

Volume 1, Issue 9

LETTER TO THE CHURCH

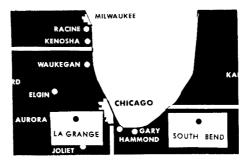


SOUTH BEND SOCIAL

Know Those Who Labor Among You by Phillip Fowler

"The Texas accent was so thick that his sermonettes were difficult to understand by many of the church members. Six months later there was scarcely a trace of it. He was an entirely different person." "Knew he would really be a minister the first time I heard him." These were the respective and enthusiastic comments made by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jackson, our colored elder and his wife. The answers came almost before the question was asked: "What do you think was the most difficult problem for Mr. Blackwell to overcome when you first met him?" . . . Yes, all was not a breeze-hands-down, easily-won accomplishments for our young in years, old in spiritual development pastor, now (Please Continue Page 5)

by R. VAN SLOOTEN



The Progress Club here in South Bend was humming Saturday night, December 23rd, as people with excited expressions on their faces hurried in and out carrying covered boxes and containers.

The event which was creating so much activity and concern among the Church brethren was the first social in the South Bend area. Many of those attending and even some helping in the preparation

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by Herbert W. Armstrong

Palm Springs, California December 15, 1961

Dear Brethren of Churches of God scattered abroad, GREETINGS!

Mrs. Armstrong and I have come to the desert for two months, so that I may take a 60-day lemon-juice-and-milk fast, in an effort to get my entire digestive system readjusted-also for spiritual as well as physical and mental rejuvenation.

I have tried, but found it impossible to go on such a fast at home in asadena where interruptions requiring strenuous activities demand my attention repeatedly. But, although considerably weakened physically during such a fast, I am able to get in some much desired study, and to do more writing than when active in the office, pulpit, and before the microphone.

So, among other things, this gives me the opportunity to send a personal letter for publication in each of the local church newspapers.

A quarter of a century ago and more, at the "mother church" of this Philadelphia era of God's Church, when the present work of the church was just starting, I issued a monthly Bulletin for our local church members. It contributed to the fellowship of the brethren, and proved both interesting and valuable. So last January, at the ministers' conference, I suggested to the pastors of the various churches that they inaugurate local bulletins or newspapers at each church.

I have been very happy to see so many of these appearing. I suppose you have noticed that, although most of these local bulletins started out with various local names, the name of each has been changed to the present "Church of God

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Letter to Editor

Kellogg, Minn. Dec. 21, 1961 Dear Editor.

Dear Editor,

I received a letter and also a copy of the Dec. 15th issue of the Church of God News, from my brother, Marvin. I really do enjoy reading the news of

the Church, and benefit from the many helpful articles in it, as I am sure everyone does.

I would also like to have my name put on the mailing list so I can enjoy the news too.

Remembering you always in prayer, Your Brother in Christ, in Christian love, Russell M. Edelbach

Dates To Come

by Elaine Tkach

On January 27, 1962 the Chicago Church will launch Fun Show.
Basketball every Thursday evening, 8 o'clock, 3660 West 23rd Place — Oh yes, Ladies, be sure and come to encourage the men to do their best.
Bible Study every Wednesday.

"Extinct Virus" Found Active in Chicago

by Mavin Gardner

Evidence of an ancient virus has appeared in Chicago. It enters through the eyes or ears and embeds itself under the forehead, leaving a lasting impression on the mind. The virus has lain dormant for many years. A study of antiquity reveals it has been idle since the age of high school; however, modern archaeologists say it was active during the college age. Doctors are baffled. Some physicians think it is a chronic disease of the mind, some will guess, but most refuse to discuss it. Those who have been exposed to the-whatever it is-will shout, run, jump, leap and show many cat-like qualities which bring their blood to a boil, shortens their breath, and causes them to perspire profusely. When such fiery treatment is given to the ordinary virus it is burned to a crisp or driven out through the pores, but since we have no "hot-heads" playing at Shedd Gymnasium, this bug remains unscorched under the forehead. The name given to it by those on the scene every Thursday night is the "basketball bug".

