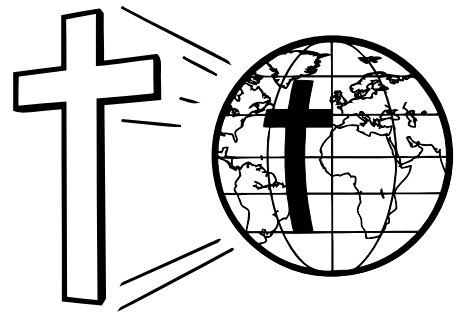


# Foundation of Faith



GO INTO ALL THE  
**WORLD!**

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*The Print Mission of the Christian Unity Press*

*The History of the*  
**Christian Unity Press**

**One Brick at a Time**

**Revive Your Work**

*How to*  
**Worship in Spirit and Truth**

*Church Profile*  
**Church of God in Vernon**



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has been printed. God has blessed this  
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## *Editorial*

Dear Reader!

Perhaps you have some questions about this publication that you are reading! Why do we continually write these articles? Why do we publish and send out the *Evangeliums Posaune* (German) and *Foundation of Faith* (English) (formerly entitled *The Gospel Trumpet*) on a monthly basis? Why do we spare neither trouble nor expense to send out this publication to many places and countries?

Why? Because near the end of His life on earth, the Lord Jesus commanded His disciples and us to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15), and to “go into all the world and teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20).

Why must we do this work? Because in scripture we read the following: “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3). Yes, why do we publish and send out the *Evangeliums Posaune* and the *Foundation of Faith*? Because the Lord Jesus commands us to! “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last” and “what you see, write in a book and send it” (Revelation 1:11).

*The Gospel Trumpet* (English) has been written, printed, and sent out since 1880, and its German counterpart *Evangeliums Posaune*, since 1895. Why? Because already 700 years before the birth of Christ, the Prophet Isaiah proclaimed the following:

“So it shall be in that day [in the time of grace and the gospel]: The great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish . . . and they who are outcasts . . . , and shall worship the LORD . . .” (Isaiah 27:13).

This month’s publication will give you an overview of the work of Christian Unity Press. We are ever so grateful for this mission! It was made possible and supported first and foremost by our ever faithful God who has blessed and given His assistance during these last 120 years, and by the many faithful people who have prayed and contributed financially! In eternity it will be revealed that this work was not in vain.

Once again, I would like to repeat the following: “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it.”

Dear reader, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your encouragement, prayers, and financial support. Our God, who commands us to “test Him” in this regard, will reward you! (Malachi 3:10).

H.D. Nimz

# History of the Christian Unity Press



BOOKS AND EVANGELIUMS POSAUNEN  
FROM THE PRINTING PLANT (1916)

## The Beginning

The beginnings of the German Publishing Enterprise of the Church of God Reformation Movement go back to 1895 in Grand Junction, Michigan. So now 120 years later it has come back to the state where it began.

## The Need for German literature

The *Gospel Trumpet* had been published since 1880, and in the early 1890's calls kept coming for German literature for the many German immigrants who desired it. By 1894 a couple of German testimonies had

been published in the *Gospel Trumpet* and by January 1895, the long awaited German *Gospel Trumpet* debuted with a run of 8,000 copies. The *Evangeliums Posaune* (EP) had as its first editor F.L. Hahn, a former Baptist pastor from Milwaukee, WI, who had recently embraced the message of the Church of God.

Soon German books and tracts along with the monthly appearance of the EP were also being printed at the Gospel Trumpet Company in the small village of Grand Junction.



### **A growing venture**

By June 1898, the Gospel Trumpet Enterprise moved by rail to the city of Moundsville, in the coal-rich West Virginia panhandle. A bankrupt shoe manufacturing operation had an almost new building here that was purchased and renovated to accommodate the growing publishing work. By 1899 F.L. Hahn had resigned as editor and left the movement, opening the editorship to William Ebel. Quite a few German-speaking workers came to become part of the Trumpet family, donating their time and efforts over the years to help spread the Gospel Truths around the world.

where it was dismantled and rebuilt at the new location.

Throughout these years the German printing work was known as the German department of the Gospel Trumpet Company. In 1894 the first efforts had been made to bring these truths of the Reformation to Germany, and by the early 1900's churches were established in Europe, greatly increasing the need for German Gospel literature. A number of German workers at the Print Shop eventually went into ministry and missionary work, with some going over to Europe to establish the Church of God there.



