

Inside Wyoming

The Newsletter of the Wyoming Ave. Baptist Church

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Remembering Those Who Served

VETERANS' DAY 2002

PASTORAL PEN POINTS “Softies or Soldiers”

by R.A. Gimmi

This article first appeared 39 years ago in November, 1963, in the first edition of Inside Wyoming. It was written by Wyoming's pastor at the time, Rev. Raymond A. Gimmi.

For many of us the Christian life means receiving life, peace, joy, hope and a multitude of other blessings from God. In return we “love Jesus as our Savior,” go to God's house when convenient, serve Him when convenient, and give to Him what is convenient. This is hardly the concept of the Christian life the Apostle Paul had in mind when he addressed the early Christians as fellow “soldiers” of Christ and instructed them to “fight the good fight of faith.”

Inside Wyoming

Published approximately every two weeks by and for the members and friends of the Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church.

Contributions of articles and information are most welcome! Contact the editor, Walter Rice, Jr., at 215-820-0165.

The next issue of *Inside Wyoming* will be published December 1, 2002. The deadline for contributing articles for that issue is Wednesday, November 27.

Our need today is for men, women and young people who count themselves as soldiers of Christ and are totally dedicated to fulfilling their God-given assignments as soldiers in Christ's army.

What does God expect of us as Christian soldiers? First of all we must be fully committed to and obedient to our Captain, Jesus Christ. His wish must be our command. He leads into battle and we obediently follow.

Secondly we must be disciplined in our spiritual lives. The undisciplined soldier never holds up in the strain and stress of battle. The Christian must practice the spiritual disciplines of daily prayer and Bible reading, and faithfulness at God's house in order to be victorious over the onslaught of Satan.

Thirdly the Christian soldier must be spiritually armed, for we are engaging in spiritual warfare. Our lives must be guarded by the armor of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation and the Word of God.

Finally, we must be willing to sacrifice anything and everything for the sake of our “Captain.” The soldier who will not sacrifice for his commander is an imposter. Only the Christian who is willing to sacrifice of his time, talents, possessions, even his all for Christ is worthy of the name “Christ-ian.” He alone is a soldier of Christ.

It's inspection time Christians! Are we “softies or soldiers”?

“Soldiers of Christ, Arise!”

Remembering World War II

by Walter Rice, Jr.

The flag on the cover is a service flag, recognizing members who were on active military duty during a time of war. This flag was found in the church tower, and as best we can tell is from sometime during World War II. The blue star and the number 80 indicate that 80 people from Wyoming were serving, and the single gold star is for Armer Watson, who died in the war. He was in the Army, in the 702nd Tank Battalion, and died



November 17, 1944, in the Netherlands. He was awarded a Purple Heart Medal.

We have another service flag, also from World War II, that hung in the sanctuary towards the end of the war. It can be seen hanging in front of the organ pipes in this photograph of the mortgage burning ceremony on February 22, 1945. The number on the flag in the photograph was 84 men in service, while the final number that is currently on the flag is 104. Considering Wyoming had 502 members in 1941 when Pastor Hurst resigned, this was a significant sacrifice by the congregation.

Wyoming's Diamond Jubilee book tells about the war years at the church. "In 1942, the clouds of World War II had settled down upon the country. Once more Wyoming was saddened as 90 of the young men and women of the Church answered the call to service. A committee was formed, with Mrs. Francis Rogers as chairman, to keep in touch with them. The committee sent them candy, cookies, birthday and holiday greetings, and copies of *The Secret Place*, the Baptist quarterly for personal and family devotions. Their birth dates and addresses were announced in the Church far enough in advance that the congregation might send them greetings. One of the young men – Armer Watson – did not return.

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Missions Conference Wrap-up

by Mary Ann Hinchcliff

As you know, your Board of Missions has been busy the last several months, preparing for our Missions Conference. Thank you one and all for hosting some of our "Home Missionaries."

Dr. Emberger, the director of the Whosoever Gospel Mission in Germantown, was our first speaker on October 20th. He challenged us to be aware of those around us and how they need to know the story of salvation.

Our own Heather Rice preceded Dr. Emberger and explained to us the joy and satisfaction she has received from working in her many positions at the mission, from volunteer at age 14, to part-time worker, to full-time employee after graduating from college, working as an administrative assistant and as a vocational counselor. She was able to relate to us some general ways we can be of help in the lives of the men and in the life of the mission, for instance tutoring students in the learning center or sorting donations of clothing. Through the years, many men have become useful citizens, good friends, and servants of the Lord because they found compassion and love and the salvation of Jesus Christ through the work of the mission.

Our Missions Conference culminated with speakers from the Tuesday After-

School Bunch. Both Adam Fealay and Sarah Day, our speakers, are students at Philadelphia Biblical University. Adam worked with the kids last year, and Sarah is working with them this year, faithfully coming to Wyoming on Tuesday afternoons to assist with our after-school program. They, along with Sarah Cannon, who couldn't be with us on Sunday, run the program. The Tuesday After-School Bunch and our new Sunday Bible School seem to complement each other, and they are both growing in numbers.

After Sarah and Adam spoke, Rev. Grover preached on Matthew 9:35-38, telling us that "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few," and that our response to this situation must be to pray, that God would send out missionaries, that he would raise up workers to proclaim the kingdom.

