

LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

A wedding ring is a nice thing to have. It really is. I was so proud of mine when my wife, Lisa, first slipped it on my finger, that I thought I'd never remove it from my hand. I had a lot to learn

The wedding band came off shortly after our honeymoon. I learned

quickly that the ring interfered with farm work and threatened my safety. I nearly lost a finger once, and I suppose a person could even lose his life because of a ring.

But what frightened me as much as anything was the thought of losing the ring itself.

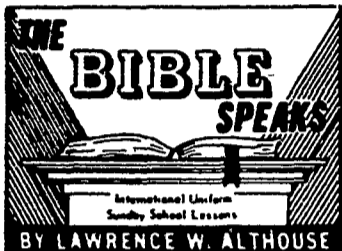
aggressive young heifer gave me a real scare once. She wasn't satisfied to have her usual six quarts of warm water and milk replacer for breakfast. She had to have my fingers for dessert. She tugged, shoved, and pulled on my fingers, slobbering all over my left hand. Her tail slapped from side to side in obvious enjoyment even though my fingers didn't yield a drop of milk. As for myself, I appreciated the calf's friendly disposition.

But in one flash of a thought it dawned on me that the "hungry" heifer might "eat" my wedding ring. I pulled my hand from her mouth.

The ring was gone. All I had on my left hand was a slippery, slimy, mass of calf slobberings. My mood sank to the floor of the calf pen. In a day or two I might be able to retrieve my ring down there. I thought

With my earlier happiness having been instantly transformed into gloom, I looked around to see if the golden band might have dropped out of the calf's mouth. Within a few minutes all such hope had vanished and I began to prepare for the worst. I cleaned the calf pen thoroughly, bedded it with fresh straw, and sentenced the 4-legged little thief to indefinite solitary confinement.

I don't remember exactly how long it took before I finally recovered the ring, but I do recollect how very surprised and relieved I felt when I saw it. I was rinsing some milking equipment in the milk house when I spotted it on a narrow ledge by the wash vat. Apparently, taking the ring off had become so routine that I never realized until that moment that I taken it off long before I fed the calves.



WHAT'S GOD REALLY LIKE?

Lesson for February 18, 1979

Background Scripture:
Psalms 22;
Matthew 9 through 10;
Colossians 1:9-20.
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 67

On the road between Reading and Lancaster, Pennsylvania there is a pleasant and historic town with the Biblical name of Ephrata. During the Revolutionary War a prominent citizen of that town suffered considerable injury from a fellow townsman of bad reputation. Soon afterward, the offender joined the Continental Army and his military record soon became as disreputable as that of his civilian life. It wasn't long before he was convicted of a serious offense, courtmartialled and sentenced to hanging.

The news soon spread to

Ephrata and the gentleman whom the man had wronged set off by foot for Philadelphia to find the army's encampment. When, at last, he found the army he was granted an appointment with General Washington and pleaded for his townsman's life. The General was sympathetic, but he felt that because of its affect upon discipline in the army, the sentence would have to be carried out. Seeing the disappointment on the man's face, Washington said, "Are you a relative of this man?"

"No," he replied. "Then you are his friend?" Washington went on. "No," the man

replied again, "that man was my deadly enemy."

My Deadly Enemy

The General found it difficult to understand why a man would so concern himself for the welfare of an enemy and we probably do too. For a friend, yes — perhaps. But for an enemy! For someone who has tried to injure me in some way or another!

Image Of The Invisible

One of the most persistent questions of humanity has been "What is God really like?" Each religion has offered varying answers to it. Christianity points to a cross and says, "There, that's

what God is really like" — a Christ who dies on the cross for those who are his enemies! Writing to the Colossians, Paul said of Christ, "He is the image of the invisible God" (1:15) and "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (1:19). And when the invisible becomes visible and when we behold all the "fullness of God" revealed in Jesus, what do we find? A God whose eternal purpose is "to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven making peace by the blood of his cross" (1:20).

The world in which we live seems constantly on the

verge of coming apart. People are estranged from one another. Communities are divided. Nations are split internally and the world community is a warring neighborhood. Northern Ireland is split by warring Protestant and Roman Catholic factions. Lebanon is divided in a civil war by Christians and Moslems, all of them confident that they best know what God is like and what he wants. Whatever these factions represent, however, we know it is not the God who revealed himself in Jesus Christ with a holy passion to reconcile his creatures and unite a broken world.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

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partly covered when growing weather arrives. Yes, snow is valuable to agriculture and the past week has been a good demonstration of it's value.