The bug was put into circulation by Mr. Blackwell's challenging the laymen to a basketball duel. The play of Mr. Dick Marshall and of Roy Fowler highlighted the game. Mr. Marshall's defensive action sparkled with his ball stealing, his rebounding, and his aggressiveness in tying up the opposing ball handlers. He did not stop here, but also scored many timely baskets. Roy Fowler, the smallest player, put the game in the bag for the laymen with his basket shooting. To the delight of the crowd, Roy outjumped Mr. Engelbart, the tallest man on the floor. Roy's legs, seemingly are jet-propelled: his toes rise at least two feet above the floor when he jumps. The timely substituting of players by our coach, Mr. Kreidich, kept the laymen in the lead. The final score of December 7th's game: Laymen 28, Ministers 22. The game was over, but the bug was still active.

This bug now infected La Grange and prompted the La Grange men to aid the ministers in their second try at beating the Chicago laymen. Again the second game, December 14th, was played under the favorable conditions afforded by the Shedd Gymnasium. The La Grange-minister combination quickly took a 4 to 0 lead and it appeared as if a shut-out were in the offing: history was being made. This marked the first time Chicago trailed in any game. Mr. Dick Marshall now became the man of the hour. He scored two quick baskets to tie the score and then (brilliantly) blocked a shot, picked up the loose ball and drove the length of the floor for a basket making the score 6-4, giving Chicago the lead which was never relinquished. Now the game became a defensive duel. Mr. Wilbur Ball, in typical Ephraimite fashion, staked out his little plot of ground (in this case floor) under the basket and would not be moved, come Mr. Engelbart or Mr. McCrady. From this advantage Mr. Ball -time after time-went up high on the backboard to gain possession of the ball for Chicago. Bear this in mind, Mr. Ball is not a lightweight and that "spare tire" does not help any when he has to jump. Special mention must be made of Mr. Blackwell's shooting accuracy and his long-winded endurance. Final score: Chicago 30, La Grange and Ministers 24.



On Dec. 28th, black Thursday, the Chicago five's victory skein came to an end. Led by their irresistible force, Mr. Blackwell, the La Grange-Minister combination amassed 66 points in outshooting the Chicago basketeers. Mr. Blackwell's success at shooting was catastrophic! ! Anytime he is within a 25 ft. radius and left unguarded for a split second, he shoots. The ball soars in a high arch; in its descent it never touches the rim but merely flicks the net in registering 2 points. This type of shooting coupled with alert, aggressive rebounding, plus a dogged defense, presented an unbeatable combination. With the gallery full of femine constituents urging him on, Mr. Bob Marshall, a stubborn die-hard was a tenacious individual in a losing cause. He succeeded in pulling his team into the lead 38 to 34, but the defense "ganged up" on him forcing him to shoot hurriedly and sacrifice his accuracy. La Grange then tied the score, regained the lead, and drove steadily ahead to their 66-52 victory.

READERS—You Can Help!

The eight-page issue which you received last month was the largest Church of God News-Midwest Edition published thus far. As a result, the expenses were much higher than the standard amount which ordinarily covers the cost of publication.

If you care to assist the Spokesman Clubs, which carry most of the burden of financing the paper, PLEASE give your donation to a deacon in your area, or send your contribution directly to the Editor at 3335 W. 95th Street, Evergreen Park 42, Ill.

Remember, this is your paper! When you give to it you are giving a part of yourself to your brothers and sisters, as well as to the Church as a whole. Thank you.

Latest News Flashes

Due to the need in the Chicago Church for more colored deacons, and especially for his humble unassuming service in the church. Mr. Edwin Marrs was ordained as a deacon in the Chicago Church of God. His ordination brings the number of colored deacons in the Chicago Church to two; the first being Mr. Elisha Crim.

On January 3, 1962 a son, James Darrell Bald, was born to John and Nancy Bald. Mr. Bald is the assistant to Mr. Dean Blackwell in the Chicago area. The baby was born about 12:45 P.M., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Roenspies, Mr. Bald assisting. James Darrel weighed 7 lbs.

The John Garms family has been called to Pasadena to employ the services of Mr. John Garms in the IBM department of the business office. We bid them God Speed until we see them again.

The Chicago Church social on December 9 was enjoyed by many. Br. Peter Ochs of Milwaukee provided the music with a 3 piece band. Refreshments were put out on a long table and each one helped himself throughout the evening. Games, dancing and fellowship gave us an evening to be remembered with pleasure. All the ministers in the area were able to attend, so we enjoyed being able to visit with them.

