

**The Historical Society
The Bible Fellowship Church
January 2014**

The 2013 Holidays are now history. The new year 2014 is before us. I guess it is pretty common for most of us to think about the year past and the year ahead. The news magazines I receive usually do a review of the previous year. They also look often look ahead to the new year. I review what they say but don't find it terribly helpful. I don't need reminders of last year's events because I spent the last year reading about them. They don't know the coming year any better than I do so there's not a whole lot of stock to be put in their predictions.

Having said all of that, I do find it helpful to look at what our predecessors in our church were thinking about and what was happening. So, I propose that you take some time to consider what was going on.

I must give a kind of apology. I began with the intention of finishing this within a week or two of the new year. However, the need to get a new computer and reload all my programs slowed me down. Plus, I also suffer from HDD (that's Historical Distraction Difficulties – I am distracted by almost everything that I find when I am working through historical material – it makes everything take longer).

Let's start with 1914. Jasper A. Huffman was serving as the editor of the Gospel Banner. His editorial was published in the January 1, 1914, edition.

The year nineteen hundred and thirteen is now a matter of history. Its records are completed, and the recording angel has just filed them away in the archives of eternity. They are now sealed and cannot be erased, but must be met in the day of final reckoning.

The question relating to the items of our lives is a serious one and afford reason either rejoicing or sorrow. If we can humbly, yet truthfully, say that we have done the best we could; that we have made use of every available means of grace; that we seized every opportunity of helping our fellows; that we have honored our Christ in all our conduct and relations; that we have sought only His glory in everything, we may indeed be happy. This may seem, at first, a high standard with which to measure ourselves in relation to the year which has just closed, but none should be satisfied unless he has measured up to this standard.

Another serious but practical question arises, and that is: who shall use the measuring stick and be the judge? Others are not capable of doing it, as they cannot determine motives but see only the outward, and we, are scarcely competent of

measuring ourselves. God alone can do it. Let Him speak to the heart the tender message of reproof or loving words of appreciation. He knows the motive which prompted every thought, word and deed.

At such a time as the beginning of the new year it is well to take inventory of our spirit's real assets. This, not to make resolutions simply to be broken, but a proper knowledge of our spiritual assets or spiritual conditions will help us in determining our course of devotions, etc., necessary to a successful year to come in the service of the Master. Whatever else, let us see to it that all our failures as well as successes are under the blood, so that we need have no fear when the records are examined at the closing of time.

Little do we know what the newly-born year, upon whose threshold we now stand, will bring forth. "Veiled is the future before me" is a truthful and appropriate song. "God in His Goodness" reveals "only one step at a time." He whose heart is right and whose life is yielded fully to God may rest assured, however, that grace will be sufficient. That man's steps are ordered aright who is led by the hand of the Lord. That the new year be made a success in God's eyes, it is not a resolution which is necessary but a resignation; not trusting to fate, but a childlike trust in God.

Whatever have been the successes of our individual or church life in the past year, those of the new year should exceed them by far. We should profit by the lessons learned, never having to learn them over. Each day, much more each year affords opportunity for advancement along spiritual lines.

If all this is true and is to be realized in the lives of the people of God, Presiding Elders should give better and more efficient administrations, ministers should be better pastors and evangelists, and laymen render better service in the private ranks on in the offices to which the Lord has called them through the Church. Editors and Associates and others should be able to write better articles. The Gospel Banner should, in the year now beginning, reach a higher pinnacle of usefulness and interest than it has ever reached. The seizing of the opportunities of the new year would mean increased activity in every legitimate department of the Lord's work. The onward movement of the Lord's kingdom should be felt the world around.

Let us all earnestly pray that the new year may be the best we have ever known.

1914 Church News/ Pastors' Reports – Gospel Banner – January 1, 1914

Walnutport, Pa. – Our first Quarterly Conference for 1914 was held last Sunday and in many respects it was the best one we had yet at this place. Good many more than the membership took part in Feet-washing and Communion some joined in for the first time. The weather was somewhat unpleasant but the attendance was good all day. Our presiding elder, W. G. Gehman, was present all day and preached messages of life and power. Leaping, shouting, and praising God was the result of the Word of God thus

preached. In the evening one man raised his hand for prayer who since got right with God. We held four weeks of revival meeting, five came to the Lord and got saved. They are all doing well. The Lord gave us glorious victory. Our needs are richly provided for by Father. Our young people are very loose and free for God. The Sunday School is good and well attended. The superintendent is active and has the hearts of the scholars. To God be all the praise. Yours by grace,
W. W. Zimmerman, Pastor.

Graterford – Harleysville Classes, Pa. – The Lord is manifesting Himself amongst us in a blessed manner. We closed the revival services at Graterford. The interest manifested throughout was very good, the attendance throughout was very encouraging, on Sunday nights the church was about full. There were two converted during the meetings for which we praise God. In both classes we see old and young making progress, and especially do we see our dear young people growing in obedience which is a most blessed trait in Christians.

One Saturday night after the service was over and were about to retire, we heard a rap at our door, as we opened the

class came marching in loaded down our tables with good necessary things for the body. Our faithful horse was also remembered and has provender for many a day. The Harleysville class likewise are very liberal in providing us with cash and other donations besides giving to the steward. Our courage is good in breaking the Bread of Life to them.

