

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

Advocate



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'Stand fast in the faith; quit you like men, be strong.'

Reformed Presbyterian ADVOCATE

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THE STONE ROLLED AWAY

By C. H. Spurgeon

"The angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it."
—Matthew 28:2.

It is not at all an uncommon thing in Scripture to find stones bidden to speak. Great stones have been rolled at witnesses against the people; stones and beams out of the wall have been called upon to testify to sin. I shall call this stone as a witness to valuable truths of which it was the symbol. The river of our thought divides into six streams.

The Door Removed

First, the stone rolled away must evidently be regarded as **the door of the sepulchre removed**. Death's house was firmly secured by a huge stone; the angel removed it, and the living Christ came forth. The massive door, you will observe, was taken away from the grave—not merely opened, but unhinged, flung aside, rolled away; and henceforth death's ancient prison-house is without a door. The saints shall pass in, but they shall not be shut in. They shall tarry there as in an open cavern, but there is nothing to prevent their coming forth from it in due time.

As Samson, when he slept in Gaza and was beset by his foes, arose early in the morning, and took upon his shoulders the gates of Gaza—post, and bar, and all—and carried all away, and left the Philistine stronghold open and exposed, so has it been done unto the grave by our Master, who, having slept out His three days and nights, according to the divine

decree, arose in the greatness of his strength, and bore away the iron gates of the sepulchre, tearing every bar from its place. The removal of the imprisoning stone was the outward type of our Lord's having plucked up the gates of the grave—post, bar, and all—thus exposing that old fortress of death and hell, and leaving it as a city stormed and taken, and henceforth bereft of power.

Remember that our Lord was committed to the grave as a hostage. "He died for our sins." Like a debt they were imputed to Him. He discharged the debt of obligation due from us to God, on the tree. He suffered to the full, the great substitutionary equivalent for our suffering, and then He was confined in the tomb as a hostage until His work should be fully accepted. That acceptance would be notified by His coming forth from durance vile; and that coming forth would become our justification—"He rose again for our justification." If He had not fully paid the debt, He would have remained in the grave. If Jesus had not made effectual, total, final atonement, He must have continued a captive. But He has done it all. The "It is finished," which came from His own lips, was established by the verdict of Jehovah, and Jesus was set free.

Come, brethren, let us rejoice in this. In the empty tomb of Christ, we see sin

forever put away: we see, therefore, death most effectually destroyed. Our sins were the great stone which shut the mouth of the sepulchre, and held us captives in death, and darkness, and despair. Our sins are now forever rolled away, and hence death is no longer a dungeon dark and drear, the antechamber of hell; but the rather it is a perfumed bed-chamber, a withdrawing room, the vestibule of heaven. For as surely as Jesus rose, so must His people leave the dead; there is nothing to prevent the resurrection of the saints. The stone which could keep us in the prison has been rolled away. Who can bar us in when the door itself is gone? Who can confine us when every barricade is taken away?

"Who shall rebuild for the tyrant his prison?

The sceptre lies broken that fell from his hands;

The stone is removed; the Lord is arisen:

The helpless shall soon be released from their bands."

A Trophy Set Up

In the second place, regard the stone as a **trophy set up**. As men of old set up memorial stones, and as at this day we erect columns to tell of great deeds of prowess, so that stone rolled away was, as it were, before the eyes of our faith, consecrated that day as a memorial of Christ's eternal victory over the powers of death and hell. They thought that they had vanquished Him; they deemed that the Crucified was overcome. Grimly did they smile as they saw His motionless body wrapped in the winding-sheet and put away in Joseph's new tomb; but their joy was fleeting. Their boastings were but brief, for at the appointed moment He, who could not see corruption, rose and came forth from beneath their power. His heel was bruised by the old Serpent, but on the resurrection morning He crushed the Dragon's head.

"Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ has burst the gates of hell;

Death in vain forbids His rise,
Christ hath open'd Paradise.

"Lives again our glorious King!

'Where, O death, is now thy sting?'

Once He died our souls to save;

'Where's thy victory, boasting grave?'"