We thank the Lord for this group of students who have been an answer to this prayer, and have been faithful in service at Wyoming.



Adam and Sarah, from Philadelphia Biblical University, were our guests on October 27

Sunshine Mountain

Sunshine Mountain (*right*) was extended for an extra week, and it grew because of the generosity of each of you. Our thanks to you. Soon we will be dividing and delivering the love gifts to the Race Track Ministry and the Good Shepherd Ministry for their distribution at Christmas-time.

Missions Luncheon

To end our Missions Conference week, we enjoyed a luncheon provided by the members of the Board of Missions. Our own roving photographer was able to find a lot of new faces at the Missionary luncheon, and here are pictures of some of them. Have you met these folks? Be sure to introduce yourself and get to know Jose and Matthew. They'll be glad to meet you, and can introduce you to their families too.



We, the Board of Missions, hope the Lord has moved and challenged you through our Missions Conference.





photograph by George Parcell

Pre-School Party!

by Nancy Dambach

On Thursday, October 31, the Pre-School had a Halloween party. We played a few games, and then watched a Winnie the Pooh video. The children enjoyed ice cream and Halloween cookies baked by Mr. Dambach. A piñata in the shape of a pumpkin was hung, and each child had a turn at hitting it. We all tried, even the teachers, but could not break it, so we had to open it and let the candy fall on the floor. Then the children picked up as much as they could hold and each child had a bag of candy to take home.

Remembering World War II, continued from page 3

“Many problems faced the Church in the early days of Pastor Himes’ ministry, several of them created by World War II. There was such a demand for oil for Government use in carrying on the war that a severe shortage threatened. Due to this situation the Board of Trustees considered converting the parsonage oil burner to a coal furnace, but fortunately this measure was not necessary. Air Raid Post 11 met in the Church each week. Outside switches were installed on the signboards so air-raid wardens could extinguish lights in case of a blackout. Special paper was secured to cover basement windows during blackouts, and a first-aid kit was purchased.

“One of the Church business meetings was interrupted by a siren sounding a blackout warning. The congregation moved from the Prayer Meeting room into the sanctuary, and with the aid of a small special light on the pulpit continued the meeting with slight difficulty.

“Due to food rationing the Ladies’ Aid was unable to serve banquets for special occasions, and resorted to covered dish suppers, which were very enjoyable.”

While covered dish suppers are not much of a sacrifice (I personally enjoy them), we deeply appreciate the sacrifices made by many to ensure the freedoms that we have in our country.

The Battle Continues

by Walter Rice, Jr.

As we remember on Veterans' Day those who served our country in the military, we must also remember that we ourselves are engaged as soldiers in Christ's army. Our fight is not against worldly rulers, kings, or dictators, but against the powers of darkness in the spiritual realms.

The Christian has three great enemies: his own flesh, the world, and the devil. In ourselves are the remnants of sin: our flesh, although not our spirit in Christ, is corrupt. Our flesh and spirit are in constant battle with each other. The world, rebellious against God and despising all who follow Him, constantly seeks to do us harm, either by getting us to conform to the ways of the world or by attacking us directly. The devil himself is our sworn enemy, seeking to bring destruction upon us. Peter described him as a "roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

It is true that Christ has secured final victory over these enemies. However, until that time when God has put all things under His feet, and all who oppose Him are defeated, the battle rages on in this world. What are Christians to do?

First, we are to *be realistic*. The call of the Christian is not a life of ease. Certainly Christ has promised blessing to His children, but He has also promised hardship and trial as He builds the character of His people. We must realize that although we

are Christians, rather *because* we are Christians, the battles we face are intensified. Our struggles with sin have not disappeared, nor have our struggles with this world. We will be engaged in these struggles for the rest of our lives.

Thus we need to *be dedicated* in battle. Ray Gimmi, one of Wyoming's former pastors, addressed this topic in his 1963 article, "Softies or Soldiers," which is reprinted on page 2. In short, he writes that we must be fully dedicated to the cause of Christ, standing firm in the full armor of God, and disciplined in our spiritual lives. There is no such thing as "reserve duty" in the army of God, for we must all be constantly alert to guard ourselves against sin and the attacks of the devil. We must stomp out sin wherever we find it in ourselves, attacking it with the utmost of our being, recognizing its power to destroy us should we surrender to it.

Christians are also to *be encouraged*. As formidable as our enemies are, they pale in comparison to our God. Paul asks in Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" No enemy can stand before the Almighty God, and none can defeat us if God is on our side. Armed with the Word of God, and clothed in righteousness, we are indeed "more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:10-11).

HELP WANTED

SEASONAL
and PERMANENT



Needed: Choir members for now until Christmas or June.

Qualifications: A joyful, thankful heart and the ability to sing reasonably on key!



Benefits: Blessings from offering praise to the Lord, and from knowing that you've inspired others to praise Him as well!

To apply: See Debby Crockett or any choir member.

PRAYER CORNER

Thanksgiving is coming soon!

Take some time to “count your blessings” and thank God for all He has done for you. And while you’re at it, why don’t you share your praise with the congregation? Write down what you’re thankful for and give it to Walter Rice before Thanksgiving, and we’ll include it in the next issue of *Inside Wyoming*.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever!*

Psalm 118:1 (NIV)

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