Dec. 16. H. K. Kratz, Pastor.

Fleetwood – Blandon – Terre Hill, Pa. – We are glad to report victory through Jesus who is fighting our battles for us. Our first Quarterly Conference for this Conference year was held at Blandon last Sunday. The gathering was certainly a most glorious one. The brethren and sisters from the various classes were present almost to the man. They all expressed themselves as having received new courage and a greater desire to do the will of God than heretofore. Our presiding elder broke the Bread of Life to us, throughout the day, in a way that made all feel that the words came direct from the Father above. They were certainly just the things needed by all, in order to meet the trials and tests of this life so that we may be victorious Christians. Some took part in the Ordinance service for the first time and enjoyed themselves very much. All through it



Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Kratz

was a day a feasting. The brethren and sisters from Terre Hill has a good representation and expressed themselves as being greatly benefited by being present. Fleetwood and Blandon likewise are pressing on and claiming victory for the coming revivals. They are shouting the victory before the walls fall and depending on God to honor their faith. We are all greatly encouraged in the work of the Lord. Yours for souls, B. Bryan Musselman, Pastor.

Emaus, Pa. - The Lord is leading the revival meetings to His name's honor and glory at this place. The members never did better in attending and in helping to push the battle to the very gates. We had some outside people in almost every night, considering that this is about the busiest season of the year for the world. Conviction is resting upon some and we are looking for a break in the ranks of the enemy.

Macungie, Pa. - Here we had meeting yesterday forenoon and Sunday School afternoon. The interest was real good in both services.

It seems the Lord is not limited to special seasons of revival meetings, after the morning sermon sold who had once been saved but for several years had been in the world, got up and came to the altar and with tears repented of her past condition and was gloriously pardoned and set on the way rejoicing. To God be all the praise. We believe others will follow.

Alburtis, Pa. - The Lord is preserving a little handful here for Himself who

are being kept by the power of God. The two young converts from here who were converted in the revival at Macungie are doing very good. There were present at the service in Macungie in company with a few others, yesterday morning, walking the distance of three miles on account of no train or trolley service. The mother who was converted here in the meeting two weeks ago is very happy in the Lord. Some of the other people who had not been in the meeting for some time are awakened and stirred



Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Kublic

up and we are looking for some more good things to happen here. God deserves all the praise and He shall have it. Yours kept by His power, E. E. Kublic, Pastor.

Nazareth, Pa.- Dear "Banner" Readers: Greetings. Since my last report the Lord has been blessedly leading the work here at Nazareth. The interest continue to grow throughout, and we closed the special meeting by a baptismal service when we baptized four, in a stream near by.

Plainfield, Pa. – Here we opened fire on the enemy as soon as we had closed at Nazareth and had some very good meetings with a better attendance than they have had for quite a number of years. The truth was well received and we trust the Lord to water it so it may bring forth fruit. We are still happy in the Lord. E. T. Shick, Pastor.

Emaus, Pa. - The revival meetings closed here last evening for the present. These meetings were grand and glorious in many respects. The

members did very well in attending and in helping to make the meetings interesting and lively. Three were at the altar to be saved, two of them are doing good. Two were reclaimed. We were also favored with the presence of Brother W. B. Hottel of Allentown last Friday evening who preached to us the Word of God with life and power, and which was much enjoyed by those present, and also a goodly number of his people came along who were made a great blessing to us. The Macungie class did excellent in attending these meetings and in taking an active part fo make things go. We can only give the praise to God for He is the cause of every good. We are trusting Him for the future. E. E. Kublic

Zionsville, Pa. – The Lord is graciously leading us at this place. He gives us victory right along. The prayer meetings as well as the other services are real well attended.

Our revival meetings which closed a few weeks ago were owned of the Lord who gave us glorious victory, and many people in attendance, and resulted in the saving of one of our Sunday School scholars. On Sunday while the Christmas presents were distributed to the Sunday School children, the pastor was again remembered by handing him a neat box, which contained a very nice sum in cash for a Christmas gift. We feel unworthy for the kindness shown us by the class, but they certainly remember their pastor in every way. Our courage was never better, and are looking for more souls to be saved. Yours saved and kept. Dec. 22. R. Bergstresser, Pastor.



E. T. Shick Family

Bethlehem, Pa. – In the name of the Lord we are still holding up the banner of the Cross.

Our revival services have been very good. Some have been saved, others reclaimed while many have been refreshed and strengthened. We were glad to have several of the brethren with us who preached the Word to us with great liberty and much blessing.

We also rejoiced for the privilege to have Dr. R. H. Glover with us, who had been laboring as a missionary in China for nineteen years. He held a conference with our Board of Foreign Missions at the parsonage and in the evening he gave a most excellent address to a large audience in the church. A few days later he again started for an extended trip through China, Anam, Japan, and India.

Our courage for the work of the Lord is good. The people have a mind to work and stand by nobly. C. H. Brunner, Pastor.

Mount Carmel, Pa. – We are glad to report victory for Mount Carmel. A number have been at the altar lately and been reclaimed for the Lord.

God is wonderfully working and blessing at this place. The pilgrims are more united and take an interest in pushing on the work of the Lord.

The prayer meetings are good and well attended, also the cottage prayer meetings are proving a great blessing to both saved and unsaved.