The institution of a Sunday Morning Club for the women in the Chicago Church is just over the horizon. Mrs. Viola Peets is to be the teacher in these instructional classes. The main purpose for this club is to help the women to become proficient in the skills for which they were created, and to be a boon to the building of families. This will enhance the progress of the Chicago Church of God.

(LETTER, cont'd)

News." If you feel like blaming somebody for this, you'll have to blame me. But there was a serious reason.

Experience is a dear teacher. But there are many lessons we seem unable to learn any other way. That original church of our era, which subsequent events have shown God raised up FOR THE PURPOSE of fulfilling Christ's prophecy of Matthew 24:14 — preaching and publishing HIS GOSPEL to the world—became divided. A terrible price was paid to learn the reason. A number of former brethren whom we loved very much turned sour and bitter, and left God's Church.

There were two main causes: 1) There was no real church government. I had not yet learned that the living Christ actually governs the Church which He founded-as God rules everything He has created. Christ governs through those whom HE has chosen and set in offices of authority and responsibility. But to me, then, not understanding this, I had no ambition to rule-and it seemed as if it would have been making myself a dictator, lording it over God's heritage. This I certainly did not want to do. So, when false "members" crept in-wolves in sheep's clothing-I did not put them out, as God commands.

2) As time went along, and the growth of the broadcasting and evangelistic work took me more and more away from Eugene, some leading members began to say, as the Israelites said when God called Moses away, to Mount Sinai, "As for this Moses, we wot not what has become of him. Come on, let's desert the truth we learned through him, and make us an idol to worship." These members said, "As for this Herbert Armstrong, we don't care anything about this broadcast of his. What do we have to do with his getting people converted down in California, or over in Texas? We care nothing about them. We are only interested in our selves-our own little church. here."

They lost interest in **THE WORK OF GOD!** They became wrapped up in their own local fellowship ONLY. When I would return, telling them of people converted and baptized in Texas, or other states, they grumbled, "I wish Mr. Armstrong would quit taking up our time in church telling about people being converted way off somewhere."

Soon, whenever any of the scriptures in a sermon corrected or reproved them in any way, they would complain: "We wish you'd stop raking us over the coals, and show a little LOVE." To them, **love** had now come to mean approval of sin. They became merely a local social club. They became sour, unhappy, disgruntled. Finally half of that church did leave.

They had spent years trying to gain control of the church property-their eyes only on MATERIAL acquisition. Finally they gave and "pulled out." They rented a little hall outside of town. Reports say that they met there, without a pastor, with a self-willed woman leading them, and two or three men striving and quarreling over who could be in the pulpit; reports say that after quarreling among themselves they would go home, then come back the next Sabbath and guarrel again. They began gradually REJECTING precious truth they had learned in God's Church and had believed. When the church started in Eugene, these people were HAPPY, their faces wreathed in smiles. But after they lost interest in THE WORK OF GOD, they became unhappy, bitter, quarrelsome.

Brethren do you know WHY Jesus Christ suffered so much? It was **not** so much being flogged, or nailed to a cross. His REAL suffering was grieving over the SINS of His own people **whom He loved!** He knew they would have to reap what they were sowing. He knew what



Herbert W. Armstrong

suffering they were bringing on themselves. He loved them. It made HIM suffer to see them bring such eternal punishment upon themselves. Mrs. Armstrong and I KNOW how Jesus suffered—for He has let us suffer in the same way.

WE DON'T WANT TO SEE SUCH TRAGEDY EVER REPEATED IN GOD'S CHURCH! Whenever brethren become **primarily** interested in **THEM-SELVES**, and their own local church, losing interest in the MAIN WORK of getting Christ's true Gospel to the world, those people are sick spiritually, and unless cured by turning from this attitude, they soon **DIE**, spiritually.

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(LETTER, cont'd)

In 35 years of experience, I have never known a single exception. I have seen this thing happen time after time.

Whenever people begin to resent AUTHORITY over them in God's Church, they begin to shrivel up and die spiritually! The authority in God's Church is not of men, but of THE LIVING CHRIST!