Brethren, beloved in Christ, as we look at yonder stone, with the angel seated upon it, it rises before us as a monument of Christ's victory over death and hell, and it becomes us to remember that His victory was achieved for us, and the fruits of it are all ours. We have to fight with sin, but Christ has overcome it. We are tempted by Satan; Christ has given Satan a defeat. We by-and-by shall leave this body. Unless the Lord come speedily, we may expect to gather up our feet like our fathers, and go to meet our God; but death is vanquished for us, and we can have no cause to fear.

Courage, then, Christian soldiers, you are encountering a vanquished enemy; remember that the Lord's victory is a guarantee for yours. If the Head conquers, the members shall not be defeated. Let not sorrow dim your eye; let no fears trouble your spirit. You must conquer, for Christ has conquered. Awaken all your powers to the conflict, and nerve them with the hope of victory. Set up that stone before your faith's eye this morning, and say, "Here my Master conquered hell and death, and in His name and by His strength I shall be crowned, too, when the last enemy is destroyed."

A Foundation Laid

For a third use of this stone, observe that here is a **foundation laid**. That stone rolled away from the sepulchre, typifying and certifying as it does the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is a foundation-stone for Christian faith. The fact of the resurrection is the keystone of Christianity. Disprove the resurrection of our Lord, and our holy faith would be a mere fable. There would be nothing for faith to rest upon if He who died upon the tree did not also rise again from the tomb. Then "your faith is vain," said the apostle; "ye are yet in your sins," while "they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." All the great doctrines of our divine religion fall asunder like the stones of an arch when the keystone is dislodged; in a common ruin

they are all overthrown, for all our hope hinges upon that great fact. If Jesus rose, then is this gospel what it professes to be; if He rose not from the dead, then is it all deceit and delusion.

But, brethren, that Jesus rose from the dead is a fact better established than almost any other in history. The witnesses were many: they were men of all classes and conditions. None of them ever confessed himself mistaken or deceptive. They were so persuaded that it was a fact, that the most of them suffered death for bearing witness to it. They had nothing to gain by such a witnessing; they did not rise in power, nor gain honour or wealth. They were truthful, simple-minded men who testified what they had seen and bore witness to that which they had beheld.

The resurrection is a fact better attested than any event recorded in any history whether ancient or modern. Here is the confidence of the saints: our Lord Jesus Christ, who witnessed a good confession before Pontius Pilate, and was crucified, and buried, rose again from the dead, and after forty days ascended to the throne of God. We rest in Him; we believe in Him. If He had not risen, we had been of all men most miserable to have been His followers. If He had not risen, His atonement would not have been proved sufficient. If He had not risen, His blood would not have been to us proved to be efficacious for the taking away of sin; but as He has risen, we build upon this truth. All our confidence we rest upon it, and we are persuaded that—

“Raised from the dead, He goes before;
He opens Heaven’s eternal door
To give His saints a blest abode
Near their Redeemer and their God.”

My dear hearers, are you resting your everlasting hopes upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? Do you trust in Him, believing that He both died and rose again for you? Do you place your entire dependence upon the merit of His blood, certified by the fact of His rising again?

If so, you have a foundation of fact and truth, a foundation against which

the gates of hell shall not prevail; but if you are building upon anything that you have done, or anything that priestly hands can do for you, you are building upon the sands which shall be swept away by the all-devouring flood, and you and your hopes too shall go down into the fathomless abyss, wrapped in the darkness of despair. Oh, to build upon the living stone of Christ Jesus! Oh, to rest on Him who is a tried cornerstone, elect, precious! This is to build safely, eternally, and blessedly.

A Rest Provided

A fourth voice from the stone is this: here is **rest provided**. The angel seems to teach us that, as he sat down upon the stone. How leisurely the whole resurrection was effected! How noiselessly, too! What an absence of pomp and parade! The angel descended, the stone was rolled away, Christ rose, and then the angel sat down on the stone. He sat there silently and gracefully, breathing defiance to the Jews and to their seal, to the Roman legionnaires and their spears, to death, to earth, to hell. He did as good as say, “Come and roll that stone back again, ye enemies of the Risen One. All ye infernal powers, who thought to prevail against our ever-living Prince, roll back that stone again, if so ye dare or can!” The angel said not this in words, but has stately and quiet sitting upon the stone meant all that and more.