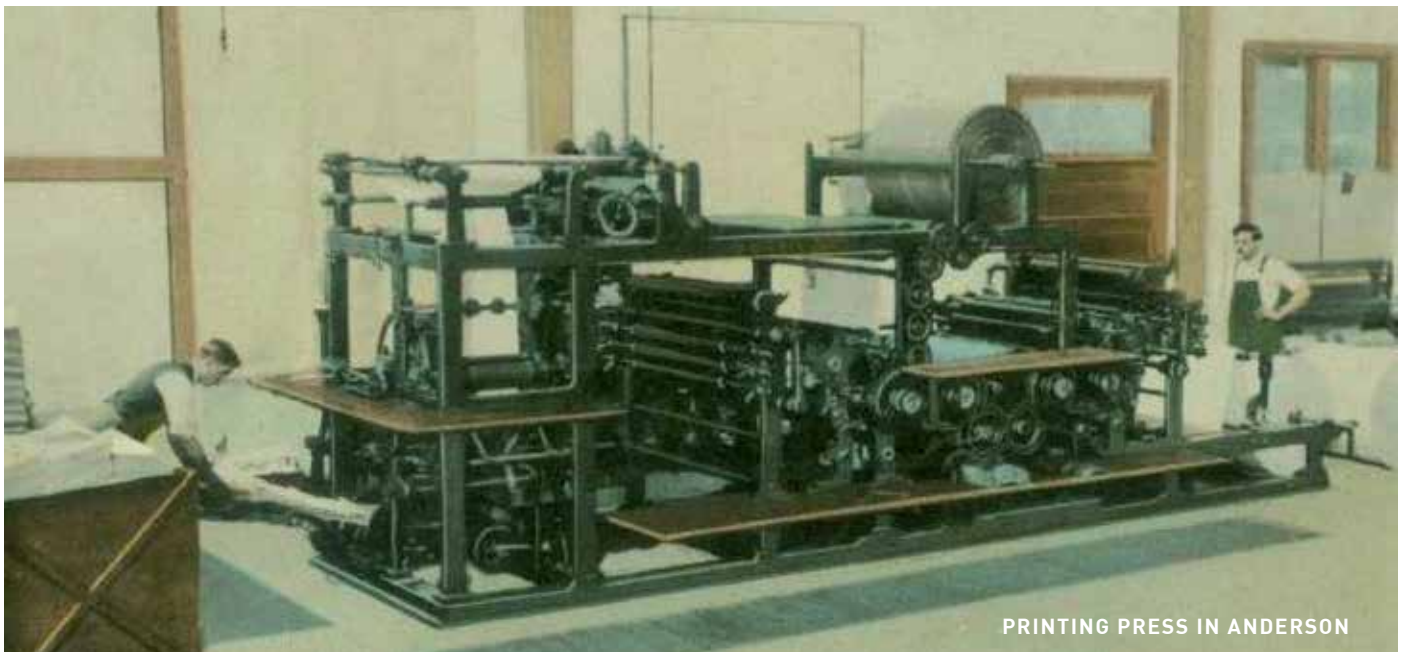
### **A new century**

Within a few years the operation grew so greatly that another move to a more suitable location became necessary. Because coal became less of a necessity with the coming of electrical power, a suitable piece of land was found in Anderson, Indiana. Within a short time the whole operation moved again to the new home in Indiana. After renting available space in downtown Anderson, a new Print Shop and workers' home was built on the acquired land. The materials for this home came from the home that had been built in Moundsville,

By 1908, W. Ebel took on a pastorate and traveled extensively as an evangelist and Clara Stegmann became the first and only woman editor of the EP. By 1910 the Ebels were settled into missionary work for Russia, living in Riga. Sometime in 1909, Clara Stegmann also entered missionary work in Europe, and it seems that at that time D. B. Meyer took on the editorship.

### **During World War I**

When WWI broke out, the German publishing venture took a big hit, because of the war against Germany and the anti-German sentiment



