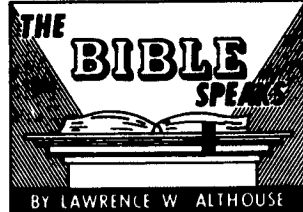


NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



A BIGGER NEIGHBORHOOD
February 2, 1986

Jesus that he fulfilled the duty of loving "your neighbor as yourself." He probably could have ticked off an impressive list of "neighbors" to whom he had been benevolent. So can we all.

But, although he was really *telling* and not truly *asking*, Jesus nevertheless gave him the answer that the lawyer had neither expected nor wanted. And Jesus did it in his inimitable way: he told a story, a parable, through which the lawyer learned more than he had wanted to know. And what he learned was that he had not fulfilled his duty because, although he had in truth loved some of his neighbors, his neighborhood was just not large enough.

To make sure that there could be no misunderstanding his answer, Jesus chose carefully the ingredients of his story. Because he knew that a "neighbor" is not just "one of us," but frequently "One of them," he chose a Samaritan as the "neighbor" of his parable. Nothing was more distasteful to a Jew than a Samaritan. Samaritans were "the wrong kind of people." Indeed they wouldn't be caught dead having a Samaritan for a neighbor.

UNCONDITIONAL
Furthermore, Jesus made it clear that the only stipulation for someone to be our neighbor is that he or she is in need. Their religion may be different—they may even be atheists!—and we cannot expect that, by our act of benevolence we will make them one of us. In the parable, the Samaritan made no demands or expectations for the help he gave. It was unconditional—the same kind of love to which all of us are called.

Oh yes, we all have ministered to various and sundry neighbors, but is our neighborhood large enough?

Based on copyright Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission Released by Community & Suburban Press

To Plan Legume Seeding
It's not too soon to make plans for seeding clover or alfalfa on winter grains. Many of our good stands have been obtained by making a broadcast seeding in late February or early March. The value for seeding at this time is to take advantage of the alternate freezing and thawing to work the small seeds into the topsoil.

Wheat is usually the best grain to make late winter or early spring legume seedings. Barley and rye tend to develop too much growth and increase the potential for lodging which smothers out the small legume plants. Broadcast seeding when the soil is "honeycombed" in early March works very well, but the use of a band seeder may be a better way to establish a new legume stand.

To Plan Your Estate
During my lifetime the management of farm labor, livestock, crops and machinery has been very important in order to obtain maximum production. Many farmers have excelled in these areas. Now, as we look into the mid-80's, I feel that money management is of growing importance to the farmer and warrants more attention and knowledge. The planning of your

estate, including the making and updating of a will, and also the proper farm transfer are considerations that are very important.

Today, the average farmer handles more money in one month than his ancestors did in a year. We urge more attention in estate planning and money management as part of good farm management.

We hope you plan to attend the Estate Planning meeting on Feb. 27 and the Farm Transfer meeting on March 13, both at 7:30 p.m., in the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. Attorney John Becker, Farm Law Specialist at Penn State University, will be the speaker at both meetings.

To Protect Your Lungs
Be it in the coal mines or on the farm, dust can destroy lungs. Farmers who are exposed to dust over long periods of time risk the disabling disease called "farmer's lung." As the dust accumulates in the lung the tissue hardens. This can lead to a variety of respiratory ailments, including bronchitis and tuberculosis. If the condition is not diagnosed soon enough, irreversible lung damage may occur.

Preventing farmer's lung doesn't require any elaborate or expensive equipment...a simple

mask when dust can't be avoided... for example when handling dry bedding, sweeping dusty walls or walks or grinding and mixing feed.

Keeping the overall level of dust down is also helpful. Regular housecleaning of work areas is another good idea. Not only will the area look better... you'll feel better without all that dust in your lungs.

To Control Wild Birds
The problem of starlings and other birds in farm buildings and in feedlots is quite common and one that is very difficult to solve.

During the cold winter weather, birds are searching for feed in buildings and feedlots. Some farmers treat ¼-inch rope with creosote and place it on roosting areas to irritate their feet, so the birds leave the area. One farmer puts about ½ inch of salt in a shallow pan, then puts a thin coating of lard over the salt — as the bird pecks into the lard it picks up salt. The excess salt is fatal to the bird. The use of window screening over open ducts, windows and doors is another way to keep them out of buildings. For the open feedlot, control is not easy.

Birds not only consume feed, but are unsanitary and carry lice, mites and disease.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, February 1
York County Sheep and Wool Producers Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at St. John's United Church of Christ.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers annual banquet, Mount Airy Fire Hall.
Beaver, Butler, Lawrence County Lamb and Wool Day.