The attendance throughout is real good, by saved and unsaved. The Spirit of the Lord is working on the hearts of the unsaved who come from time to time. We claim these precious souls for Jesus. Our Quarterly Meeting is a thing of the past, but not forgotten by His people. The messages which our beloved presiding elder, W. G. Gehman, delivered were in spirit and very helpful to the child of God. We are saved by grace. G. F. Yost, Pastor. Dec. 24.



G. F. Yost

Reading, Pa. – The one who has promised to be with us has been blessedly verifying His promises to us as His children at this place. The past four weeks of revival services were owned and blessed of the Lord. We can say, “Surely the Lord is in this place and we know it” because of the manifestation of His presence and power. Some have been born in the family of God, others who were away from God for many years came back and found the open door. Wrongs have been righted and the joy of the Lord restored. The dear pilgrims at this place are loyal and stand by the truth. They show that they

love their pastor in many ways. The attendance through the revival service was most wonderful, up to the last night. The class gave us large amount of money for a present, for which we feel very unworthy.

Our first Quarterly Conference has passed into history. This was the best we had since our stay here. Our beloved presiding elder, H. B. Musselman, was again used of the Lord in bringing to us the truth and was a great blessing to us. We are minded to keep our heads together in this evil day and smile at all our foes as we pass on to victory.

We are looking to God for still greater things in the future. Dec. 22. F. H. Hottel, Pastor.

75 Years ago. 1939 has no editorial to begin the new year. Rather, several pastors contributed new year thoughts in the January 5, 1939 edition.

New Year Resolutions

A. G. Woodring

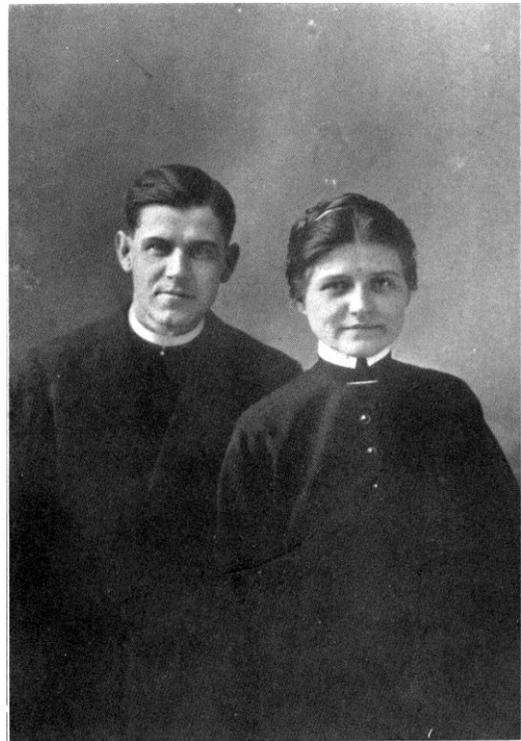
A Happy New Year to you all! The old year of 1938 has not been without its trials and temptations, and many have been overcome by the fore and find that their lives have been faulty and sinful. So this is the time when many new resolutions are again made for a better life during 1939.

The old resolutions were made in good faith and with a strong determination, but without the help of God, and alas, how soon they were broken! This brought discouragement. You cannot have a happy new year unless the Lord has the control of all the activities of your life. It is all right to make good resolutions, but "ask the Saviour to help you – He will carry you through."

Here are a few suggestions for your New Year resolutions: Endeavor by the help of God to have unbroken fellowship with Him in prayer and the reading of His Word; to have a Christian

home and teach your children the path of life; to live an exemplary life among the unsaved; to be a faithful witness for the Master; to win some souls for Christ; to fill your place regularly in the church; to earnest in the prayer meetings and active in the Sunday School. Let us make this the best year of our Christian career.

As one has well said, "The new year is not really new if we live the same old life."



Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Woodring

An old painter, of Vienna, after standing for a long time in silent meditation before his canvass, turned away, saying, "May God forgive me that I do not do it better!" May this prayer also be upon our lips, as with a glance backward we step out upon the threshold of this new year.

For a good new year Bible resolution, read Phil.3:13, 14.

Watchman, What of The Night?

H. K. Kratz, Pastor

This question was a taunt by the Idumeans and flung at the afflicted Jews in the Babylonish captivity. However, the reply was a prophecy aimed at the Idumeans, who would in due time suffer the fulfillment of the prediction made by the prophet.

One out of Seir (Isa. 21:11) asks, "What of the night?" Is there hope of the dawn of deliverance? Isaiah replies, "The morning is beginning to dawn for us; but night is also coming to you." The Hebrew captives would be delivered, and taunting Edom punished. Our minds at the present time reflect upon the Jews in various parts of the world. It is quite evident that we are nearing the time of "Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7).

The Jews are surely having a baptism of persecution which is but the prelude to greater trouble, as the Anti-Semitic spirit through throughout the world.

No outstanding nation at present is free from this unchristlike and demonic spirit. Not being wanted in Palestine, the land that we given them by Covenant with Abraham, Israel shall yet see the dawn of a golden day for them. "But unto you that fear my name (Israel) shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings" (Malachi 4:2).

Presently some nations are playing football with the Jews. This is a tragic and costly sport, but God is not done with the self-blinded countries. "He is letting the madness of man show his own folly." God's blue print of which comparatively few know much about, will be carried out, that is fulfilled.