The Master’s work is done, and done for ever; and this stone, no more to be used, this unhinged door, no more employed to shut in the charnel house, is the type that “it is finished” — finished so as never to be undone, finished so as to last eternally. Yon resting angel softly whispers to us, “Come hither, and rest also.” There is no fuller, better, surer, safer rest for the soul than in the fact that the Saviour in whom we trust has risen from the dead.

Do you mourn departed friends today? Oh, come and sit upon this stone, which tells you they shall rise again. Do you soon expect to die? Is the worm at the root? Have you the flush of consumption on your cheek? Oh, come and sit you

down upon this stone, and bethink you that death has lost its terror now, for Jesus has risen from the tomb. Come you, too, ye feeble and trembling ones, and breathe defiance to death and hell. The angel will vacate his seat for you, and let you sit down in the face of the enemy. Though you be but a humble woman, or a man broken down, and wan, and languid with long years of weary sickness, yet may you well defy the hosts of hell, while resting upon this precious truth: "He is not here: for He is risen." He has left the dead, no more to die.

"Every note with wonders swell,
Sin o'erthrown, and captivated hell;
Where is hell's once dreaded king?
Where, O death, thy mortal sting?

Hallelujah."

A Boundary Appointed

In the fifth place, that stone was a **boundary appointed**. Do you not see it so? Behold it then; there it lies, and the angel sits upon it. On that side what see you? The guards affrighted, stiffened with fear, like dead men. On this side what see you? The timid, trembling women, to whom the angel softly speaks, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus." You see, then, that stone became the boundary between the living and the dead, between the seekers and the haters, between the friends and the foes of Christ. To His enemies His resurrection is "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence"; as of old on Mar's Hill, when sages heard of the resurrection, they mocked. But to His own people, the resurrection is the headstone of the corner. Our Lord's resurrection is our triumph and delight.

The resurrection acts much in the same manner as the pillar which Jehovah placed between Israel and Egypt: it was darkness to Egypt, but it gave light to Israel. All was dark amidst Egypt's hosts, but all was brightness and comfort amongst Israel's tribes. So the resurrection is a doctrine full of horror to those who know not Christ, and trust Him not. What have they to gain by resurrection? Oh, the horrors of that tremendous morning, when every sinner

shall rise, and the Risen Saviour shall come in the clouds of heaven, and all the holy angels with Him! Truly there is nothing but dismay for those who are on the evil side of that resurrection stone.

But how great the joy which the resurrection brings to those who are on the right side of that stone! How they look for His appearing with daily growing transport! How they build upon the sweet truth that they shall arise, and with these eyes their Saviour see! I would have you ask yourselves, this morning, on which side of that boundary stone you are now. Have you life in Christ? Are you risen with Christ? Do you trust alone in Him who rose from the dead? If so, fear not ye: the angel comforts you and Jesus cheers you! but oh! if you have no life in Christ, but are dead while you live, let the very thought that Jesus is risen, strike you with fear, and make you tremble, for tremble well you may, at that which awaits you.

Foreshadowing Ruin

Sixth, I conceive that this stone may be used, and properly too, as **foreshadowing ruin**. Our Lord came into this world to destroy all the works of the devil. Behold before you the works of the devil pictured as a grim and horrible castle, massive and terrible, overgrown with the moss of ages, colossal, stupendous, cemented with blood of men, ramparted by mischief and craft, surrounded with deep trenches, and garrisoned with fiends. A structure dread enough to cause despair to every one who goeth round about it to count its towers and mark its bulwarks.

