AN INTERPRETATION

Why was the speech by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, Pa., an outstanding masterpiece? Why is it read, re-read, quoted, referred to and almost worshipped by literary loving people of all nations? Why are Lincoln’s words spoken at the dedication of a cemetery in Gettysburg, Pa., Nov. 15, 1863 immortal? I will tell you why. Lincoln became the spokesman of his own, as well as the people’s emotions.

The dumb, unspoken feelings of a multitude of people, men and women crushed in spirit by the havoc of a terrible war, this wilderness of human souls, many of whom had lost fathers, sons, husbands, brothers on that very field of battle were awed to profound silence, so great that no man cheered when Lincoln finished his brief message. But the President had spoken their sentiments, he was their mouth, their voice, their soul. He spoke their fears, their hopes, their thoughts. It was as though he had taken up mist and given back rain. The sob and grief of a great audience was interpreted and expressed in loving words.

Edward Everett, one of America’s great orators, spoke on this occasion for two hours. No one remembers or cares what he said because his eloquent speech dealt with the vexing political problems of the day.

The open field on that chilly November afternoon swarmed with people, heavy-hearted, grieved because the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here had consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. Lincoln’s speech reflected the deep feelings of the human soul.

By the same token we interpret the shepherd’s Psalm. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. The Psalm is a masterpiece for it takes a picture of your own heart, it expresses your own faith, it holds before you a mirror wherein your inner longings are expressed in simple words. A shepherd’s care and interest in his sheep is the symbol of an ever-lasting providence for the children of men.

Theology may be studied for a thousand years, comparative religions may be debated by the wisest of men, doctrinal problems may be hackneyed over and never settled, but the Twenty-third Psalm tells the story of God and man, of life and death, of redemption and immortality, tells it in marvelous simplicity, so beautifully, so clearly that even a fool could understand.

The shepherd’s Psalm is one of the rarest bits of literature, one of the gems of human thought, because it looks within, it opens the door of the human heart, it records the faith, the hope of nearly

Sunday A. M. Sermon “Our Church Home”
Evening - Mr. and Mrs. Dodd Inspirational Gospel Singers.

Morning church services Sunday at 11:00 A.M. Rev. Hulme will speak on the subject, “Our Church Home.” Following this in the afternoon there will be an every member financial canvass. This is for the purpose of raising the church budget.


At the evening church services Bruce and Juanita Dodd (Mr. and Mrs.) inspirational gospel singers will be present. The older folks of the community are given a special invitation to come. The
young people will need no special bidding for they will remember Mr. and Mrs. Dodd as the song leaders extraordinary who inspired them at the Young People's Conference one Sunday afternoon last month.

PRAYER MEETINGS

The Ladies Bible Class Prayer Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2:00 P. M. This gathering is most always at the home of Mrs. Dunn on Williamson Road unless otherwise stated in the class meeting on Sunday morning.

Though it was announced that there would be no Prayer Meeting and Bible Study on Wednesday evening of last week,—regardless of this announcement, seventeen persons gathered and met for a two hour session a cold fireside room. William Shaffer appointed impromptu leader, in a most creditable fashion conducted a study of the birth and early life of Jesus. It was the agreement of those present that Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Meetings should continue in our church. Accordingly on Wednesday evening at 7:30 P. M. those who are interested in such a meeting should gather in the usual place.

CHRISTIAN ACTION

On Friday evening of last week, seventeen persons were present at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Troutt, Berger Avenue for a Bible Study, testimony, and prayer meeting. The next meeting will be held Friday evening, January 13th, 7:30 P. M. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Mantle, Gorge Park Blvd.

The purpose of these Friday evening meetings which have been held in a number of homes in our community and attended by representatives of half a dozen or more denominations is to build up our knowledge of (1) God’s plan for the world in general, and, (2) His plan for us in His Kingdom. This, by a restudy of the Bible.

It has been said: “the study of God’s word should be different from the study of any other book. We should approach it much like Moses approached the burning bush. It is the light of glory out from which the voice of God is speaking.” “But there is more. Mere knowledge of the will of God will get us nowhere. We should learn in order to do. Bible study is not an end in itself, but is ever a means to a more worthy end—that we may be perfected to

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do His will.
When the studies have been completed, the student should have a clear understanding of every major spiritual problem and be prepared for Christian Action." You are invited to attend these Bible study classes.

THIS FRIDAY EVENING
The Men's Bible Class will serve a sauer kraut supper to members, their wives and their friends at six o'clock this Friday evening. This will be held in the church basement.