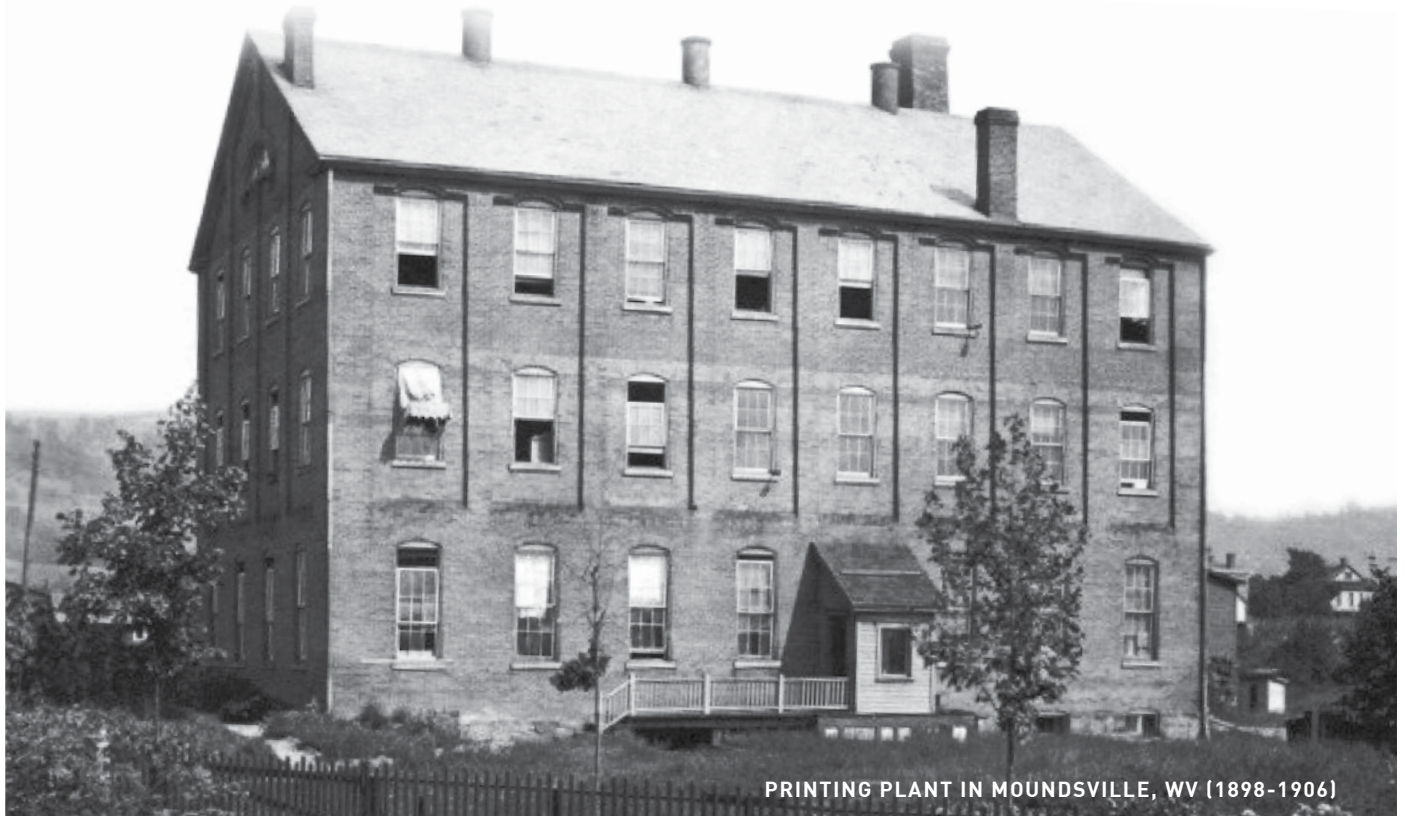
PRINTING PRESS IN ANDERSON

across the U.S. But the publication of the EP continued without lapse.

In June 1919 the German pastors met in Anderson to discuss the incorporation of a separate German publishing work, and a search for a name ensued. After much discussion the name Gospel Truth Company

was adopted by a majority of votes. But for unknown reasons, the name changed again, and on November 20, 1920 the Christian Unity Press was incorporated under the laws of the state of Indiana.

Throughout the early years repeated attempts were made to increase the circulation



PRINTING PLANT IN MOUNDSVILLE, WV (1898-1906)

of the EP, for it was considered vital to the growth of individual, isolated saints as well as to the growth of the German ministry as a whole.

At the annual meeting of the CUP in June 1922, the motion was put forward to move the entire German publishing operation to Germany. The ensuing vote resulted in a tie vote. Chairperson Zena Wruk of Chicago declined to cast the deciding vote, so the motion was tabled. The next year at the annual gathering the unanimous decision was made to continue the venture in the USA. In February 1922, the European EP made its debut, and many in Europe received two publications.

### **A Major Step Forward**

At the annual ministers' and CUP meeting on June 07, 1927 a more central move was discussed for the German publishing work. Undoubtedly this decision was quite emotional, for the Gospel Trumpet Company