Monday, February 3
1986 Keystone Cornucopia, Hershey Convention Center; reception at 6 p.m., buffet dinner at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4
Penn-Jersey Tillage Conference, Lehigh University; contact Jeff McClell at 215-374-9682.
Farm Computer Seminar and Trade Exhibition, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
Regional Manure Management Conference, Chambersburg Holiday Inn.
Delmarva Corn and Soybean Tech. Conference.

Wednesday, February 5
Pa. Young Farmers Association

Winter Convention, Grantville.
Delmarva Corn and Soybean Conference, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Farm Computer Seminar and Trade Exhibition, Embers, Carlisle.
Conservation Equipment Operators Workshop, Berks County Ag Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Regional Manure Management Conference, East Brandywine.

Thursday, February 6
S.E. Pa. Extension Swine Day, Midway Diner, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Regional Manure Conference, Holiday Inn, East, Bethlehem.
Lancaster County Beef and Sheep Club Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Friday, February 7
Lan-Chester Pork Day, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Delmarva Dairy Days, 9 a.m., Hartley Fire Hall, Hartley, Del.

Regional Manure Management Conference, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Lewisburg.

Saturday, February 8
Butler Holstein Club annual meeting.

Monday, February 10
Dairy Herd Buy-Out Program, Bermudian Springs High School, 7:30 p.m.
Dairy Herd Buy-Out Program, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11
Milking School at Troy Citizens and Northern Bank office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Regional Fruit Growers Meeting, Ramada Inn, Chinchilla.

Wednesday, February 12
Milking School at Troy Citizens and Northern Bank office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fayette County Dairy Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Waltersburg I.O.O.F. Hall.

Thursday, February 13
Lancaster Extension Service Annual Dinner Meeting, Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 15
The Pennsylvania Flying Farmers Valentine Banquet, Country Table Restaurant, Mt. Joy; call David Kruger at 717-867-2384.

USDA denies hunger increase

Washington — John Bode, assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services, has issued the following statement after a review of the recent report by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Bitter Harvest II:

"The FRAC report contends that hunger in America increased in 1985 because the level of emergency food provided increased by 17 percent. This finding stands in stark contrast to other reports indicating the improving economic condition of low income Americans.

"Between 1983 and 1984, the number of people below poverty decreased from 15.2 percent to 14.4 percent, according to the Bureau of Census. Between fiscal years 1984 and 1985, the unemployment rate dropped from 7.8 to 7.2 percent. And perhaps most important, with no major legislative changes, between fiscal years 1984 and 1985, Food Stamp Program participation fell 4.4 percent from 20.9

to 20.0 million people. "FRAC suggests that the increase in emergency food provided shows an increase in the demand for food assistance. We suspect that it shows an increase in the supply of emergency food

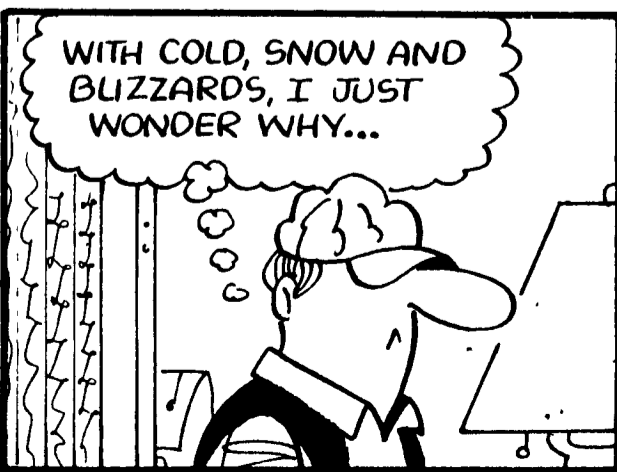
assistance. The survey reports that most of the agencies have to place a limit on the number of people they can serve.

"This suggests that increases in the number of people served is primarily due to the increased supply of food which is available for donation. This increase in the

supply of emergency food is attributable to the increased generosity of American citizens and businesses in donating food and to the high level of surplus commodities provided by the Department of Agriculture.

"The FRAC survey was not conducted in a scientific fashion and is not statistically reliable. The sample was not nationally representative of emergency food providers. For example, of 1,000 surveys sent out, 63 percent did not reply. (In general, Federal surveys attempt to have a 25 percent non-response rate at the

maximum.) Non-respondents may include agencies which once distributed food but which no longer do so. This type of problem would have the effect of creating a bias which probably overestimates the increase in food provided."



DAVE CARPENTER