Even at present those that are properly instructed, only theoretically, but by the Spirit, have the conviction and blessed assurance, that we are on the eve of great events, that will shape conditions for the rapid fulfillment of Scripture. These indeed are ominous days, we are living in. But remember that God's plan works! His Word stands.

What about the practical lesson to be learned? Unless any teaching can be infused into our lives and then be worked out in terms of blessing to ourselves and others, it is worthless.

Night stands for calamity. With a word like this, either in its minor or major meaning, we are all acquainted. Is there some salve to be applied to lessen its pain, or, in time remove it out of our lives? Is there no exit from any or many such experiences? Should we not say, "Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night?" (Job 35:10); or, "I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope, and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt" (Hosea 2:15).

The “morning” of opportunity is granted us, and we should make the best of it, before the night closes upon us “when no one can work.” The watchman, who corresponds to God’s ministers, should they not be wide-awake, clear-minded, and able to discern what is the right teaching relative to salvation and sanctification:

The apostle Paul gives us doctrinal teaching that will cover our every need and anxiety. “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us” (II Cor. 1:10). This is certainly a gracious teaching on deliverance from the penalty, power and presence of sin, or in other words, it refers to salvation, sanctification, and Glorification. Prosperity, or the harvest of either the good or the evil, comes at the close of our career—at the judgment-seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10). Suffering and adversity is mitigated by the grace of God, as we keep looking unto the Lord.

The watchman said, “The morning cometh,” but then, so follows the night of judgment too. As in the days of Isaiah when men ridiculed the prophet and people of God, so today they say, “Where is the promise of His coming?” (II Peter 3:4)

We who have been journeying along life’s pathway, and have borne the heat of the day, who have fellowship with our Lord, may affectionately say, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent” (Luke 24:29).

1939 Church News – January 12, 1939 (No Pennsylvania news was included in the January 5 edition.)

Allentown District

Reading, Pa. – It was pleasure to meet with the dear pilgrims and friends at this place. The attendance was quite good. The Sunday School attendance is also most noteworthy. Pastor F. M. Hottel submitted a good report for the work, together with his noble officers. The special services that were conducted by a noted Bible teacher, previous to our coming, kept the brethren well fed.

Nazareth, Pa. – The class at Northampton showed a good interest in coming to the services, which were held on Christmas day. A fine spirit prevailed at all of the services. Pastor H. K. Kratz is looking forward for a most fruitful year of service on the charge. With God all things are yet possible. Bro. R. Bergstresser was present, and reported having better courage in the Lord than ever before.

Walnutport, Pa. – The class from Lehighton attended quite well at the various services. We however, missed some who were not privileged to be with us. Pastor J. C. Roth, has been sustained physically, and continues to be enabled to serve his people at all times. “In quietness and confidence shall be our strength.” It always affords me joy to meet with the people of God everywhere.

Bethlehem, Pa. – The attendance was also very good at this place. All of the officers were in attendance at the business meeting, and submitted good reports. The pastor, P. T. Stengele, also reported as having excellent courage, and spoke well of his people. We are always delighted to meet a number of such with whom we worshipped in the years gone by, and who are still active in the work of the Lord. We are also much please to meet new faces, and in seeing the younger members fill in the vacancies made by such who have departed from the ranks, in the which they had so faithfully served. May we all be found faithful and true at the glorious appearing of our blessed Lord.

H. B. Musselman.

Lehighon and Walnutport, Pa. – Our Presiding Elder, Brother H. B. Musselman, was with us for two services Tuesday evening, Dec. 25th. His messages brought to us were very timely, and helpful. God using him in a most wonderful way in bringing the truth home to the hearers. This being our first quarterly conference for this conference year. Since being returned to this field of labor for another year we were given a fine reception at both places, with a splendid donation, and quite some cash from each class. We were also well remembered with a very good Christmas gift in cash from Lehighon, Weissport and also from the Walnut port classes. The Lord has been and is still very good to us and our courage is good in His services. In His Name,

J. C. Roth



J. C. Roth family

Lebanon, Pa. – “Ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:58

To see the undersigned name will doubtless be new to many of you, as well as the church.

This has heretofore been a mission in the Gospel Herald Society for many years and has been called the “Grand Daddy” Mission. I praise the Lord that He has caused it to grow into a Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church. The labor bestowed upon this church, and the patience endured with it for all these years by the different Brethren was absolutely not in vain.

A great deal of credit belongs also to the President of the Gospel Herald Society who hung on to it when things looked dark and discouraging. I am alluding to Rev. W. G. Gehman, and may I add that we have recently had quarterly conference and you

should have been there. His message was greatly appreciated to say the least, and we think that the greatest crowd greeted him that we have ever had upon such an occasion.

It might be fitting to say that if there is any one skeptical as to whether this church will grow and thrive, here is the invitation to come and see.

We are tackling things in the name of our God, and the above text is such a source of encouragement that we can say we are ashamed to doubt the Lord, and are not one bit discouraged in the work of the Lord. If you would like to know more, here we are at 521 Locust Street, Lebanon, Pa.

“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

E. J. Rutman, Pastor.

50 years ago. David E. Thomann was editor of Fellowship News. Let's start with his editorial for January, 1964.