In the fulness of time our Champion came into the world to destroy these works of the devil. During His life He sounded an alarm at the great castle, and dislodged here and there a stone, for the sick were healed, and the dead were raised, and the poor had the gospel preached unto them. But on the resurrection morning the huge fortress trembled from top to bottom; huge rifts were in its walls; and tottering were all its strongholds. A stronger than the master of that citadel had evidently entered

it and was beginning to overturn, overturn, overturn, from pinnacle to basement. One huge stone, upon which the building much depended, a cornerstone which knit the whole fabric together, was lifted bodily from its bed and hurled to the ground. Jesus tore the huge granite stone of death from its position, and so gave a sure token that every other would follow. When that stone was rolled away from Jesus' sepulchre, it was a prophecy that every stone of Satan's building should come down, and not one should rest upon another of all that the powers of darkness had ever piled up, from the days of their first apostasy even unto the end.

Prother, that stone rolled away from the door of the sepulchre gives me glorious hope. Evil is still mighty, but evil will come down. Spiritual wickedness reigns in high places; the multitude still clamour after evil; the nations still sit in darkness; many worship the scarlet woman of Babylon, others bow before the crescent of Mohammed, and millions bend themselves before blocks of wood and stone; and dark places and habitations of the earth are full of cruelty still; but Christ has given such a shiver to the whole fabric of evil that, depend upon it, every stone will be certain to fall. We have but to work on, use the battering-ram of the gospel, continue each one to keep in his place, and like the hosts around Jericho, to sound the trumpet still, and the day must come when every hoary evil, every colossal superstition shall be laid low, even with the ground, and the prophecy shall be fulfilled: "Overturn, overturn, overturn it; and it shall be no more until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him."

That loosened stone on which the angel sits is the sure prognostic of the coming doom of everything that is base and vile. Rejoice, ye sons of God, for Babylon's fall draweth near. Sing, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, for there shall not an evil be spared. Verily, I say unto you, there shall not be one stone left upon another, which shall not be cast down.



BOOK REVIEWS

Rev. Harry Meiners

Help Your Boy or Girl to be Christian, Edmund W. Janss, Boston, W. A. Wilde C., 184 pages and index, \$2.50.

"This volume," to quote the author, "does not seek to be an exhaustive solution to every parental problem, but rather a guide and pattern for solving such problems." It is composed of two parts. Part One, "Help Him be Christian Socially," discusses such matters as settling quarrels, learning sportsmanship, learning good manners, overcoming prejudice, sharing responsibility, learning good sex attitudes. On the whole the author's down-to-earth, practical way of approaching these matters is very stimulating and informative. If more parents were to approach such matters in a realistic manner it would be profitable for their children.

In Part Two, "Help Him to be Christian Mentally and Spiritually," the subjects considered are schoolwork, choosing a vocation, spiritual growth, overcoming fears, learning about death. Whereas Part One deals with the expressing of one's Christian faith in the social life of the young person, Part Two discusses the mental and spiritual roots that underlie our outward behavior. The author very clearly brings out the importance of sinking the child's roots into the Word of God and living his life as an outworking and expression of that Biblical faith. He says: "The dynamic of a living faith which has been witnessed from his parents and has been chosen by himself, will be used as he seeks for wholesome solutions to everyday problems." (p. 115). The child's personal relationship to Jesus Christ is given prominence throughout the book. This re-

(Continued on page 48)

General Synod

May 15 - 18, 1957

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOUSTON, KENTUCKY

General Synod

The 134th Session of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America will convene on Wednesday evening, May 15, 1957 at 8:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Reformed Presbyterian Church at Houston, Kentucky. The opening sermon will be delivered by the retiring Moderator, Reverend Herman H. Cook.

Reverend Robert W. Stewart,
Stated Clerk



Home Board Meeting

The Board of Home Missions will have a meeting prior to the opening of General Synod. The meeting has been called for Wednesday morning, May 15, 1957 at 9:00 C.S.T. All members of the Home Board are requested to be present.

Anniversary Celebration

The year 1957 completes fifty years of service for Houston Mission. On Saturday, May 18th, the closing day of Synod, a Golden Jubilee Celebration has been planned. A good many of the former students are expected to return for the day. In addition to visiting with old friends, a program has been planned.



