

From Where We Stand . . .

(We reprint the following editorial with which we opened the new year in 1965, not by popular request but because it also conveys our hope for the new year 1966, and because there is no better way we can say the words Happy New Year).

A Time For Realignment

Do you still make New Year's resolutions, or have you discontinued that perennial practice because you found that you never kept them anyway?

The start of a new year is an ideal time for taking a good look at ourselves, and deciding how we can improve. Many people think of New Year's resolutions as a complete rebuilding program, and consequently they set goals for themselves that are not only unrealistic, but overwhelming. Then they become discouraged when they find attainment of these goals impossible.

Perhaps in this space age in which we live it might be helpful to compare the realignment of our lives in the new year with the way that scientists can make slight changes in the orbit of a space vehicle by triggering built-in correction rockets at pre-determined times. The firing of these rockets cause the space ship to change its direction slightly one way or the other so as to more perfectly attain its goal. Isn't this really what we hope to accomplish with our lives by our resolutions?

Granted, minor corrections should have been made all during the year as their need was indicated, but psychologically, starting a new year has traditionally been the time when most attention was focused on this operation. If you are one who has some minor corrections to be made, as who is not, then we remind you that the time is now.

To assure a certain amount of success in this venture we pass on a couple of suggestions from the psychologists — those mysterious students of human behavior. They suggest that, most important, our resolutions must be realistic, within our power to accomplish. Secondly, they say that the resolutions should be specific rather than general. That way we can better measure our progress and know whether we are really accomplishing anything. Finally, they suggest that we start slowly with projects that are not overly difficult. In this way we are more likely to be successful, and this sense of accomplishment will provide a base of success upon which we can readily build greater accomplishments.

So that's the formula: an honest analysis of ourselves; a reexamination of our goals; a realistic set of resolu-

tions; and a step-by-step program toward becoming the sort of person we each really want to be.

We wish you a year of happiness and accomplishment. A year in which the fruits of your labors will be truly bountiful. And a year that will move us all closer to a complete understanding of ourselves and each other.



Effects of 1965 State Legislation

Pennsylvania State Senator Richard A. Snyder, of the 13th District, recently reported on the implications for farmers of some of this year's legislation.

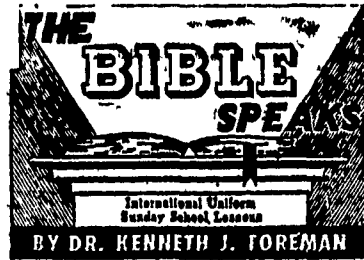
He cites the new feed and fertilizer laws which "cut through red tape and reflects the tendency to bulk sales in these fields". Under the new laws, millers and fertilizer dealers will need fewer permits for bulk handling, and Sen. Snyder suggests their reduced costs will be reflected in costs to the farmers.

A tightening of the milk control laws, he says, will help protect farmers from being "down-priced by purchasers who buy from outside the state to evade prices established by the Milk Commission".

While the Commission was not actually given an overwhelming vote of confidence, the efforts to abolish it were at least temporarily defeated. Now that its inadequacies have been thoroughly aired — as they surely have been in the past year — we hope every effort will be made to bring the authority and activity of the Commission up to date, rather than expect our economy to either wait for the Commission to catch up, or to move backwards in time to join it.

The new dog law, Sen. Snyder says, will also benefit farmers. It provides for prompt payment by the state of the appraised value of animals which have been harmed by dogs. It is then the Commonwealth's responsibility to collect from the dog's owner.

Sometimes, as the Senator points out, legislation which is defeated can be more important than that which is passed. He cites some of the defeated bills which would have permitted easier condemnation of land. Perhaps the plight of the Middle Creek area farmers has already helped some legislators and state agencies to realize the importance of individual property rights. The Senator says it seems unlikely that the state will reverse its stand on this particular condemnation, but it may help others who later find themselves faced with similar condemnations by alerting state agencies that they should be most careful in asserting the right of eminent domain



"I Believe"

Lesson for January 2, 1966

Background Scriptures: Matthew 8:5-13; Acts 16:25-34; Hebrews 11:1-6; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 3:15.
Devotional Readings: Acts 16:25-34.

IN MOST of the Christian churches around the globe sometime during the public worship the people will stand and say together "I believe . . ." Why should this seem so important that it is repeated Sunday after



Sunday? Why do they say "believe" and not know? In many parts of the world Christians are called Believers and have in fact borne this name since the earliest Christian era. What does it mean to believe and why do Christians set so much store by believing?

The word believe has more meanings than one. What we are looking for is the strong and living meaning that makes it important. Christians will tell you because they learned it from the Bible and in experience they find it to be a fact, that believing or not believing makes all the difference in the world. But this is not true with some meaning of the word Believe. That word sometimes means "seem to remember" as "I believe you say you would bring the salad." Sometimes it means only "The preacher (or my parents or some book) says it's so and I'm willing to go along with him."