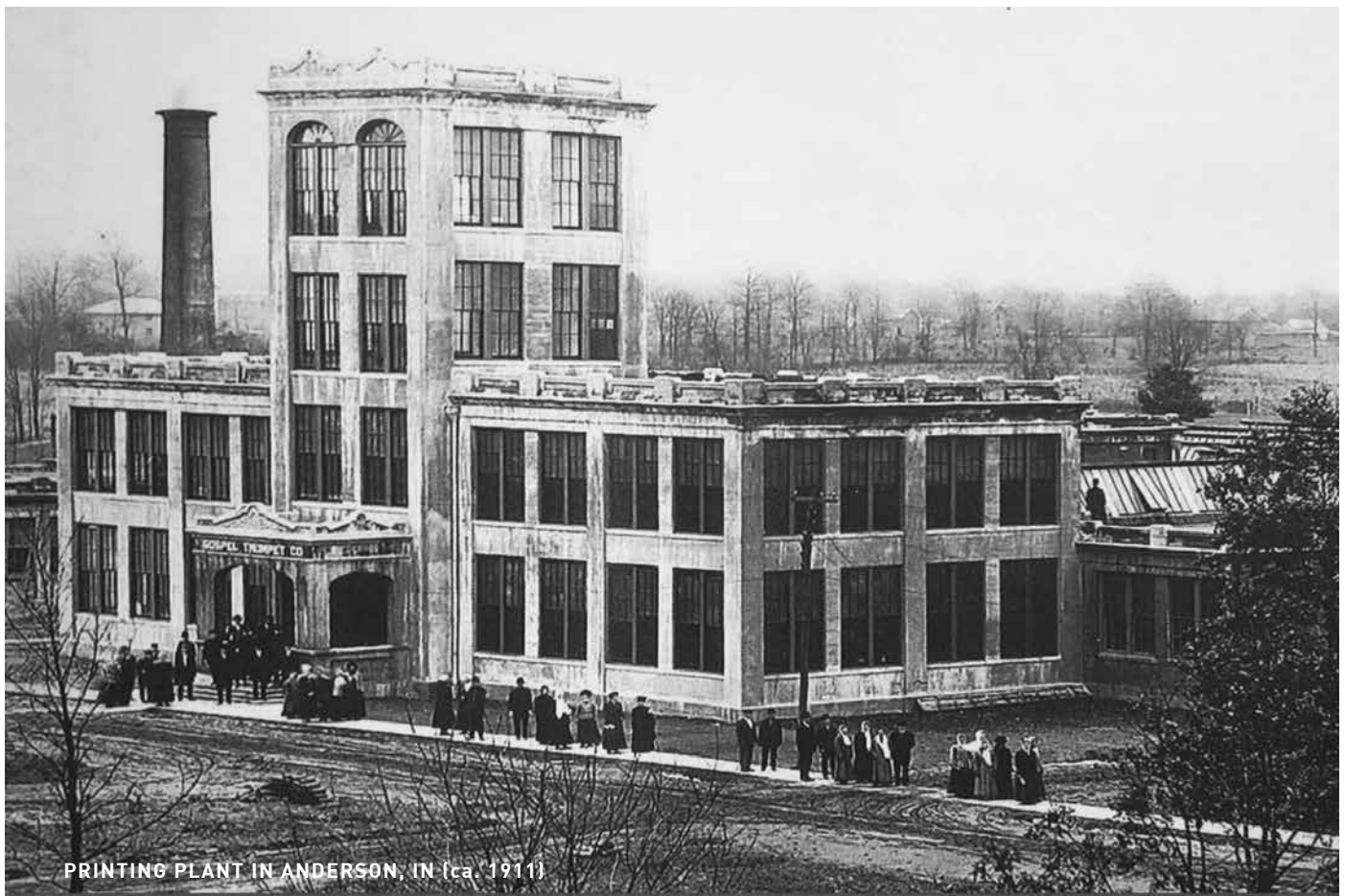
and the German work had been together for 33 years.

By January 1928, a new location had been found for the CUP on the outskirts of York, Nebraska. The property consisted of 20 acres and a large farm house. By January 26, the decision was made to buy the property for \$9,500.