And so, when I saw all the various names of the various local news bulletins, I foresaw the serious DANGER of local brethren becoming so wrapped up in local social interest among themselves that they begin to lose interest in GOD'S WORK, and to drift away from God. That is why I had the present name adopted-so that ALL members will be mindful this is the CHURCH OF GOD, not for some locality. Each local group is merely a PART of the ONE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD. We are THE BODY OF CHRIST. Why? Because God the Father started His work through the one human body of Jesus Christ. But Jesus only started it. God has delegated to Jesus Christ the responsibility of continuing that work through His CHURCH. Jesus said: "Of myself, I can do nothing." It was the Holy Spirit of God in Him which really did the work. But that physical Jesus died, and was resurrected a spiritual SON OF GOD. When He ascended to heaven, He sent that same Spirit to carry on the WORK OF GOD, through the COLLECTIVE BODY of His CHURCH.

This is not a one-man work. It is the WORK Christ does through THE CHURCH-through YOU, each one of you, as well as through me, the other ministers, and those in executive and administrative offices. This YOUR job, as much as mine. My life is YOUR job, as much as mine. My life is dedicated to it-wholly, IS YOURS? This WORK OF GOD is the one immediate goal and purpose of my life-it IS my life-it is all I live for. And, dear brethren in Christ, it must also be YOUR life, and all that YOU live for, if you expect to attain to the final and ultimate BIG goal of entering into the eternal KINGDOM OF GOD!

God has called us. He has chosen us. He has built a GREAT WORK through us. It is a dynamic, POWERFUL work, exerting a terrific IMPACT on this whole world. Christ uses us as a TEAM. Perhaps I am the quarterback, calling signals for each "play" or move, as our Coach and Leader, Jesus Christ, directs me. But just as a quarterback alonc, without the rest of the TEAM, could never win a football game, so I alone would be HELPLESS in God's Great Work!

THE WORK is far bigger and more

important that your local church. Let's always keep our eyes on, and our hearts IN, **THE WORK** first of all, and then the local fellowship as a subsidiary **part** of that WORK, **contributing** to it! Then we all **REJOICE TOGETHER** as God expands and prospers **HIS WORK**!



Mr. Roland Van Slooten was ordained as the first deacon in the South Bend Church on December 23, 1961.

At Camp Sullivan

by Johnnie Kreidich (Age 11)

On the camping trip we had lots of fun. When we got to camp, the first thing we did was choose a bunk to sleep in. Then we played some games outside together. After that the boys had a snowball fight. Then we packed down snow and made a launching pad for sleds. Later, we went sledding. After lunch we took a hike to Camp Falcon. We had a short Bible study before supper. After supper we played games, then we went to bed. In the morning we went tobogganing. Everyone thought tobogganing was the best part of the camping trip. After lunch we left for home. We wished that it was longer.



Hot Camp breakfast-eggs and flapjacks

(SOUTH BEND, cont'd)

had never before attended a social for the Church of God members. There was some speculation, of course, as to the possible success of the social—would people loosen up and be able to have a good time? Or would the false idea of spirituality and worldiness taught in the world hold people back?

To help this portion of the flock over the first hurdle of this nature Pastor Dean Blackwell preached the Sabbath sermon on "Worldliness". After the service a tasty meal was served—making the whole occasion reminiscent of God's "regular" Feast days.

With the people a little more relaxed the lower hall was prepared as a nursery theater so that parents could be free physically and mentally, knowing their children to be in good hands. Some of the children watching the movies were a bit older than the others—in their 40's, 50's or 60's!

In the upper hall preparations were being made for a dance. With Mr. Peter Ochs imported from the Milwaukee Church, and Mr. Donald Ecker of the Chicago Church providing the lively dance music everyone got into the swing of things quickly. Mr. Larsson helped everyone get acquainted by giving us some "mixers"—dances in which partners are changed many times. Mr. Lockerse's stereo set and fine record collection were used to give the regular music selection an occasional rest. Many who had never learned to dance due to false concepts soon joined in the fun.

Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Frank Mc-Crady were made honorary members of the Clan of Zebulun by two real Hollanders (your writer and Mr. Lockerse) and, so they would be accepted by the rest of the "Clan", each was given a pair of "Klompen" (wooden shoes to you foreigners). The audience requested that they give a demonstration of "Klompen-dancing" and after acquiring partners the two new Dutchmen did very well.

The social was an education as well as an enjoyment for the 267 who attended. We are now looking forward to the next and the next. . . .

