

Finding God
The story is told by Irving Lieberman in BLUEBOOK of a woman who died several years ago and willed her estate to God. To settle the estate a case was filed in the courts, naming God as "a party thereof." A summons was issued and the court went through the motions of trying to serve it. The final report stated: "After due and diligent search, God cannot be found in New York City."

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CREAMED COMMENTS

Creamed Comments on the Sunday school lesson, "A man of peace in a world of strife," Genesis 26:17-29 for Sunday, May 26th.

This lesson stresses the fact that everyone with faith has a responsibility to keep peace among men, even though it involves unpleasantness, patience and self-sacrifice. Basic to all true strength is inner peace, and inner peace rests on confidence in God and the assurance of his presence.

Vs. 17, 18. "And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there."

And Isaac digged the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham; and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them." Isaac, during an era of famine, had moved into Philistine territory, where he leased land and prospered so much that the king, fearing his wealth and power, banished him from that area and he moved to another part of the valley. Abraham had also been the victim of similar malice on the part of the Philistines, who blocked up the wells he had digged. By redigging the wells, Isaac was establishing a claim to those wells. Wells were of prime importance in providing water for the flocks and herds.

Vs. 19, 20. "And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. . . . And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen saying, The water is ours; and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him." The Philistines did not recognize Isaac's claim to the well and preferred to fight for it rather than dig another. The name "Esek" means strife.

Vs. 21, 22. "And they digged another well, and strove for that also; and he called the name of it Sitnah. . . . And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not; and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." The word "Sitnah" means enmity. Another bitter controversy occurred when the second well was dug so Isaac moved on again to another region and dug the well "Rehoboth" well was dug so Isaac moved on again to another region and dug the well "Rehoboth" meaning roominess.

Even the Philistines tired of fighting for the wells and Isaac's patience and gentleness prevailed over their covetousness.

Vs. 23, 24. "And he went up from thence to Beersheba. . . . And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake." Beersheba was the place where Abraham had lived for many years and Isaac had spent much of his youth manhood. Isaac needed encouragement at this time, so God renewed to him the promises made to his father, and gave his blessing to Isaac's course of action.

Vs. 25. "And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord; and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac put first things first. First he built an altar for worship; then he pitched his tent and then digged a well. Vs. 26, 27. "Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and

Phicol the chief captain of his army. . . . And Isaac said unto them, wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?" Isaac had made a profound impression on Abimelech, who sensed that God had favored Isaac with great blessings and given him wisdom to act wisely. He came peacefully to make a covenant with Isaac that would assure their good relationship. Isaac naturally questioned their seeking him, since they had broken their covenant with his father, and had sought his banishment.

Vs. 28, 29. "And they said, We saw certainly that the Lord was with thee; and we said, Let there be now an oath between us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee. . . . That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the Lord." The true greatness of Isaac is seen in his giving and forgiving. In spite of the treacherous treatment given him, he entered into an agreement of friendship. . . .

LESSON PRAYER: Dear God, we thank Thee that we may achieve inner peace and courage to meet life's problems if we maintain our trust in Thee and have a close relationship with Thee. Grant that we may realize that all outward peace is meaningless in the sight of God when there is lacking that inner peace born of God through Jesus Christ. May we become true peacemakers by achieving this inner peace.

The abundant life is often smothered in the abundance of things.

MISSIONARY

Tenth and Dayton Streets

Gerald L. Gerig, pastor

9 a.m., Sunday school hour. You will enjoy the inspiration of our Sunday school. There are classes for the entire family.

10 a.m., morning worship hour. The pastor brings his tenth message from James entitled, "The Joy of Submission." There will be a junior church for children ages 4 through 11 and a nursery department for children ages 2 and 3.

There will be no evening services. We are urging our people to attend the Baccalaureate service to be held at the high school.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. prayer and praise meeting.

Saturday, 7 p.m., men's prayer meeting.

We are enjoying a record spring at the Missionary Church. We trust you will make an effort to enjoy these Sundays with us. You are always welcome in our services.

TRINITY

Evangelical United Brethren

Madison at Ninth Streets

John E. Chambers, minister

9 a.m., Sunday school; Clifford Hoverman, general superintendent. Visitors or newcomers are always welcome in any class of our graded school.

10 a.m., morning worship. Senior recognition service, with message by the minister, "That Something Extra." Clara Ellen Hitchcock will serve as organist and the choir will sing the anthem, "The Voice of Jesus" by Lane. Seniors from the Sunday school and church will be our honored guests.

7:30 p.m., senior Baccalaureate service at the high school auditorium; Rev. W. H. Kirkpatrick bringing the message. There will be no regular Sunday evening services at Trinity Church.

Monday, 7:30 p.m., meeting of the building committee for organization and making of plans.

Wednesday, 7 p.m., mid-week services, 8 p.m., choir rehearsal.

Note: Vacation Church School for the kindergarten and primary departments will be May 27-31.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Very Rev. Msgr. Seimetz, pastor

6 a.m., First Mass.

7:30 a.m., Low Mass.