Fearful, terrible, horrible and dreadful can explain the events of the past year which were highlighted by the appalling assassination of our late President, John F. Kennedy, who was shot down in cold blood on the streets on Dallas. Who ever thought that this type of news would be the headlines of our newspapers this past year? Who would ever think that this type of killing could take place in America? But again, who ever thought that the Bible and the repeating of the Lord's Prayer would be taken out of our public schools? Who ever thought that our country was so pagan as to allow this to happen?

We are now in a new year - 1964. What lies ahead for us? There is something refreshing in the starting of a new year. Now that our past year is concluded, we can have a new and fresh beginning. Many predictions have been made about the new year relating to religion, politics and business. But have you heard or read anything in our newspapers that this year the return of the Lord Jesus Christ could be a reality? The only Hope for the world is the coming of Christ, and yet so few care about Him.



D. E. Thomann

To the Christian, a verse found in Psalms 32:8 could be our verse for this year. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eyes."

There is something wonderful about the thought of the Lord offering to guide us. He is quicker to offer guidance for us than we are to ask for it or to accept it. He is not saying that He will guide us the way the children of Israel were led when they fled Egypt, with the cloud. But this guidance of the Lord is a tender one, for it will be done with His EYE.

The eye can do great things. Just a mere glance of the eye can cause a child to move from one position to another. One can express themselves by a mere look or stare with the eye. When the Lord says, "I will guide thee with mine eye", it is not by compulsion that He guides us, but you and I must be "willing to be led and there must be a close relationship with the Lord in order to see the slender thread.

In the Lord's guidance there is a negative aspect. He may say, "This is not the way". In the story of the children of Israel, as they came out of Egypt, we read, "God led them NOT through the way of the land of the Philistines, though that was near. God had a purpose in all this. There are ways in which the Lord will lead this year, which may be contrary to your desires, but the Lord will say, "This is NOT the way." The easy plan of our life is not always the best way in which God would lead us. He leads us in the safe way. The wrong way never yet led to the right place. In Proverbs 4:19 we read, "The way of the wicked is as darkness, they know not at what they stumble." God leads His own in light, not in darkness.

There is a positive side of His guidance. Jesus could say, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into this world." This is confidence. Do we have it? It is of great comfort to have an unwavering assurance that all our times are in His hands. "For in Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:27)

As you heard at the last meeting of the Historical Society, the Women's Missionary Society was a pretty significant part of the life and ministry of many of our churches. Here is their news for January 1964.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETIES BUSY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

*The women of COOPERSBURG and QUAKERTOWN met on December 5 at Quakertown for a joint Christmas program.

*The women of COOPERSBURG have been busy preparing bandages, rag dolls and clothing for the Dora Lee Children's Home. In the way of a missionary education program, Mrs. Evelyn Wetzel introduced new members to the Bucks by way of biographical sketches. Mrs. Dorothy Golinsky, mother of Leonard Buck, showed an interesting photo album of work done in South Africa by the Bucks.

*An active W. M. S. at WALLINGFORD met at the Parish House for a Thanksgiving meeting on November 26. Twenty-nine ladies were present. Grace Felton gave a short talk on Thanksgiving showing that, just as we praise our fellow-men, so we should give praise to God. Christmas boxes were packed in a special

meeting and delivered to the home at Nazareth on December 13.

*The women of BETHLEHEM held a special Christmas program on December 12 for the Golden Age group. The group was served a delicious dinner and a large variety of cookies after which the women were given individual gifts of fruits in specially wrapped packages. Rev. Harold C. Weaber of Miller Heights was the guest speaker.

* SPRING CITY also visited the Nazareth Home and presented a program for the women. Decorated oatmeal boxes filled with cookies and hard candy were presented to the ladies and matrons. Pastor Harvey Fritz spoke.

Also, in keeping with the spirit of Christmas, the women of SPRING CITY made 300 Christmas favors for the Wayside Mission in Philadelphia. Serving on the project committee are Mrs. Bertha Fritz, Mrs. Marilyn Wagner , and Mrs. Mildred Gregorie. A special missionary love offering for the Edward Moyers of Guadeloupe totaled \$135. Spring City is committed to half support of the Moyers.

SPRING CITY elections: Mrs. Lola Weidner, President; Mrs. Sue Good, Vice President; Mrs. Marian McCrone, Secretary; and Mrs. Sue Fox, Treasurer.

* PHILADELPHIA (Emmanuel) elections: Mrs. Emily Dietzman, President; Mrs. Lucy Sewell, Vice President; Mrs. Grace Davis, Secretary; Miss Grace Alhouse, Treasurer.

*The HATFIELD W. M.S. was in charge of a Harvest Home Service with Pastor Richard Ruth of Belvidere as guest speaker. A love offering of \$265 was given to the Belvidere congregation toward the building of their new church.

Sunday Schools have always been important to the life of our churches. Our denominational magazine often included news of the events and progress in our churches. Again, hear the reports of January 1964.

LANCASTER

Twenty three have enrolled in the winter E.T.T.A. training course. Junior High classes are meeting in the basement of the parsonage making room in the church auditorium for an additional adult class.

WALLINGFORD

The school had its highest attendance in the history of the Grace church. Uncle Paul and Aunt Dottie Walton held special meetings in the Sunday School. A teacher training program is being arranged with faculty members from Philadelphia College of the Bible.