In Appreciation

A GREAT BIG THANK-YOU to the ladies who pack those nutritious and eye-appealing lunches for those in God's Service who travel to the South Bend and Bloomington Churches. Those who enjoy and look forward to these delicious lunches each week are grateful to you for putting forth the extra time and effort. Congratulations are in order too, ladies, for taking advantage of another opportunity to serve!

Deaconess Ordained

by Hope Brassine

On December 9th a happy event occured in the Chicago church with the ordination of Mrs. Viola Peets as deaconess. Nearly everyone thought there would be another elder or deacon among us when Pastor Blackwell was reading



in I Tim. 3 concerning the qualifications for these offices. When he began to dwell on verse 11 we were beginning to wonder. Probably no one was surprised except Mrs. Peets

herself when she

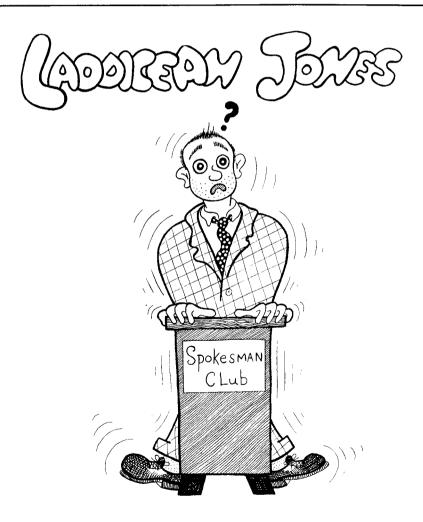
was told to come forward. She has given unselfishly of her time to be of service in (Please Continue Page 6)

(Know Those Who Labor, cont'd)

ministering over the many state area of Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Truly you will know and be acquainted with him, his accomplishments, growth and service in God's work as we take this travelogue over his past life.

Mr. James Friddle, Mr. Blackwell's cousin, now the minister over the Seattle, and Tacoma, Washington churches, was one of the instruments, along with the broadcast, which God used in calling Mr. Blackwell into this Christian life of service and overcoming.

In February, 1952, during his last semester of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of college training for petroleum engineering at Texas A. & M., Mr. Blackwell heard "The World Tomorrow" broadcast. Shortly after this (of all things, during his Easter vacation), Mr. Friddle invited him to come over and meet that thought-provoking man, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, whom



AT LEAST HE TRIES



Mr. and Mrs. Dean Blackwell

he had heard over the air while at Texas A. & M. Not only did he meet Mr. Armstrong but also he attended a Bible study at the former home of the senior Hammers' during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Here Mr. Armstrong showed the Envoy to him and his then girl friend and now wife Maxine. Our aspiring young engineering student was off to Ambassador College the following fall term, dropping all his former ambitions and $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of engineering schooling to press into training for God's great commission of feeding the flock.

Ambassador College, Pasadena, California, was a fitting place to start one toward growing in the grace and knowledge, and the fulness of the stature of the character of Jesus Christ because of its near perfect beauty in grounds and buildings. So Mr. Blackwell, under the close scrutiny of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, and influence of other notable students, such as Mr. Herman Hoeh, part-time teacher and student, Dr. Meredith, and Mr. Roderick Meredith, started his first year as a junior, taking two years of Bible in one and giving sermonettes at San Diego after his first semester. Always with him during this first year was the constant struggle against his Texas brogue and the overconfidence taught him at Texas A. & M. The faculty, recognizing this over- confidence, provided helpful and menial jobs so that (after he was humbled somewhat) his promotion to janitor in the office building seemed to be a great elevation. However, God's work was in need of laborers (as it always is), and since the growth and fruits were evident in him, Mr. Blackwell was ordained as local elder after his first year at Ambassador College.

Read in the following issue where Mr. Blackwell was sent, the first church which he was instrumental in raising, and how he continued to advance and grow in this great work.

One, Two, Three - - by Ken Ellis

Yes, there are THREE Spokesman Clubs in Chicago! It is the only city having so many!

At the December 17, 1961 joint meeting of the Saturday night and Sunday night Clubs, Mr. Dean Blackwell, in his position as overall evaluator and as pastor of God's Churches in this area, announced that a third Spokesman Club, to meet Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, was now to be formed. He then read the rosters of men who would participate in each club.