Rev. Herman H. Cook
Retiring Moderator

TRAVELING DIRECTIONS

Take Route 30 from either Jackson or Boonville, Kentucky, until you come to Route 1114, a graveled road about half way between Jackson and Boonville. Four miles of the graveled road brings you to the door of the mission.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Ample accommodations will be available. The mission will furnish bed linens and towels. But, please contact Miss Elva M. Foster if you plan to attend. Her address is Houston, Kentucky.

HOUSTON MISSION

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Church News

Pittsburgh

The annual Irish Tea was held by the Women's Christian Service Society on March 15. Mr. Neal McAleese presented a fine program with two guest entertainers and Mrs. Edith Callender of our own church. As always, the menu was the traditional soda scones, marmalade, butter, tea and cookies. Everything was delicious and all that attended had a time of fine fellowship. This was a particularly important tea as it will be the last one held in this building. About 150 people attended and a free will offering of \$121.27 was taken. The Women's Christian Service Society wishes to thank all of those in the congregation that helped to make this tea the success that it was.

Mrs. Anna McShane has returned home from the hospital and is coming along nicely. She is up and about a little now and hopes to be out again soon.

The March meeting of the Young Adults Class was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Barbour on March 1.

The Farewell-Homecoming was held as planned on March 24. Over two hundred present and former members were out to bid goodbye to the present location. Everyone enjoyed meeting old friends again, and reminiscing over the past. A church service opened the reunion. Two former members, Mr. Donald Wissner and Mr. Nevin W. McAdams, gave short talks, then the present Sabbath School superintendent, Mr. Neal McAleese, had a short talk. The prayer and the message were delivered by Rev. H. C. Carson, a former pastor of the First Church. Following the service, tea and cookies were served in the church social room. This will be the official farewell to the present building, although we still have two more Sabbath morning services there. An offering was taken for the building fund for the new location.

Mayfield Heights

Rev. G. Richard Thompson, missionary to Pakistan, was with us on Feb. 21 to show slides and present the need of the Gospel to the Pakistan people.

On Sunday, March 10, Miss Jame Hamilton, missionary to French Equatorial Africa, visited us. She showed slides of the homes and churches and the way the nationals live. Many of the nationals have been born again and given Christian names. She also told of the orphanage where many of the native babies are brought and taken care of by the missionaries. Miss Hamilton's work was teaching the missionary children. She seems close to us in that she's a local girl and a cousin of Mr. Ralph McCaughtry.

Our Sunday School has grown large enough now for us to elect our own officers. On March 10 the following officers were elected for the ensuing year. Superintendent, Mrs. Helen Gumbert; Asst. Supt., Mrs. Mildred Cavric; Sec., Mrs. Shirley Singleton; Treas., Mr. Ralph McCaughtry; and Asst. Treas., Miss Jeanne Edwards.

The Women's Missionary Society met with Mrs. Delores Lee on March 12 for their regular business meeting and Bible study. Mrs. Betty Welsh was elected to fill the office of treasurer. Mrs. Dorothy McCaughtry, Mrs. Mildred Cavric, and Mrs. Delores Lee were chosen to attend the executive meeting of the Women's Presbyterial on March 20 at Fairview. Mrs. Helen Hunt and Mrs. Edna James were appointed as delegates to attend the Presbyterial on April 9 in Darlington.

Mrs. Helen Hunt was greatly surprised on her birthday in February when the ladies of the Mission gave a party in her honor.

Third Church, Phila.

The Ladies Aid Society held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 13, after Prayer meeting. It was decided that each member will respond with a verse of Scripture from memory, instead of going down the alphabet as has been done in the past.

The Intermediate C. E. Rally for February was held at Glading Presbyterian Church. The very inspiring message was presented by Rev. Jean D'Andrea who certainly held everyone's attention. We were happy to regain the percentage banner we lost at the January Rally.

On March 3rd Mr. Herman Heffie presented another Chalk Talk to the Sabbath School. The lighting system could so change the picture from darkest night to the rising of the sun. We are very grateful to Mr. Heffie for this very wonderful and unique way of presenting the Gospel to us.