YORK

The young married couples class of York has been divided into two groups due to the high enrollment of 47. Class number 1 is taught by Robert Williams with 20 scholars, and Class number 2, taught by Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Baer has 27 enrolled.

BETHLEHEM

On Sunday, December 8, the adult and young people's departments heard from Frank Douglas, a native of British Guiana "who recently arrived in the U.S. via a Fulbright scholarship award. This is the first year at Lehigh University. In British Guiana he was director of "Youth for Christ" in the high school, and also a teacher.

63RD ANNUAL HOME COMING

Sunday, November 17, Allentown (Salem) held its 63rd ANNUAL HOME COMING with Rev. F. B. Hertzog. He taught the Sunday school and brought the message in the worship service. Rev. Hertzog had been Salem's pastor for 17 years, from 1925 to 1942. Blessings were received from the Word of God and the fellowship with God's people was refreshing.

On this special day, the Sunday school had a record attendance of 160.

HATFIELD

The Primary department has a new superintendent, Ruth Schell Cassel, Berean graduate of June 1963. Former superintendent, Carol Snyder has joined her husband-teacher in the young married class.

The Sunday school library is growing rapidly with some very exceptional editions. Many of the people are taking advantage of the library.

G. Nadine Snyder is Bethany's new Bible club teacher for the Wednesday night class.

Let's go forward from 50 years to 25 years ago to look at the new year editorial. But, guess what? Fellowship News was not published in the early part of 1989. Perhaps you can remember that we were without a volunteer who could put together our magazine. Finally, Dan Allen, who was pastor at that point of the Ephrata Bible Fellowship Church and a member of what was then called the Board of Publication and Printing stepped up. In the only issue published that year, Dan made some insightful observations.

He began with a fable (of his own creation) that told of some deer who knew each other because they gathered at a salt lick. He wanted us to think about what causes people to come to together. He then went on to comment about our church and how it would be connected in the coming years.

... But there is a point. And it's the reason you've received the new Fellowship News with me as its Editor.

For years the Bible Fellowship Church has been a close-knit body. Everybody seemed to know everyone, either through marriage or the friendships which developed through the Allentown or Bethlehem Conference at Mizpah Grove, Allentown or

Edgewood Grove, Shamokin. If anything happened at one church, it was known rather quickly at all the rest.

Unfortunately, time has changed this. We are no longer that 'family' denomination. New churches, new pastors, and new people have caused us to drift apart.

The Fellowship News hasn't helped keep us together either. I'm not blaming the former Editors, for I believe most have tried to maintain the salt lick, but guys like me have pushed for less editions each year and a product that would rival Moody Monthly. We failed at both. In fact, it's been a year since the Fellowship News went to press.

I apologize, on behalf of the Board of Publication and Printing of the Bible Fellowship Church, of which I am a member, and which publishes the Fellowship News, for the absence of this periodical. With the home-going of our Business Manager and the relocation of an Editor, we were left holding a loaded bag with little knowledge on what to do. After struggling for a year, we've decided to produce a paper such as is in your hands.

We are pledging to produce a monthly paper which will be sent to you or your church. It will be short and to the point. Hopefully, it will represent the Bible Fellowship Agencies, Churches, and its people.

For the time being, at least until Annual Conference makes a decision, I'll be the Editor. My plan will be to re-establish the salt-lick. It is my prayer we will be able to fulfill this plan.

Join me in prayer to this end!

Church news from 1989...

Royersford

One-hundredth Anniversary services continued this month at our Royersford Church. As the FELLOWSHIP NEWS goes to press we understand that Mr. Horace Kauffman, one of the Board of Directors of the Bible Fellowship Church, will be the speaker on September 17 as they remember the days when H. A. Kauffman and N.H. Wolf were pastoring. On the last Sunday in October, Ron Erb will be preaching, being featured as a son of the church.

Harleysville



Daniel Allen

Pastor Dave Armstrong baptized four on August 27. They were Cheryl Wright, Debbie Pfeiffer, Ike and Terry Jones.

On June 16, Reverend Paul Baer went to be with the Lord. He was 84 years old and had been a Bible Fellowship pastor for 30 years, pastoring at Scranton, Shamokin, Zionsville, and Spring City-Royersford Circuit. No doubt a written tribute will be in the 1989 Year Book of the Bible Fellowship Church Annual Conference.

Graterford

Since the tragic accident when two men from the church were killed on Memorial Day weekend, we are praising the Lord for those who have deepened commitment to the Lord's work. We ask for continued presence of God's peace as we continue to minister to bereaved families.

A round robin Missions Conference is scheduled for October 6-8 at Graterford, Royersford, and Spring City. The overall theme is "Penetrating the Eastern Bloc." Speakers will include Alex Leonovitch and Earl Poysti and Eric Olsen.

Hatfield

Pastor Howard Wells began as new pastor on Father's Day.

The church is beginning a new program for ladies the 2nd Saturday of every month, from 8-10 AM. The meeting is called S.O.S. (Sisters on Saturday). The meetings will include Bible Study, Prayer, and Sharing.

In 1917, the Pennsylvania Conference stepped out to publish its own magazine. I have not been able to locate the thinking or official decisions which led to its formation. The Pennsylvania Annual Conference apparently did not make the decision or at least I have found no resolution approving its publication. C. H. Brunner served as the editor. He had formerly served as editor for the Gospel Banner. The magazine began in January, 1917, and would cease publication in 1924. The initial comments of 1917 served to introduce the new magazine called the Eastern Gospel Banner.

