

Chains to the Future

Learning to do
Doing to learn
Earning to live
Living to Serve

That's the FFA motto and we think it has much to recommend it. Timothy Ruth, Pennsylvania FFA president, spoke admirably on the "earning to live" portion at the Warwick FFA Chapter banquet this week (see page 29). Ruth said that any man who has the determination to set a goal and work toward it has a great opportunity for success.

Encourage Them

But Ruth also urged, "Parents, teachers, never fail to encourage that FFA member who's trying to reach his goal." The point is that while young people have much opportunity to succeed in our affluent society, they still need guidance and encouragement to keep them on the right track.

The entire FFA program is geared to teaching FFA members how to meet their goals in agriculture. Many procedures and programs have been adopted to assist in the effort.

We would like to single out one particular program which we think deserves unlimited praise and considerable expansion. It's the chain animal program.

This aptly named program essentially involves giving female animals to deserving FFA members with the stipulation that they return the first female off-spring to the chapter for perpetuation of the program.

Low Cost, Ongoing

It becomes an ongoing program with almost no cost involved, but a program which enables young farmers to get started in an actual livestock program at very little cost.

One of the better chain programs in Lancaster County is being conducted by Cloister FFA Chapter of Ephrata, which this year gave three dairy calves, two gilts and two sheep to young FFA members. Charles Ackley, chapter advisor, said the animals are awarded on the basis of the quality of application, need, desire and overall ability.

While Lancaster County is a prosperous

farm area and many young FFA members get assistance from relatives or neighbors in getting started with farming programs, we feel sure many youths are not so fortunate. They need help. An adequate chain program can give many of them the help they need.

Doing to Learn

We believe that every serious young vo-ag student who needs it should get this type of help early in his vo-ag program so that the FFA motto can have meaning for him. So that "learning to do" can be translated into "doing to learn" and finally, as Ruth urged, into "earning to live."

Who can argue with the idea that vo-ag training the young students receive will mean far more to them if they can practice in their own farm programs what they learn in school, as they learn it?

The cost of the chain program to help make vo-age education meaningful is peanuts beside the cost of four years of vo-ag training.

A chain program helps young men at an early age to make a realistic appraisal of farming and whether or not they want to make a career of it. Such a program enables them to make failures early and on a small scale, rather than later when they have committed themselves to large farming operations. Such a program enables them, as Ruth urged, to set their goals early.

Living to Serve

Young men assisted in this way, we believe, cannot fail to grow up without understanding the importance and value of "living to serve."

Developing a chain program large enough to meet the needs of all vo-ag students in the county probably would not cost more than a few hundred or a few thousand dollars — a one-shot investment such as Sears made at Ephrata in a few animals which would supply the off-spring for continuation of the program.

How about it farmers, feed and farm equipment suppliers? It's a high return investment.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Buy Carefully

The new growing season is at hand and many purchases of field and garden supplies will be made. Everyone is looking for bargains, but many times the transaction turns out to be very disappointing and costly. We refer to dealing with strangers or from unknown concerns that offer materials at reduced prices. When we deal with reliable, local people who will stand behind their goods and render a good service, we will usually be more successful.

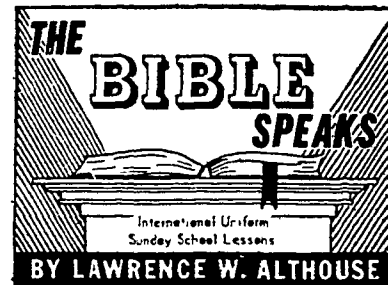
To Vaccinate Horses

Unlike other animals there are only a few diseases that horses can be successfully immunized against. Tetanus is one infection that requires injections to protect the animal. Sleeping sickness is a dreaded disease of horses and more common in the At-

lantic coast; states than in some other areas, this infection is carried by mosquitos along the eastern seaboard. Injections will set up an immunity. Show horses that are transported to and from neighboring states need this protection.

To Pasture With Care

The grazing season is at hand and all livestock owners are urged to acclimate their animals to the lush forage gradually. A feeding of dry forage such as hay silage, or straw is recommended before the animals are permitted to consume the new growth. The time of the grazing period should begin with only a half-hour or less and be increased after several days of careful management. Scouring or bloating may occur if the animals are not handled properly.



Background Scripture: Acts 2:43 through 4:7.
Devotional Reading: Hebrews 11:32 through 12:2.