The new policy is a tough one! There are only 30 members in each club. Any man wishing to join will have to wait for a vacancy as soon as the present Sunday night roster is filled. Vacancies occur when men are dropped for poor attendance, lack of interest and growth, or for physical reasons—such as moving out of the area.

With such a small membership, the meetings are to be fast-moving. Each member will have an active part on the program of his club no less often than every third meeting. This is quite a change from what was happening at recent meetings. Sometimes over 40 members attended and large portions of the group were unable to participate in the allotted programs.

This meeting also marked the change of officers. Each Spokesman, after hearing the club to which he was assigned, finding who were his new officers, was then issued the new manual from Pasadena.

The new rules of membership were put into effect by Mr. Blackwell at the direction of the Headquarters Church. The manuals, illustrated by Mr. Basil Wolverton, contain rules of the club, directions for making speeches and evaluating fellow members, and leading the club in various jobs such as: Toastmaster, Topics Master, or as a club officer.

At this meeting many of the wives of the members, as well as other guests, watched the proceedings with interest and heard announced that Mr. John Garms was the guest of honor for the evening (Mr. Garms has progressed and has been called to work in Pasadena).

The new officers in the Saturday night club are: President, Mr. George Gibbs; Vice-president, Mr. Edwin Marrs; Secretary, Mr. David Holman; Treasurer, Mr. Ralph Penson; Sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Willis Caulk.

New heads of the Sunday morning club are: President, Mr. Harold Cormany; Vice-president, Mr. Fred Mancewicz; Secretary, Mr. Edmund Stout; Treasurer, Mr. Edward Karwacki; Sergeant-at-arms, Mr. John Coco. Guiding the Sunday evening club are: the new President, Mr. Lowell Foster; Vice-president, Marvin Gardner; Secretary, Glen Metz; Treasurer, Bob Marsall; Sergeant-at-arms, Robert Einerson.

It is obvious that the stepped-up pace in the clubs should produce an increase in the fruit. With the prayers of every member of the Church of God and with God's Holy Spirit to guide, the men should be so effective in explaining the truth that more and more will be ready to be used in the work. WE NEED YOUR LABOR IN PRAYER.

(DEACONESS, cont'd)

God's church for several years. We are now blessed with 2 deaconesses in the Chicago Church, Mrs. Hazel Schlitt having been ordained some time ago.

Mrs. Peets is a native of Chicago having been born and reared here, as were her parents. She was brought up in one of the many Protestant faiths. She attended a girls' technical high school and also Lindblom High. Not knowing the career in store for her, she had a dozen different jobs when they were plentiful during the war. It was in one of these she met her husband, Mr. Arthur Peets. Many of us know him as the conductor of a youthful band. He often attends the church socials with Viola and sometimes furnishes the music. It was while on a traveling tour with him, his work for the Wilson's Meat Packing Company, that she became interested in the Gideon Bible in their room. Following that, she became interested in numerous religious sects and finally in the Jehovah's Witnesses (for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years). It was while she was active in this sect that one of the members asked her if she had ever listened to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong on the radio. That was when she first heard Mr. Armstrong and learned the real truth. After this Mrs. Peets did a little more searching and became involved in the 7th Day Adventists and slightly in another group. Since all these did not measure up to the full truth in the Bible, when Mr. Armstrong mentioned baptizing tours, she wrote in immediately and was thrilled to learn of the Church in Chicago. After being called upon by Mr. Raymond McNair, she started attending the Chicago Church when it was still very new in 1956, and was baptized in May of that year. Mrs. Peets would like to add to this that Mrs. Hazel Schlitt, the first Deaconess here in Chicago, has been a wonderful example to her and to all of us with her sound, impartial judgement and untiring efforts for us.

As God's Church is growing and branching out here in the Mid-West let us all pray that more ladies might grow enough to be used in God's services.

What's The Penalty?

Below are listed a few everyday situations. Prepare yourself as a **future king** and decide what the penalty should be in each case. Be sure to check Exodus 21 through 23 for the correct answers. 1, During a struggle one man accidentally kills the other. What's the penalty?

2. You caught someone stealing your bank. What's the penalty?

3. During a struggle between two men, one man injured the other badly enough that the man is unable to work. How shall he take care of his family?

4. Your friend allows you to borrow his roller skates while he is on vacation and alas, they break! What are you going to do?

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