide

A special publication for farmers is available without cost titled, "Farmer's Tax Guide". This sixty page document is up to date and should be very helpful to all farmers in filing their income tax returns. Copy is available from Internal Revenue or from our Extension Office.

To Be A Good Shepherd

few days old.

Lambing time is one of the most important times of the year to the sheep producer. Every lamb saved will mean a greater net return. The ewe flock should be watched closely during lambing time, and the ewes about to lamb should be separated into a small pen (using a 4' x 4' hurdle). During the heat lamp will be of great help to the new-born lamb. Careful attention is very im-

To Benefit From Farm Show

State Farm Show is one of the largest events of its kind in the world. It is intended to be of educational value to farmers and to all citizens of the commonwealth. We urge farmers to take advantage of the many educational meetings and banquets in their respective lines of farming. Many practical suggestions and commendations are made. Farm Show Programs are of

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P O Box 1524
Lancaster, Penna.
P O Box 266 - Lititz, Pa.

Offices:
22 E. Main St.
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394-3047 or
Lititz 626-2191

Jack Owen, Editor

Robert G. Campbell,
Advertising Director

Established November 4,
1955. Published every Saturday by Lancaster-Farming, Lititz, Pa.

Entered as 2nd class matter at Lititz, Pa. under Act of March 3, 1879.