Marks of belief

What are some marks of belief in the vital sense of the word? What kind of thing is faith? What is it that is called "saving" faith, something that makes the difference between life and despair and destruction? For one thing, vital belief, or faith is active. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews brings up one illustration after another to show what faith means, and in every case he mentions, the faith was the beginning of action. Allegedly faith or belief that leaves the be-

liever passive, no different from he was, is not genuine belief of the vital sort. True belief is confident, also, as all the illustrations in Hebrew 11 show. If you say you believe a bridge is safe, but won't cross it yourself, it shows you don't have confidence in the bridge and don't really believe in its safety.

Above all, Christian belief is personal. It is not first of all belief-that, not believe about, it is belief-in. . . . But genuine faith does not hang in the air with only a row of dots after it. Belief-in is nothing unless it is belief in some one. For the genuine Christian this means belief in Jesus Christ. Belief about him, belief in him, belief with him — this all blends together in a pulsating threefold cord through which power flows from him to the believer.

Belief-in and belief-about

But personal faith in Christ does not exist in a vacuum. Many of the beliefs of Christians are beliefs-about. Central always is personal trust and confidence in the Lord Jesus. Around this center gather many other beliefs, and some of these are of immense importance. For the next six months the Bible lessons deal with what Christians believe. It is right and may be much needed to study "doctrines" — but we cannot afford to forget that the heart and center of Christian faith is not a doctrine, but a faith. The devil could write a more learned book of theology than you could. But it would not be the Christian faith. A doctrine is words, it is intellectual. Faith concerns the whole life. It is inevitable that doctrines should exist and be studied. But much study is still not faith. As has often been said, Christian truth can best be understood from within, not from the outside. The center of Christian belief is not a proposition but a person. We cannot rate ourselves as Christ's men and women by the number of Bible verses we have memorized, the question is whether we have heard Christ say "Follow Me" and have followed him. A proposition will inform us, but a person can transform us.

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Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Topdress Wheat With Manure

Livestock producers can increase wheat yields by topdressing this winter with 6 to 8 tons per acre. This extra mulch might help to prevent some winter-killing as well as furnish extra nitrogen next spring. If the manure is treated with superphosphate, it will be more valuable for the wheat as well as any new grass stand that might be seeded.

To Prevent Drafts On Dairy Cows

The milking cows should be protected from cold winds and drafts during the winter months. The chilling of the milking udder is sure to bring on udder problems and loss of production. Extra care should be given about open doors and windows during cold, windy days and any large openings that allow movement of large amounts of air. The controlled ventilation system using electric exhaust fans and regular inlets for cold air, will usually do a good job without danger of drafts.

To Care for Lawn Mower

While there is little need for the lawn mower in the next several months, it will be a good time to get it serviced and sharpened for the spring period. Many power service concerns will appreciate the work during the winter months, rather than to have a rush period next April and many dissatisfied customers. Most lawnmowers will need to be sharpened, oiled, and have parts replaced. Good care every winter will lengthen the life of the machine.

To Start Accurate Farm Records . . .

The beginning of the calendar year is the best time to adopt an accurate system of keeping farm records. With the mounting costs of production and modern farming methods, it is very important to keep the best possible set of accounts. Many record books are available, and we recommend our Penn State Farm Account Books for your consideration, if you are not already using them.



SMITH

● Agr. Research

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would make the greatest total contribution to the state's agriculture.

Secretary Bull said particular consideration was given to studies that have a potential for bringing new in-

dustry into the Commonwealth.

He termed the research program a "break-through" for Pennsylvania agriculture, and that the state soon will be able to move ahead in areas where lack of basic information has had a stymieing effect.

He commended Governor Scanton and the Legislature for "farsighted and constructive action" in setting up the research program. Research projects, he indicated, will be both basic and applied. They will deal with immediate problems in agriculture and provide also for long range programs most of which will require three or more years to complete.

Secretary Bull revealed that a number of research projects will benefit from matching funds from various sponsoring organizations. This he regarded as particularly helpful in view of the long period some of them will require for development.

Major studies will relate to dairy and livestock, beef

cattle production, poultry, swine, potatoes, forage crops, fruit, horticultural specialties and other commodities.

Money for the program will derive from harness racing revenue through appropriation to the Fair Fund that is administered by the Department of Agriculture.

● Welding Course

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been set for the number of interested persons who may register for the course, if the number warrants there will be two sessions each week.

The five-week course will feature instruction in striking arcs and running beads; butt and fillet welds and soldering; welding cast iron and using arc torch, cutting metals, hard surfacing; vertical welding; overhead welding.

The classes will be under the instruction of Richard Hackenberger, vocational agriculture teacher at Penn Manor High School, and will be held in the agriculture shop.

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