A surprise shower was given on Friday, March 8th, for Eillean Young by the Sabbath School and the Ladies Aid Society. Eillean received many beautiful gifts and all useful as well as practical. Refreshments were served later in the evening to which the men of the church were invited.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go to Mrs. John Clarke. Mr. John Clarke passed away suddenly on February 24th; he will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Mr. Charles Eckhardt is conducting a Communicants Class for all those intending to unite with the church in April. The study takes in what it means to accept Jesus Christ as our own personal Savior, the doctrines of the Church, and the Sacraments.

Miss Eillean Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Young and Mr. Charles L. Eckhardt, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Eckhardt, Sr., were united in marriage at a very impressive ceremony on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Christ Memorial Reformed Episcopal Church. The double ring ceremony was

performed by the Rev. Harold Elliot and the Rev. John Morton. The reception was held immediately after the ceremony in the church reception room.

Rev. and Mrs. William P. Green and their daughter, Mildred, visited our church on February 24th. Rev. Green has returned from missionary work in the Belgian Congo for the Pocket Testament League.

* * *

Darlington

The March Missionary Meeting was held in the church with Mrs. Wayne McHattie presenting a devotional program on the subject of Salvation. The guest speaker was Miss Jane Hamilton, a missionary under the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church to French Equatorial Africa. Mrs. Glenn Watterson played an organ solo, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked." At the conclusion of the business meeting conducted by the president, Mrs. Wayne Duncan, the hostess, Mrs. Wayne McHattie, served refreshments.

The Congregational Building Fund offering taken March 10 amounted to \$593.46. The Ladies Sabbath School Class also gave \$100 at that time to the Building Fund.

On March 19 the "Anniversary" Dinner was held at the church for the congregation. Approximately 75 people attended and were served a spaghetti supper. Following the meal, a program was given by Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Tierno, of West Middlesex, Pa. Mr. Tierno is a chalk talk artist and he drew several pictures, and he and his wife sang several songs with each picture. The event was the climax of a Sabbath School contest conducted last fall and the losing team prepared the meal and had charge of the program.

Mr. William J. Beight, 76, passed away on March 19. He leaves his wife, a daughter, two granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren. His pastor, Rev. Carl Stewart, conducted the funeral services on March 21.

The Junior and Sunshine Classes had

a party in the church social rooms on Friday evening, March 1. There are approximately 15 in this group who meet each month for games, refreshments, devotions, and a business meeting.

The Junior Young Peoples group went roller skating on Friday evening, March 22 at Unity, Ohio.

* * *

Duquesburg

The questions of the Westminster Shorter Catechism are being taught each Sabbath in the Sabbath School and they appear, one each week, in the church bulletin. This exercise for the increase of our theological knowledge is proving valuable.

The Pastor is now preaching a series of sermons on the Book of Acts.

A ceiling of acoustical tile has been installed in the basement of the church. It makes a great improvement and helps deaden noises that might otherwise disturb worship services or Sabbath School sessions. On the exterior, the eaves have been completed. Landscaping will begin when Spring arrives. February showed the highest receipts by the Building Fund for many, many months.

Several of our members have been ill recently. We are grateful to the Great Physician for restoring many and continue to pray for the others.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Chesnut are the happy parents of a son, their second child, born on February 27. Kevin Allen now joins Deborah to round out a "millionaire's family." Rev. and Mrs. Harry Meiners have added James Timothy to their family. He was born March 13 and was welcomed joyously by his two sisters and two brothers, as well as his happy parents.

A series of six Union Lenten Services are being held each Sabbath evening during March and April at the area churches. The three local pastors will preach at the first three services, and guest preachers at the last three.

An organ recital is being planned for the last Sabbath in April.

Coulterville

On February 24 Children's Flower Day was observed in our church. There were 29 children present, who had been baptized during the last nine years. Each one received a flower. There were two mothers who had four children each baptized during this period. Mrs. Robert Birchler received this special award last year, and this year Mrs. Robert Cleland was presented a corsage.

Representatives from Covenant College in St. Louis conducted our Young Peoples meeting on Feb. 24, with songs, testimonies and Scripture readings. There were three young men and four young women in this group and we certainly enjoyed having them with us.