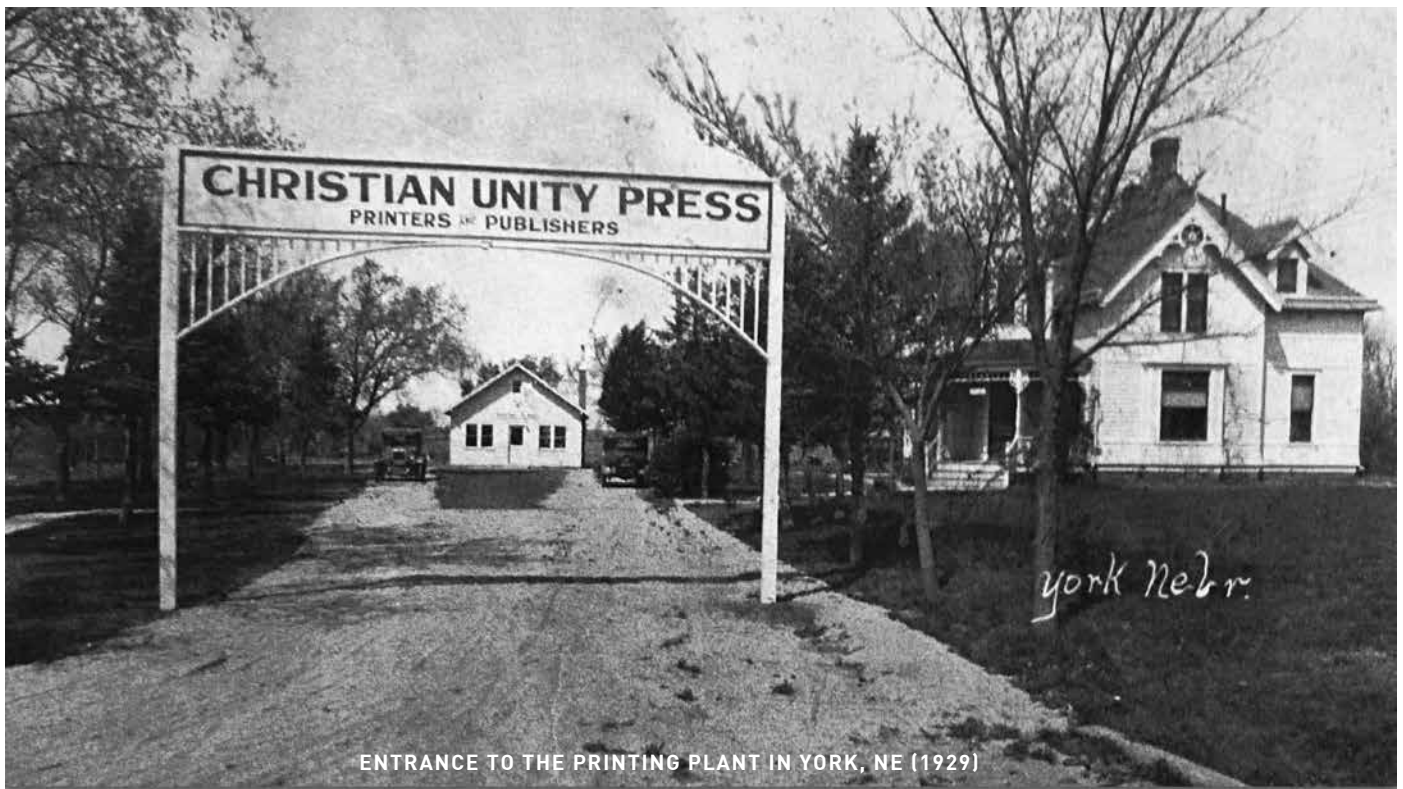
By the time the move was made in September 1928 the full sum had been paid. Soon a new print shop had been built on the property, while the old farm house served as residence for the workers. H.G. Babel, Jakob Greiner and Samuel Koroch moved to York to live there and work at the new print shop.

### **Years of Crisis**

On October 24, 1929 with the crash of the stock market, the Great Depression began, which placed financial pressures on this venture in York. After they had been in York for a barely year, a fire broke out in the new