This is Volume I. Number 1. of the Eastern Gospel Banner.

The Eastern Gospel Banner will retain the name Gospel Banner in honor of the first and original Gospel Banner.

This is the method our "Methodist" friends have resorted to years ago. Little could anyone conceive the volume of influence the first and original Christian Advocate has and still is exerting.

The writer was informed that there are now six Christian Advocates under General Conference rule, and others such as the Pittsburg Christian Advocate which are only Annual Conference organs. Yet all work to the same end—the unity of the Spirit. There is no church which has grown like the M. E. church. It has a world-wide influence. We sincerely hope and trust that there may be many Gospel Banners representing Mennonitism throughout, this and other countries, if the Lord tarries, all working together with Him who loved us and died for us, until He says, "Well done."

This is the first issue of the Eastern Gospel Banner. It cannot be called a perfect "Sample" of what the following issues are supposed to be. However, the general makeup, the size, the number of pages, and the material all foreshadow its expected future fairly well. Its actual constituency in sight is comparatively small, yet we predict that each issue will contain a fair amount of original and edifying reading matter. Elder C. H. Brunner, the editor, the presiding elders, the staff of associate editors, and others, undoubtedly, will feel at perfect liberty to freely voice their convictions in these columns.

Church news, January, 1917...

Mt. Carmel District

Quarterly Conference Report

Easton, Pa. All the reports of the offices were encouraging. There is an increase in finances on various lines. The general interest is good. The Sunday services were well attended. A large number took part in the ordinances. Pastor R. L. Woodring reports good courage and has the hearts of his people who throughout are loyal and obedient and no sacrifice for the work appears to be too great for them to make. This must mean victory all along the line, for which we praise our Lord. W. G. Gehman, P. E.

Bethlehem District

Royersford, Pa,— The attendance at this place was large, the church being well-filled at all of the services, with eager listeners. A grand revival has been in progress, and twelve candidates were received into church fellowship in the afternoon. The brethren from Spring City turned out well, and the work at both of



Royersford Church

these places is in a good condition. The pastor, J. F. Barrall has good courage and is expecting still greater things for the work at these places.

H. B. Musselman. P. E.

Reading, Pa.— The work at this place is in an excellent condition. The attendance was large, the church being filled nicely with eager listeners. The reports were encouraging and the missionary offerings showed a marked increase. The young people are also doing well. The prayer meetings and Sunday school are largely attended, and the general interest for the work is grand. Truly God's goodness has been made manifest towards His people, and the pastor, Brother W. J. Fretz, has many things to praise God for, above all the testings that meet him along the way. H. B. Musselman, P. E.

Pastors

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.— It gives us much joy to report that the Lord is leading forth His people at this place. All our meetings are well attended; the Sunday School has a very healthy growth, the Bible studies are largely attended and the truth is finding its way to many hearts.

We had many warm and loving hearts to appreciate the help that we try to give to them, this was plainly manifest in a most wonderful donation that we received. Surely the Lord used this to bring us closer together than ever before, which will mean greater things from the Lord for this place.

On November 12th we had the privilege to have our beloved presiding elder, H. B. Musselman with us all day. The messages were heart-touching and powerful. We will not forget this day, the effect is being manifest by those that were present. We are looking forward for great things from the Lord for this place. Our people stand together nobly in the work. Our courage is good.

F. M. Hottel, Pastor.

SHAMOKIN, Pa.—The Lord's blessing is upon us. We can hear a rumbling in the tree-tops as a sign of a coming revival among the Lord's own and sinners, for His coming draweth nigh.

The various services; preaching, open air, Sunday School and prayer meetings, are very good, a healthy spirit and desire after heavenly things being manifested by the believers of this class.

The week of October 30th was moving day for the pastor and we were hardly settled in our new home when the class led by the faithful and efficient stewards, Esther A. Frahn, Hazel P. McClain and Carrie M. Lupolt gathered in front of the house and began to sing, and upon opening the door to see what was happening, they started to

march into the house, depositing all sorts of packages and baskets containing cash, eatables, etc. The Lord surely does provide and we simply say, Praise His name. Our earnest desire is that we may be a real blessing in feeding this flock.

H. A. Kauffman, Pastor.

ALLENTOWN, Pa.—"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble," Ps. 46:1. We have been having a few weeks of revival meetings which have been very good. The members especially attended remarkably well. The presence of the Lord was manifest in every service. Thus far only one sinner was saved but we are looking to Him for great things.

We have received the first consignment of the "Daily Food" Wall Rolls published by the Union Gospel Printing Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, publishers of the "Gospel Banner." The Bible verses are very suggestively and helpfully arranged for daily study and meditation. They are pronounced by all as a marvel of artistic designing and color printing. These are days of extravagantly high prices in paper and printing and the people cannot understand that a work of art like this can be printed for the exceptionally low price at which they are sold. After I had announced that they were here, they carried away over one hundred the same evening. May God make them a blessing to thousands of homes.

Our Sunday School is in a flourishing condition. Our courage is good.