TO APPRECIATE SNOW COVER

Is snow cover really important to agriculture? After the recent week of zero temperatures, we can definitely answer that question in the affirmative. Very cold weather without snow cover is extremely hard on winter wheat and barley, on strawberries, and on many kinds of shrubbery. The snow helps keep the ground warmer and prevents drying out of the soil around the plant roots. When we have long periods of zero weather without snow cover, we get dehydration of the plants and they become winter-killed later in the spring. Also, snow cover prevents the heaving out of alfalfa plants and strawberry plants. Without snow during long period of freezing and thawing, the plant roots will work out of the ground and end up only

TO RETAIN LAND OWNERSHIP

We are aware of the extent of foreign ownership of farm land in this state and throughout the country. Only slightly over 1,000 acres owned by foreign investors in Pennsylvania, but over 700,000 acres owned in the United States. We all should be concerned about this trend because farm land has been a good investment and may continue to be the same for years to come. Why do we need foreign investors to get ownership. In many cases they are competing with our American farmers for this land. Also, at this time they seem to have some tax advantage which the American farmer does not enjoy. We suggest that all farmers inform their legislators on how they feel and let's keep land ownership in the hands of Americans.

TO KNOW SEWAGE SLUDGE CONTENT

The use of sewage sludge on farm land is becoming more common. As the amount of this material increases, the farmers should be aware of the danger of excessive applications. There can be a problem of too much sludge causing a build-up of heavy metals such as zinc, copper, cadmium, and cobalt. When

these metals become too high in the soil they are toxic to plants. Farmers that utilize sewage sludge are urged to require a test of the material in order to know the exact mineral and fertilizer content. Disposal plants are urged to provide this test for their farmers in order to know what is being done. Both the sewage and the soil can be tested through the

Penn State Testing Laboratory. Don't continue to apply sludge without knowing the mineral build-up in the soils.

TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

To become more knowledgeable about a certain subject and continue with your normal job is a possibility. Penn State offers

a number of Correspondence Courses in agriculture that should be of great help to everyone. These lessons are sent by mail and are practical at a very nominal cost. Details are available at any Extension Office in the state and a leaflet describing the various courses available. Don't overlook this method of learning more about a special subject.

Farm Calendar

Today, Feb. 17
National FFA week begins. Continues to next Saturday.
Adams County Beef Ball, Schottie's Restaurant, Littlestown, 7:30 p.m.
Adams County fruit growers annual meeting, Knouse Foods cafeteria, Biglerville, 9 a.m.
Open House at New Bolton Center for new swine facility.
Monday, Feb. 19
Adams Co. Estate Planning for farm families workshop, 9:30 a.m. Continues Wed., Feb. 21.
Estate Planning workshop, West Street Branch of

Gettysburg National Bank, Gettysburg, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Forage workshop, Kutztown Grange Hall, all day.
Dover Young Farmers meeting, in the vo-ag room of Dover Area High School, 7:30 p.m. Topic: Corn varieties.
Farmers' meeting on improving farm structures, Adams County Extension office, 1 p.m.
Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, Farm and Home Center.
Maryland Nurserymen

meeting, University of Maryland, all day.
Estate Planning meeting, Cumberland County Extension Building, Carlisle.
Maryland Cattlemen's Association Winter Seminar, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Brethren Service Center, New Windsor.
First day of 2-day short course on estate planning, York County 4-H Center, near Bair.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m., High School Ag classroom. Topic will be Ag. in developing countries.
Board of directors' meeting, Farm and Home Foundation, 7:30 p.m., Cecil Co., Md. Dairy Day, starts 9:30, Calvert Grange Hall, near Calvert, Md.

Day, University of Maryland, all day.
Dairy Day and Atlantic Breeders meeting, Middleton Fire Hall, Boiling Springs, 10 a.m.
Field Crops II...Weeds and Insects. Extension Center, Flemington, N.J. 8 p.m.
Cattle Feeders meeting, Hinkletown Alternative School.
Thursday, Feb. 22
Inter-State Milk-Producers district membership meeting, noon, Mt. Joy, at Hostetter's Dining Hall.
Poultry ventilation meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Bermudian Springs High School vo-ag room.
Forage workshop, Kutztown Grange Hall, all day.
York County Dairy Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dover Fire Hall.
Pennsylvania Holstein Association State Convention, Sheraton Inn, Reading; continues through Saturday.
Farm Management meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 21
Forage workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, all day.
Estate planning workshop at West Street Branch of Gettysburg National Bank, 10 a.m.
Maryland Flower Growers

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

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