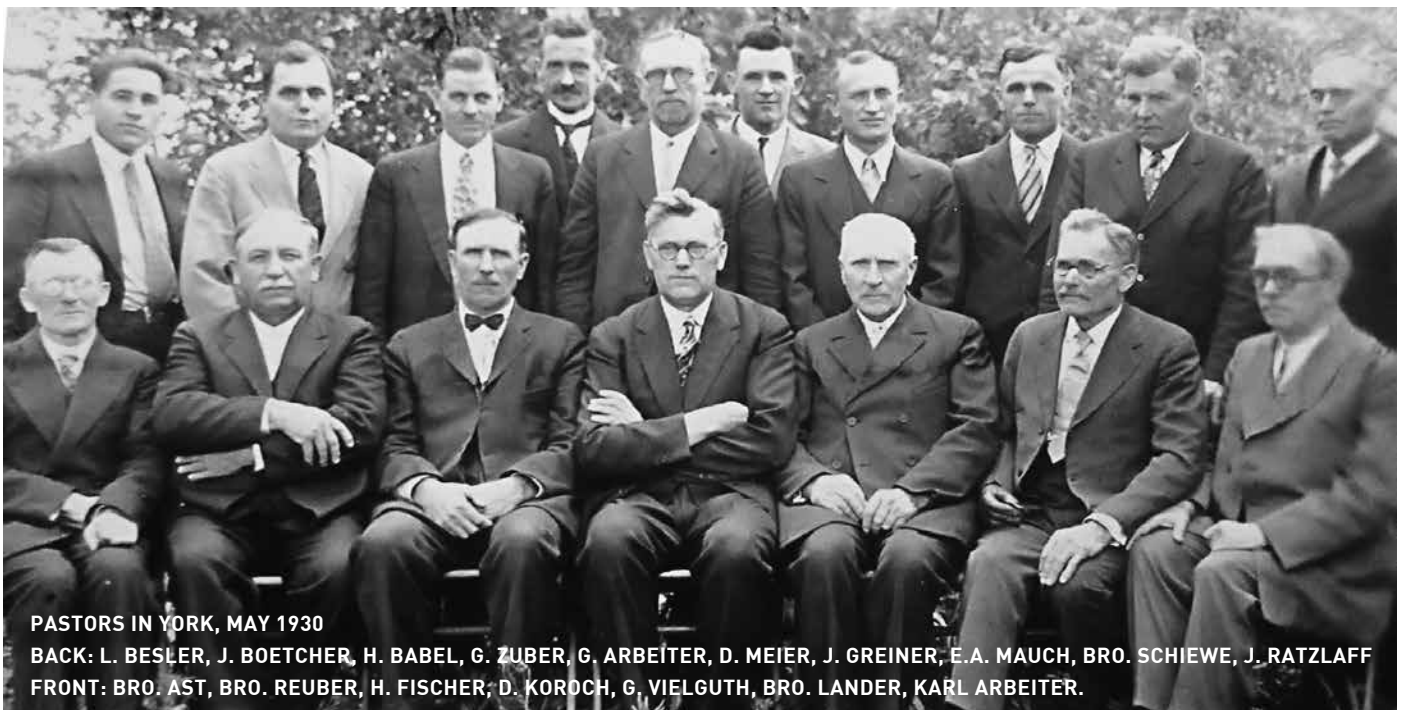


ENTRANCE TO THE PRINTING PLANT IN YORK, NE (1929)

print shop which burned some of the shop area, but seemed to have spared most of the front offices. Furnaces in those years were installed in the floor in the middle of the shop area, and it seems an explosion in the furnace area started this fire. On December 8, 1929 reconstruction of the print shop

began. Perhaps this is the reason that some of the old publications have been lost.

The Depression years were certainly very challenging for the German publishing venture, but the EP was printed continually. With the move to Nebraska, the annual national German campmeeting was held in



PASTORS IN YORK, MAY 1930

BACK: L. BESLER, J. BOETCHER, H. BABEL, G. ZUBER, G. ARBEITER, D. MEIER, J. GREINER, E.A. MAUCH, BRO. SCHIEWE, J. RATZLAFF  
FRONT: BRO. AST, BRO. REUBER, H. FISCHER, D. KOROCH, G. VIELGUTH, BRO. LANDER, KARL ARBEITER.





NEW PRINTING PLANT (Late 60's)

York at the end of May for many years, with the exception of about 3 years during WWII, and in 1946, it was held in Wiley, Colorado.

### **The Difficult World War II Years**

For the CUP, WWII was a difficult time because of the German connection, but ironically in 1943 a new hymnal was introduced to the church at large, that would replace the Evangeliums Klänge that had been used for many years. Zions Loblieder was produced in these most difficult years. Gottlieb Arbeiter later reported that after a conference that pertained to the issues of the movement during those turbulent war years, the ministers returned home in a state of dejection, convinced that the German movement had come to an end. But the Lord willed differently!

On December 5, 1944 the Board of Directors of the CUP made a major decision to relocate the German publishing

enterprise to Wiley, CO. One can only guess as to the reason for this, because no direct or indirect explanation could be found for this decision. However for unknown reasons the move never happened and the print shop remained in York.

Quite a number of editors served over the years. D.B. Meyer died of cancer in 1925 and later it was H.G. Babel who was editor, followed by Karl Arbeiter, and then for many years it was Gottlieb Arbeiter, with a two year interlude where H. Weyland was editor. Then Ludwig Besler was editor from 1960-1966, followed by Fritz Lenk, and in 1971 Fritz Friedrich, who was followed by Otto Sommerfeld, and now H.D. Nimz.

### **The Post-War Years**

In 1949 and the following years, many new German immigrants came to North America, which greatly boosted the CUP in support and the formation of new



DIETER HEINZE AT THE NEW PRINTER DURING THE DEDICATION SERVICE IN 2015 (FLINT, MI)

congregations in the U.S. and Canada. By the end of the 1950's a seniors nursing home had been constructed on the CUP property, but this venture only lasted about 7 years, when in 1966 the home was sold to the city of York.

In 1966 a new hymnal was produced, which was the first one in Latin script, no

longer being the Gothic script of the past. Less than 20 years later another hymnal was produced called "Zions Wahrheitslieder."

In 1967, a much needed new print shop was constructed, and in the years following a number of bungalows were constructed to house the families of the workers. This gave a real boost to the CUP and provided modern



NEW BUILDING IN FLINT, MI





facilities to publish the various literature, as well as the EP.

### The 21st Century

With the new century it became obvious that the transition to English brought the need for an English periodical, and also an English hymnal. The CUP was in the forefront of meeting these needs and the *Foundation of Faith* as well as *Worship Hymnal* were produced. The need for a Spanish language periodical brought about the printing of a Spanish version of the EP.

In the last year the decision was reached to relocate the CUP to Flint, Michigan where a congregation exists in neighboring Swartz Creek, and we dedicate this beautiful facility to the Glory of God and to His service.