Peter and John got into serious difficulty because they healed a man. What the authorities were concerned with was not so much that a man who had been lame was now healed of his infirmity, but that a remarkable sign had been performed in the name of Jesus. Men were won to the Good News of Jesus Christ, not only by powerful testimonies, but also by works in which the power of God was revealed.

Rev. Althouse

Signs and wonders today

Many Christians assume that these God-given "signs and wonders" ceased with the close of the New Testament age. But many of the early Church Fathers speak of the healing ministry of the early church. St. Francis of Assisi practiced healing through prayer and the laying-on-of-hands. Martin Luther spoke of it in his letters to Lutheran pastors and himself was instrumental in the healing of his lieutenant, Philip Melancthon. Other reformers such as John Wesley and George Fox both practiced and wrote of it.

And today? Someone has recently said: "Cancer is being healed today through prayer. There are too many cases of the healing of cancer through prayer to explain away by co-incidence or mis-diagnosis." These were not the words of a preacher, evangelist, or "faith healer," but a medical doctor, Clair B. King, M.D., of Canton, Ohio. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and a member of the American Medical Association and American Academy of Ophthalmology, Dr. King is one of a considerable number of physicians and physical scientists who are greatly interested in the rise of the church's healing ministry today.

The age is not over

Speaking to a group of clergymen in the historic St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Dr. King told of weekly healing services conducted in his church, Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton, during which prayers are offered for the sick of mind, body, and spirit and the New Testament practice of the laying-on-of-hands is carried on. "The age of miracles is not over," said Dr. King.

For one thing, many of us have seen too many examples of God's healing power mediated through prayer to disregard this great force. For another, spiritual healing is not so "unscientific" as many people suppose. For many of us, not only is our God too small, but our world of science is also too narrow. We are finding once again the truth enunciated by St. Augustine: "Miracles do not happen in contradiction to nature, but only in contradiction to that which is known to us of nature." All healing takes place according to law, although we may not be familiar with the laws by which spiritual healing takes place, just as the laws of aerodynamics have always existed but until recently have been unknown.

Wonder and amazement

Some of the principles of spiritual healing are evident in Acts 3. (1) It involves concentration of attention and effort. Peter said to the man, "Look at us." We often think of prayer as getting God's attention; in reality it is a matter of giving him our undivided attention so that he may do with us as he desires. (2) It involves the expectation that we will receive something. Unless we truly expect something to happen, we keep closed the door through which the power of God must enter. (3) It involves the power of the living Lord. Peter said: ". . . in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk" (4) It often involves the touch of a human hand as a channel of God's power. Peter reached down and took the man by the hand "and raised him up" (5) It may provide fresh evidence of the power of God at work in the world today. Those who saw what happened "were filled with wonder and amazement."

The ministry of healing is a means by which the signs and wonders of God are still being performed in our world today.

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Anti-Pollution Steamroller

We don't have a crystal ball. We can't see into the future. But from where we sit, it appears a safe bet that the time is just around the corner when a firm which emits a significant amount of pollution will be forced to abate it.

This prediction is based on what appears to be growing public concern about the adverse effects of pollution and a militant unwillingness to accept or tolerate pollution. Politicians, many of whom have never before had any regard for clean air or clean water, are suddenly pushing hard on pollution.

We believe that both the legitimate concern about air pollution and opportunistic efforts by politicians can be expected to grow.

Many firms in Lancaster County and elsewhere have already run into problems with local citizens and state pollution officials.

Those businessmen connected with pollution producing firms who are not aware of

the force of the anti-pollution movement or who refuse to act are putting themselves and their firms directly in the path of a social and political force which is determined both to make and break entire industries.

Those firms which wait too long to act will suffer.

They'll have public relations problems and all the related problems that go with poor public relations.

They'll have labor problems.

They'll have legal problems.

They'll have political problems.

Worst of all, those which delay may have financial problems. To solve the other problems will be costly in materials and manpower and lost business. If politicians, backed by a militant public, then demand solutions in less time than it's feasible to achieve them, the businessman can be in serious trouble.

Some firms now in trouble with pollution authorities are among those which have had serious pollution problems for many decades. They ignored the problems.

We're ready to give officials of these firms the benefit of the doubt when they claim that the present urgency for cleaning the air and water never existed in the past and that standards have been greatly upgraded.

The standards are stiffer, the concern about pollution is much greater now. Firms deserve leniency, they deserve time to act.

We're in favor of giving businesses plenty of time to solve their pollution problems.

But if the same old problems still exist next year, and the next, and the next, and no effort has been made toward improvement. Well, the warning has been ample.

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