Mrs. Leonard Robb underwent surgery at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville. She is recovering nicely at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miles enjoyed having their entire family worship with them on Sabbath morning. They were, Raymond Miles and friend, Miss Nancy Dick of Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Roland Miles and daughter, Cathy, home from Carbondale for the week end; and Mr. and Mrs. Don Bradley (Margery) from Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. Bradley is in service and he is enjoying a 15-day furlough before going overseas. Margery will remain here with her parents during the six months he is away.

On Friday, March 15, the Christian Life Bible Class sponsored a Family Night in our church. Mr. Walter Hartwig of Sparta was a guest and entertained a nice audience with travel slides which were very interesting. Mr. Stanley Shaw also had some pictures that he had taken of several events held in our church which brought back fond memories. He also showed buildings erected in our town during the last year, from the foundation, half structure, and completion, which was very interesting. In the social hour afterwards sandwiches, cake, and coffee were served to all in the basement where Rev. and Mrs. Ward were pleasantly surprised with a food shower from the congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Shaw are announcing the arrival of a baby girl, Deborah Jean, on March 17. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces. The Shaws have three other children, two boys and one girl.

A delegation of 30 people went up to attend the "Mid-Year Fellowship" of the Midwest Bible and Missionary Institute in St. Louis on March 1. The group consisted mostly of young folk who had been to the young people's Summer Conference and they were guests of Joseph Fahl and Roger Butler, students at the conference last summer. The group had supper in the institute's cafeteria and afterwards made a tour of the school. The evening program, which was put on entirely by the institute students, was a story of the life of the great missionary, Hudson Taylor. Music was provided by a choir, solos, smaller vocal groups and a trumpet trio.

The annual Day of Prayer Observance was held on March 15 in the R. P. Church, with Rev. Daniel Gehman of Midwest Bible Institute as the speaker.

The Young Married Couples Class met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cleland in Percy. Present were the teacher, Rev. Ward and Mrs. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Birchler, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, Mrs. Robert Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dickey.

* * *

Sparta

Miss Janice Mathews, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Mathews of Evansville, became the bride of William E. Hamilton of Sparta in a ceremony at St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Evansville on Saturday evening, December 22, at 7 o'clock. Rev. Karl Beck, pastor of the church, assisted by Thomas H. Laufer, ministerial student and friend, performed the candlelight double-ring ceremony before an altar banked with baskets of greenery and white flowers. A reception at the church followed the ceremony. Mrs. Hamilton is employed as a teacher in the Alton school system.

Mr. Hamilton is employed at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation in St. Louis. After January 1, they were at home at 1503 Main Street, Alton, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry McIntyre of east of Sparta observed their 50th wedding anniversary Tuesday, December 25. The occasion was observed with open house at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Pillers, at 215 West College Street in Sparta. A large crowd of relatives and friends called between the hours of two and four in the afternoon and from seven to nine in the evening. Arrangements for the anniversary were made by their six children.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Appel, February 6, 1957. She weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces. She was named Peggy Kay.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Burns became the parents of a baby girl on St. Valentine's Day, February 14, 1957. She was named Sherry Lynn and weighed 8 pounds and 8¼ ounces.

On March 4th, a son was born to Rev. and Mrs. Hubert Stewart of Philadelphia, Mississippi. He has been named Randy Lynn.

A son, Gary Warren, weighing seven pounds and 12 ounces, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Warren D. Kiefer of Sparta at Marion, Kentucky on March 8.

Mrs. Margaret Wilson, widow of W. J. Wilson, died at the Sparta Community Hospital Wednesday, February 27, at 2 a.m. Funeral services were held at the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Friday at 2 p.m., conducted by the pastor, Rev. R. W. Stewart. Interment was at Union Cemetery. Mrs. Wilson was born May 12, 1874 in Randolph County. She was a daughter of Moore Smith and Mary (Ritchie) Smith. She was united in marriage to William J. Wilson on August 1, 1906. Mrs. Wilson is survived by one son, Moorse S. Wilson and two granddaughters of Sparta. She was preceded in death by her husband and one daughter, Mary, and five sisters.