After the supper the regular monthly Church Nite Business Meeting will be held. This meeting is open to all church members. If you are an officer of the church or any church organization you should be present with a report.

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KEPT WAITING AT THE CHURCH — SOMEONE SHOULD APOLOGIZE
This last New Year's Eve those who take care of the Graham Road Baptist Church had the platform cleared of chairs, a wire stretched from one side of the church to the other, and sliding curtains placed thereon. They were all prepared to be entertained (?) by visiting artists (?). And previously, the Young People of the Graham Road church had made plans for a New Year's Eve party somewhere, but they were dissuaded by their minister, for, to be away from the home church when young folks from another church were coming to visit them would surely be most discourteous. So their party was canceled and they came to church. It was 8:00 P. M. They waited. They waited. They waited. And the
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muchly overrated, overadvertised cast of players did not arrive.

And who, pray tell, was it for whom they waited, and waited in vain? Why, they were waiting for those young people from Community Church who put on a missionary play in the Tabernacle one night last summer and some of whom had made arrangements to give the play at the Graham Road church this New Year's Eve.

So far as we know, the reasons for the non-appearance of the cast on New Year's Eve are about as numerous as there are members, though early in the week, some say, it was understood that a message with regrets was dispatched to the church to the west. But the message apparently failed to arrive.

As far as our part in the whole matter is concerned we are sincerely sorry and in the future would warn our young people to make thorough and well understood plans before contracting to put on any outside performances.

Responsibility for the loss of other people's time is a serious matter.

H. J. S.

BY CANDLE LITE

Taking his text from Psalm 90:9, Rev. Hulme last Sunday evening at the candle-lite service reminded us that Mr. and Mrs. Mouse, Mr. and Mrs. Bear, Papa and Mama Robbin, Father and Mother Frog live their lives "as a tale that is told" and are soon forgotten. Likewise Granda "Al" Stein, Grandpa Phelps, Great Grandfather Woodring and others of us, will probably be little known or remembered by their descendants three and four gen-
erations hence. To place ourselves outside and above this commonplace, soon to be forgotten class, acceptance of God’s divine plan of salvation, possible only for human beings living as one with Christ and in line for eternal life, is imperative. Such will live forever, while the beast is soon to be forgotten.

The candle-lite service this year was very impressive. At the beginning each one in the audience filed past the minister with their candle and received a lite. A song service led by Mr. Swanson and several beautiful numbers by the choir were followed by the taking of the collection.

This collection business proceeded, according to Rev. Hulme, in much the same way as is quite often customary in negro churches. It’s like this: Called upon by the Minister, Mrs. Stockman who sits well toward the front, arose and majestically led the procession on her side of the house toward the collection plate.

Having “nary a cent” she carefully guarded her candle and passed by in as dignified a manner as is possible under the circumstances. The three Stockman boys were more fortunate in the possession of this world’s medium of exchange and placed thirty cents in the basket. Papa Stockman, sitting further back, however, refused to budge, which, unquestionably moved the Minister to tell of the colored preacher who anxious for a big collection announced that none who had been stealing chickens the week before was to march up and put anything in the plate. And the Stockmans had chicken the week before. Looks bad. But we still sat obdurrate.

Now the purpose and intent of this service was not to produce a humorous situation leaving every one feeling funny, as perchance you may think after reading the foregoing paragraph. Not at all. Collections may come and collections may go, but, to the christian, giving to that which he loves

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comes natural and is a part of his worship. The people in our church may not be rich, or even well to do, but if only thirty of the forty heads of families would catch the vision, there would be enough money, time, talent and love, to raise the budget, keep track of all the sick and needy in Stow, teach the word of God to our children, sing in the choir, and fill the church twice each Sunday.

But many of us are too much inclined to live our lives “as a tale that is told.” We are born, we learn to cook, to sew, to swim and to work. We get married like millions of others, have children and when they have been fed and clothed for a greater or a less length of time, we die. A stone marks our resting place—and it too, in time weathered away.

How much better it is to be born the second time, a spiritual being and grow into the Imperishable Kingdom—a living soul, not fettered to the common place. Though—we took no notes, other than the text, such was what we got out of Rev. Hulmes sermon last Sunday evening.

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THANK YOU

I wish to extend sincere thanks to all those helping in our Christmas pageant. Especially for the fine cooperation of the Christian Endeavor group.

Mrs. Ralph R. Nichols

PERSONALS

Attend church Sunday morning and evening.

Mrs. Florence Suter visited at the Monteith home this past week.

A birthday was celebrated at Bible School last Sunday, namely, that of Arthur Morris.