9 a.m., Children's Mass.

10:15 a.m., High Mass.

Weekday Mass, 7:20 a.m.

Holy Communion Sundays.

First Sunday, the Rosary Society.

Second Sunday, Holy Name Society.

Third Sunday, the Catholic Ladies of Columbia.

Fourth Sunday, Children of Mary.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

1210 Elm St.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Last Sunday, we had the largest attendance in the history of the Sunday School. There were 117 present. This next Sunday we are also expecting a wonderful response. Pastor Yarian wants to urge you to attend Sunday School, and we would be so thrilled if you could attend our Sunday School.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sermon: "Touchees Afire"

Sunday Evening 7:45 p.m.

Sermon: "Can You See Christ?"

This is going to be a very iniquitous sermon, one that you will not want to miss Wednesday evening 7:45 p.m.

Prayer meeting and Bible study.

This church extends a cordial invitation to you to attend our services. You will enjoy the old fashion singing and preaching. For this is a church where people meet to worship God, and they come from all denominations and walks of life.

ZION EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED

Third and Jackson

William C. Feller, Pastor

Church School at 9:00 a.m. Richard Linn, superintendent. There are classes for all ages under the leadership of competent teachers. Come and bring your entire family.

Divine Worship at 10:00 a.m. This is the annual service honoring the high school graduates of 1957. The graduates will have charge of the service. The call to worship will be given by Kathryn Shaffer, the invocation by Donald Bailey. Max Daniels will lead in the responsive reading. Roger Heller will read the Scripture and Kathryn Goetz will lead in the responsive prayer. Three of the graduates will talk — Jane Uhrick, speaking on, "The Moment of Decision"; Ronald Corson — "What a Christian College Means To Me"; and Jerry Kaehr — "Youth's Part in the Church".

The youth choir will sing, "Thy Holy Name" by Ira B. Wilson. Visitors are always welcome. The Mission Band will meet during the latter part of the service.

There will be no youth fellowship meeting, because of the Baccalaureate service.

Ruth and Naomi Circles meeting to the church on Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

Youth choir rehearsal on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Senior choir rehearsal on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Vacation Church School May 27 - June 7.

Come and worship with us.

CHURCH OF GOD

628 Cleveland St.

H. Kirkpatrick, Pastor

8:30 a.m., "Christian Brotherhood Hour," heard over WKJG, 1380KC.

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Hour in which the graduates of 1957 will be honored. The theme of the service will be, "You can live the abundant life — if you want to!"

10:30 a.m. Classes for all ages.

7:30 p.m. Baccalaureate at the Decatur junior-senior high school gym.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Monday 7:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education at the parsonage.

Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees and Finance Committee at Church.

Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service; Junior Fellowship led by Veda Mitchell.

Youth Fellowship. Lesson by Edith Love. Refreshments by

Tommy Sharpe and Ned Mitchell. Friday 6:30 p.m. Men's Meeting in the Fellowship Basement.

BETHANY

Evangelical United Brethren

Benj. G. Thomas, minister

9 a.m., Sunday school. Wm. Jour-nay, assistant superintendent. This is missions Sunday in the extended session of the Sunday school.

10 a.m., divine worship. The high school graduates will be recognized at this service. Guest speaker is Rev. Charles L. Haney of Culver, Indiana. He was former pastor of Bethany Church. The sermon: "What Is In Thine Hand?"

Because of the Baccalaureate service we shall not have youth fellowship.

Monday, 7:30 p.m., the board of trustees will meet with the Salem Cemetery Trustees.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Kum Join Us class at the church, 7:30 p.m., the Loyal Daughters class meets in the home of Mrs. Earl Fuhrman.

Wednesday, 4 p.m., junior choir rehearsal, 7 p.m., senior choir rehearsal, 7:45 p.m., prayer service.

FIRST BAPTIST

221 South Fourth Street

Stuart H. Brightwell, pastor

9:15 a.m., Sunday school hour. Lester Mitchell, supt.

10:30 a.m., morning worship service. Sermon by the pastor is entitled "The Epic of the Inner Life". Seniors from our church will be honored during the morning worship. Cal E. Peterson, chairman of the Church Board, will present each graduate with a Bible.

You are invited to visit our services. You will be welcomed.

7:30 p.m., Baccalaureate service at the high school.

Church Activities

Monday, 6:30 p.m., Men's Brotherhood meeting at the shelter-house at Hanna Nuttman park. Wives will be guests for this chili supper. Miss Frieda Lehman of Berne will show pictures of her recent visit to the Holy Land.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Dynamic Builders class party at the church.

Wednesday, 7 p.m., midweek hour of prayer and Bible study.

8 p.m., choir rehearsal.

Thursday, 3:15 p.m., junior choir rehearsal, 8 p.m., commencement exercises at the high school.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Nuttman Avenue

Paul D. Parker, minister

Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. The school will be in charge of Lawrence Michel. Attend the church of your choice as a family. You will find a welcome in the class arranged for you.

Morning worship service, 10:30 a.m. The pastor will speak on the subject, "Storms, and Their Master."