Kurt Pudel  
Edmonton, AB

### Editors

Throughout the years many served as editor:

- Fred L. Hahn
- William Ebel
- Clara Stegmann
- D. B. Meyer
- Hermann G. Babel
- Karl Arbeiter
- Gottlieb Arbeiter
- Heinrich Weyland
- Ludwig Besler
- Fritz Lenk
- Fritz Friedrich
- Otto Sommerfeld
- Hans Dietrich Nimz



# "Prove it!"

Bro. Jacob Peters from Steinbach once told me how he became a reader of the *Evangelium Posaune*, the German edition of the *Foundation of Faith*.

Brethren in Canada who felt burdened to lead others to salvation in Christ had, during the 1950s, sent the *Evangelium Posaune* to the German-speaking Mennonites in Mexico. When this became known, the leaders of some church groups declared the *Evangelium Posaune* to be heresy and banned it from being read. However, not all allowed this to keep them from reading it. One of these was Jacob Peter's neighbor. This man had ordered not just one copy, but two of the EP: one for himself and the other to pass on to others.

When Jacob Peters was offered the *Evangelium Posaune*, he at first hesitated to take it, with the explanation that it contained false doctrine. The neighbor then had an idea, or rather, it was the Holy Spirit who gave him this idea. He knew that Jacob Peters loved to study and learn new things, and so he said, "Take it and compare it with the Bible. Then you can prove, using God's Word, that it contains false doctrine." This intrigued Jacob and he took the *Evangelium Posaune* and began to study

in God's Word in order to refute what was written in it. However, to his surprise, the more he studied, the more he realized that it was his views that were false, not what was written in the *Posaune*. He then requested further issues and God was able to enlighten him and lead him to experience salvation.

When Brother Nimz and I once visited the Peters family in Mexico, Sister Peters told us how she had taken the *Evangelium Posaune* and gone to the barn in order to be alone. She fell on her knees and pleaded: "Lord, send us these people who preach these truths, otherwise we are all lost." God answered and led the Peters to His church and full salvation. Bro. Peters passed into eternity several years ago, but I was still able to visit the sister in her apartment yesterday. She is now 93 years old, is a happy and thankful child of God, and is looking forward to soon being able to see her Savior.

Do you also look for opportunities to awaken an interest in others in the *Foundation of Faith* and through that, God's Word and their personal salvation?

R. Taron

## Excerpts from letters to the CUP in 2015

"Beloved in the Lord, we hereby send you a cashier's check. . . . May the Lord Jesus continue to bless you, and give success in the great harvest of souls that [they may] experience the gift of salvation."

- Western Canada

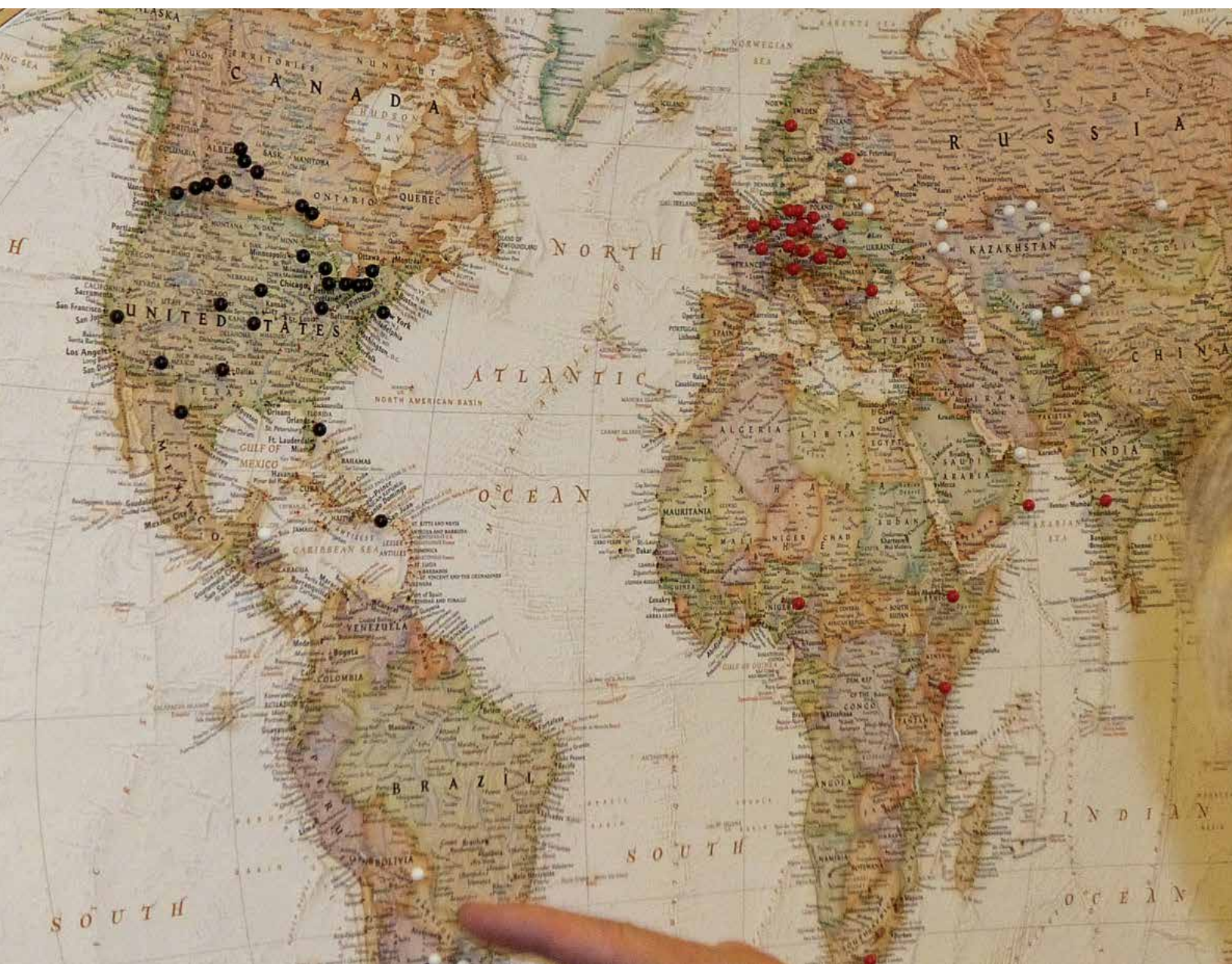
"Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord! Almost a year has elapsed since I sent you a check for mine and HG's Gospel Trumpet. Brothers and sisters put in a lot of effort to print the Trumpet. Everything is for the Lord! Regards and may God bless and guide." - Canada