Mr. Bob Baylia visited over the New Year's holiday in the Zirkle home.

Mr. and Mrs. George D. Conley visited with relatives in Canton, Ohio, Saturday evening.

Attendance at Bible School last Sunday was one hundred seventy-four. Thirteen members present in the orchestra.

Mr. James Moss of Baumberger Road has returned to the County Hospital for treatment.

Mr. Moss wants to thank the Community Church for the nice basket he received for Christmas.

Francis and Pauline Regula from Canton, Ohio, spent Christmas day with the L. C. Stein family.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Evans of Echo Road entertained friends in the form of a watch nite party New Year's Eve.

Betty Monteith spent a week of her vacation with her grandfather, Mr. J. L. Heller, at Ravenna, O.


C. E. officers elected for the year 1939 are “Bill” Robinson, Clara Gillam, Dale Shaver and Lucille DeWitt, respectively President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Sunday morning at church services we were much pleased to listen to a solo by Mrs. Virginia Judy. In the evening Mr. A. S. Phelps pleased folks with his singing.

First class auto painting, polishing, washing and welding. Prices reasonable. Stow Fender and Body Repair, corner Hudson and Graham Roads. G. E. Thursby, Prop. Phone WA-9517. — (Adv.)

Mr. and Mrs. Luten of Cuyahoga Falls and Mr. and Mrs. “Buster” DeWitt of Stow, both newlyweds received a double “belling” late last Friday night.

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Considerable mixing-up and inconvenience was caused to both couples, though apparently both lived to tell the story.

Mrs. Ed. Chipps of King Drive who was reported last week in an improved condition suffered another heart attack last Saturday and on Sunday was removed by ambulance to the home of her sister in Streetsboro.

Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Henderson are slowly improving from serious injuries suffered in an automobile accident while returning from Chicago. Mrs. Henderson is still confined at the hospital in Perrysburg, Ohio. Mr. Henderson returned to his home last Sunday.

Parents of Dr. W. C. Crichton, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. F. Crichton and brother, Gordon, and Miss Joyce Westover from Brantford, Ont. Canada, were visitors at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Crichton over the Christmas holidays.

Mr. John Sheka, 764 Hudson Road whom we reported last week as visiting his parents in Pennsylvania over the Christmas holidays, on his way home got stuck in a snow drift just outside of Akron. He sat in the drift with six other cars for three hours until two boys came along with a truck and pulled them out for five dollars each. Personally we would have been inclined to tell them to push our car back in the drift if that was their price.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Osman who
celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary last Sunday, January 1st, were both at church on that date. Likewise present, tho for the first time, was Rev. Hagelskamp the minister who married them in Akron. Rev. Hagelskamp was for many years pastor of the First Reform Church in Akron but just this last year retired and will now live in Stow, having purchased and remodeled a property on the Hudson Road.

FOR SALE: Hotpoint electric four burner range in good condition, used only three years. Price $50.00. Call FR-3344—(Adv.)

Now is the time to place your order for Stark Bros. nursery stock for spring planting. Representative E. L. Graham, 361 Diagonal Road, Stow.—(Adv.)

The Christian Endeavor went carolling Christmas eve. After their trip the young people returned to the church where they all filled up on cookies and chocolate milk.

Louise and Donna Jean Thomas spent a few days of the Christmas vacation with their aunts, Mrs. Edith Smelzenbach and Miss Myra Yost in Bedford.

Two hundred and six were present at Bible School last Sunday. The Banner class was Mrs. Judy’s with an attendance of one hundred twenty-four per cent.

INSTALLATION

Sunday morning, January 1st an installation service was conducted by Rev. Hulme for the incoming church officers. They are as follows:


DEACONESSES — Mrs. C. V. Cross, Mrs. L. C. Stein, Mrs. A. F. Stein, Mrs. Chas. Stahl, Mrs. H. J. Stockman, Mrs. R. H. Nichols, Mrs. Esta Oyler.

TREASURER—Mrs. Ermal S. Dunn.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY — Mrs. Lena Osman.

CLERK—Mrs. Celia McCo’gan.

AUDITING COMMITTEE — C. V. Cross, J. F. Edmiston.

BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—Mrs. Ermal S. Dunn, Mr. H. J. Stockman, Mr. C. E. Buck.

CHURCH USHERS—Wm. Robinson, Chief Usher; Assistants, Buck, DeWitt, Shaver.

TRUSTEE—Mr. A. S. Phelps.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT—Mr. Chas. Monteith.

MUSIC COMMITTEE — C. J. Swanson, Virginia Judy, Howard Sanner.

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