In St. Louis, Missouri at the Lindell Boulevard Bible Church, on March 9th at 2 o'clock, Edith Marie McIntyre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert McIntyre became the bride of Ray Buchanan of St. Louis. They are making their home in St. Louis.

The Women's Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Hood, who is recovering from an illness, on Monday evening, March 4.

A Men's Club was organized in the church on January 28th. A constitution has been drawn up and the club will hold its first meeting on March 21st. Rev. Samuel Ward will be the speaker. We are looking forward to a time of fellowship and added interest in the work of the church.

The Pastor is conducting a Communicant's Class at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. We have seven in attendance.

The three missionary societies of the church met together on Tuesday evening, March 12th. They had as guest speaker Mrs. Robert Evans who with her husband, Rev. Robert Evans, are conducting Bible Schools—one at Paris, France and the other in Germany. She had a very interesting address concerning missionary work in France after which a social time was held.

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from page 41)

viewer believes that an outlining of the way of salvation through faith in Christ, making it a little clearer just what faith in Christ is, would be a profitable addition to the book. While the author stresses the personal decision for Christ, he doesn't make it clear enough, in my opinion, just what that personal decision involves and how to go about it.

"Summing it Up" and "Some Books That Will Help You" at the close of each chapter make this book the more valuable.

Edmund W. Janss is a 39-year-old pastor who here writes his first book. His experience in writing, however, is

not limited to this volume, for he has contributed articles to several youth and Christian magazines. He has studied at Eastern Baptist College, Eastern Baptist Seminary, and Temple University. He is married and is the father of three daughters, ages 13, 11, and 6. He is at present pastor of the Methodist Church in Setauket, Long Island.

His book provides interesting and profitable reading and would be a good addition to any Sunday School, church, or home library.

* * *

Bible Doctrine, Unit Two, Book One, The Committee on Christian Education, Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, 214 pages, \$1.50 (pupil manual), \$1.65 (teacher manual), supplementary answer book, \$.35.

This is the third workbook on the Westminster Shorter Catechism published by this Committee. It covers Questions 38-87, the section that deals with the law of God. This subject of study is an important subject these days of relativism and disregard for the laws of men and of God. Is there an objective standard of right and wrong for 20th century people to follow? Most certainly so; it is the law which God revealed to His people through Moses 3,100 years ago. Certain things are right because God says they are right, and they are right because His very nature so decrees. So it is with wrongs.

Profusely (and appropriately) illustrated, this manual provides an excellent course of study in Presbyterian doctrine. It is full of "meat" for the soul and the mind. Every church should have at least one set of this study course and use it from time to time for young people's meetings, Sabbath School classes, or even adult discussion groups. One of the weaknesses of many churches and of their individual members is that they don't know quite what they believe or why. A study of this course would help greatly to reverse this situation.

A fourth volume, Unit Two, Book Two, is due for publication at a future date.

A GUARD OF THE SEPULCHRE

I was a Roman soldier in my prime;
Now age is on me and the yoke of time.
I saw your Risen Christ, for I am he
Who reached the hyssop to Him on the tree;
And I am one of two who watched beside
The sepulchre of Him we crucified.

All that last night I watched with sleepless eyes;
Great stars arose and crept across the skies.
The world was all too still for mortal rest,
For pitiless thoughts were busy in the breast.
That night was long, so long, it seemed at last
I had grown old and a long life had passed.

Far off, the hills of Moab, touched with light,
Were swimming in the hollow of the night.
I saw Jerusalem all wrapped in a cloud,
Stretched like a dead thing folded in a shroud.

Once in the pauses of our whispered talk
I heard a something on the garden walk.
Perhaps it was a crisp leaf lightly stirred,
Perhaps the dream-note of a waking bird.

Then suddenly an angel, burning white,
Came down with earthquake in the breaking light
And rolled the great stone from the sepulchre,
Mixing in the morning with the scent of myrrh.
And lo, the Dead had risen with the day;
The Man of Mystery had gone His way.

Years have I wandered, carrying my shame;
Now let the tooth of time eat out my name.
For we, who all the wonder might have told,
Kept silence, for our mouths were stopped with gold.

—Edwin Markham

In *Prairie Overcomer*

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