C. H. Brunner, Pastor.

SPRING CITY and ROYERSFORD, Pa-- Greeting:—The Lord God is a sun and shield the Lord will give grace and glory, no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. We are in our fifth week of revival services in Royersford and in this time many dead bones have been revived. Fourteen have been gloriously saved, five of these are head of families, on the 19th of November we baptized eight and last Sunday twelve joined the right hand of fellowship with us. And the end is not yet, six more are ready to be baptized, two have been reclaimed that were not serving the Lord for quite a long time. Our first Quarterly Conference for this Conference year was held last Sunday,



Spring City Church and Parsonage

November 26th, and was the best we ever attended, the church in Royersford was filled all day, extra chairs were necessary to accommodate the people present.

The Word preached by our presiding elder, H. B. Musselman, had no uncertain sound and was eagerly listened to by all present. About one dozen took part in Feet-washing for the first time, besides some who had not done so for four or five years, one hundred and twenty partook of the Lord's Supper, the largest number, some said, since the church is built. It certainly was a refreshing time for God's children all day. The meals were all served in the basement of the church. To Him be all the praise.

J. P. Barrall, Pastor.

NORTHAMPTON, Pa.—To the readers of the "Banner:" We wish to report again the leadings of the Lord at this place. God is still with us and is keeping us alive, etc., active in His services. The class stands by in every particular and is desiring to become more and more like their Master, (the Saviour). We were received graciously and cheerfully by them for our third year of services with them. They gave us one of the greatest surprises in the form of a valuable donation. Owing to the absence of the pastor and family, and not being at home and apparently every door, and window locked and barred against them, seemed a puzzle to them at first but the Lord opened a way for them to enter and unload their bundles, after which they surrounded them and were singing, praying and praising God when the pastor and family returned. Not knowing anything about the affair, you can imagine the feeling and the surprise thus stealing over us. Well to God be all the praise. He cares for His own. Thus the class stands by in works as well as in faith.

Our first Quarterly Conference for this year is over, with blessed and refreshing memories of the glorious truth preached by our dear presiding elder still lingering. The Truth spoken had no uncertain sound whatever. We are all looking to the God of all grace for still continued victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. We will commence our special revival services soon, and we kindly solicit your prayers that a break may take place in the enemy's ranks, and a few souls rescued for God. Our courage is good in His services and we are looking for His appearing.

Your brother by grace,

W. W. Zimmerman, Pastor.

Following our last Historical Society meeting, Bruce Ellingson sent some insightful reflections concerning the work of Dan Ziegler. Bruce served for a number of years on the Board of Church Extension as its secretary.

Reflections on Daniel G. Ziegler

Bruce A. Ellingson

November 1, 2013

David Gundrum put in a great effort on his significant and meaningful paper on Daniel Ziegler for the Historical Society meeting. It generated thoughts in my mind as I reflected on my times with Dan during the several years I served on the Board of Church Extension.

Dave did well in describing the culture of the 60's and 70's during which Dan served. In addition to this we need to remember the culture of the Bible Fellowship Church at this time.

Dan served in the culture of the church that was provincial, limited predominately but not exclusively to Eastern Pennsylvania; and with a strong Pennsylvania Dutch ethos. As I recall during this time the name of the ministry was changed from Home Missions to Church Extension and I assume largely under Dan's influence. This reflected his vision for the church – to extend the BFC beyond its geographical boundary. From this beginning we have expanded into New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Delaware and New Mexico. And now Church Extension Ministries is looking at a sight in Maryland! Brother Ziegler had a vision that continues to grow and for which we are very thankful.



Bruce Ellingson

This extension of the BFC presented great tensions that Dan and others on the Board of Church Extension faced. Going into New Jersey believers from different ethnic backgrounds were introduced to the BFC. One prominent in my mind is those of Italian heritage. They were dedicated and sincere believers who appreciated a glass of wine with their meals. This brought tension with our view of total abstinence from alcoholic beverages. Dan had the vision to challenge Annual Conference to examine this matter in the light of Scripture. This was the beginning of a twenty year process that finally brought about change.

Another aspect of Brother Ziegler's vision for the BFC was ethnic church planting. Under his leadership Bert Baker went to Newark, New Jersey, to begin a church in the African American community. In my understanding this was our first ethnic church plant, beginning another aspect of our church for which we are very thankful today.

In a related area not directly associated with Church Extension was Brother Ziegler's vision for the youth ministry of our denomination. As I recall this was associated with our purchase of Pinebrook Bible Conference in the fall of 1968. Under Dan's leadership the Youth Fellowship General Committee (I think this was the right name.) set forth an ambitious program for 1969 or 1970 entitled "The Year of the Net."

Several denominational and regional youth activities were initiated. One was Youth Week at Pinebrook that lasted a few years. Another was Sno Glo that continues in strong fashion today. A third was the Thanksgiving Youth Rally held the Friday following Thanksgiving. I remember that first one in which we used a large public venue in Harrisburg. The Thanksgiving Youth Rally waned in magnitude but still continues now being held annually at Victory Valley.

Extending the boarders of the Bible Fellowship Church, a change in our position on alcoholic beverages as it relates to church membership, ethnic church planting and denominational youth programs are aspects of the legacy Daniel Ziegler left for the Bible Fellowship Church; a legacy for which we thank our Lord.

I trust that you enjoyed this rehash of New Year's thinking and news of the last hundred years. Now it's time to get back to 2014 and the business of making history.

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