Christian Endeavor, 7 p.m. "My Community: A Mission Field" will be the study topic in the senior department.

Evening evangelistic service, 7:30 p.m. Hymns and choruses you love to sing followed by the pastor's message on the theme, "Fellowship, And Its Conditions."

Prayer and Bible study, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

The annual Vacation Bible school will begin May 27, and close Friday, June 7. Classes will begin at 8:30 a.m. and close at 11 a.m. Monday through Friday.

"Jesus Calls" will be the course taught in each class. Boys and girls from the nursery class through the freshman class in high school are invited to attend.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Mercer Avenue at Five Points

Ray J. Walther, pastor

9:15 a.m., Sunday Church school.

10:30 a.m., worship service. Graduates Recognition Service. Layman's Sunday—Royal Friend David Runyon.

Tuesday, 6:15 p.m., men's council dinner. 7:30 p.m., building committee meeting in youth room.

Wednesday, choir rehearsals — Mrs. J. Clark Mayclin, director. 6 p.m., Westminster choir. 7 p.m. Chancel choir. 8 p.m., women's association meeting at the church.

"In Every Church" will be the interesting program presented by Mrs. Jack Heller. Every woman will find this a wonderful occasion for fellowship with an opportunity to learn more of the church's work. The Naomi Circle members will serve as hostess for the evening.

Next Sunday, the Rev. Ray J. Walther returns to the pulpit to report on his experiences at the 169th General Assembly at Omaha.

A man is known by the company he keeps.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Carroll Myers, minister

12th and Washington Street

9:30 a.m., morning worship and communion. Sermon: "Some Characteristics of a Christian." You are welcome to worship with us. Christ would urge you to be on time.

10:30 a.m., Bible school. Lee Moser, supt. Come and see the record broken over the supt's head. It was nearly broken again last Lord's day. Remember it was broken on the preacher's head on Resurrection day.

2:30 p.m., youth rally this Sunday, May 19, at Marike. The announcement in last week's paper was erroneous. The preacher can't seem to read dates correctly. Youth meets at the church, at 1:30 for transportation.

7:30 p.m., evening gospel hour with great singing that will thrill you. Sermon: "A Christian Essential." You will want to know this answer. It is something that everyone needs. Come and find out.

7:30 p.m., Monday, May 20—Area Men's meeting. All men of Decatur are urged to be present for this great and different program. Refreshments will be served.

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 22. Bible study and prayer meeting. Rual Thompson is scheduled to be leader this week. You are missing a great study time when you miss this service. Be on time. Choir practice following Bible study. Only 1/2 hour, and that won't keep you very late, so plan to sing with us.

FIRST CHRISTIAN

Traverse W. Chandler, minister

Morning worship begins at 9:30 a.m. with the prelude by Mrs. Glen Neuen with the organ, followed by the Call to Worship, Communion meditation and the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper. The topic of the minister's sermon is "The Beginning". Scripture lesson is found in Proverbs 5:13-26, text Exodus 12:2. The choir under the direction of Mrs. Gerald Strickler will sing "Holy Manna" by H. Wilson.

Junior church is at 9:30 a.m. in the lower sanctuary. The lesson story "Something More than Sold" will be presented.

Bible school hour is at 10:30 a.m. Everett Faulkner, supt. Gerald Strickler, assistant.

The Corinthian class will meet Monday evening with Mrs. William Teeple and Mrs. James Kitchen will be in charge of the entertainment.

Priscilla Circle is Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ava Kraft. Mrs. Max Stucky will be the leader.

Choir practice Wednesday at 7 p.m.

ZION LUTHERAN

West Monroe and Eleventh Streets

Edgar F. Schmidt, pastor

The Church With Carillon Bells

Tomorrow is Cantate or "singing" Sunday. In keeping with the theme of the day, the pastor will speak on the topic, "Christian Sing Praises to your God!" The church choir, directed by Karl Reinking will sing an anthem at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. The children of the intermediate department of the Sunday school will sing at 8:00 o'clock, and the Primary Choir, directed by Mrs. Hancher, will sing at 10:30 o'clock.

Sunday school and Bible classes for all age groups taught by competent and consecrated teachers. Attend Bible class and enroll your children in our Sunday school, if you have no church home.

Church Calendar

An important meeting of the Walther League will be held Sunday afternoon at four o'clock with refreshments, short topic discussion and recreation.

The pastor's adult lecture course

on Christian doctrine will be held Monday evening at 7:45 o'clock.

The entire staff of the Vacation Bible school will meet Tuesday evening at 7:00 o'clock in the Parish Hall auditorium.

Choir rehearsal Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock.

The Needle club meets Thursday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock.

The Junior Catechumens will be publicly examined Friday evening in a church service beginning at 7:30 o'clock. The congregation is invited. Following are catechumens: Ann Arnold, James Buettner, Calvin Caston, Donald Germann, Rozann Hancher, Sharon Nern.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 8 o'clock service, Sunday morning, May 26, and Wednesday evening, Ascension Day, May 29, at 7:30.

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