"First I want to thank you for the regularly sent *Evangelium Posaune*. . . . Is it much costlier to send individual copies to the home compared to bulk mail? . . . We leave the final decision to you. Wishing

you God's continued blessing in your ministry. Many greetings from us." - Germany

"I want to sincerely thank you for the *Evangelium Posaune*. I have very little time for reading, but always make sure I read the EP every month from start to finish. I can always learn from it—it brings me closer to God and His Word, and I thank you sincerely. . . . I heartily wish you all the best, especially God's blessing and blessed health." - Idaho, USA

"We were in Hawaii again, and visited the Church of God there. They would be interested in receiving the *Foundation of Faith*. Could you send 6 copies to them every month? Here is the address." - Honolulu, Hawaii



## Countries in which the *Evangeliums Posaune* and *Foundation of Faith* are received

### North America

Canada  
USA  
Belize  
Dominican Republic  
Mexico

### South America

Bolivia  
Brazil  
Paraguay  
Argentina

### Oceania

Australia  
New Zealand

### Asia

Philippines  
Oman  
United Arab Emirates  
India  
Russia  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan

### Uzbekistan

### Africa

South Africa  
Kenya  
Ethiopia  
Nigeria

### Europe

Austria  
Belarus  
England

### Estonia

France  
Germany  
Italy  
Latvia  
Norway  
Poland  
Romania  
Sweden  
Switzerland



# Revive Your Work!

*“A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth. O Lord, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.” (Habakkuk 3:1-2)*

In Habakkuk 3:1–2 we read the prayer of an Old Testament prayer warrior. It was a prayer for the innocent, a prayer for God’s chosen people. “O LORD, revive your work in the midst of the years.”

How do we understand the word “revival”?

We find some synonyms for revival: improvement, refreshment, stimulation, recovery, enhancement, regeneration, increase.

One speaks of stimulating the economy when trade has lost momentum and when the national economic climate visibly needs improvement. When a resurgence finally occurs in the job market, the unemployment rate decreases. Likewise, certain methods can sometimes be used to revive someone who is unconscious.

The most important application of this word is spiritual. Are we currently in need of a spiritual revival?

If we examine the spiritual state surrounding us, then we are justified in asking, “Does our congregation need a spiritual revival? Or do I personally need a spiritual boost, something that will help me grow inwardly?”

In Psalm 119:37, it says, “Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way.” This praying saint is asking for a revival while traveling God’s path. At the same time, it is important to maintain good control of our eyes. If our eyes repeatedly see what they shouldn’t, then revival cannot result.

Luther translates the verse as follows: “Turn away my eyes so that they do not pursue useless doctrine; rather, refresh me in Your way.”

When children of God begin to allow unbiblical teachings and doctrines to take root in their hearts, spiritual renewal cannot take place. They will slip into spiritual darkness.

No one can be too eager for the things of the Lord. The words of a song state: “O Brothers and Sisters, so many wander aimlessly and fall asleep.” Such idle people desperately need a spiritual renewal.

We need a revival in our prayer life, both in public and in private. Do you pray during the church service? Or is it only the responsibility of the preacher and a select few? Surely not. David says, “I will praise you in the great assembly” (Psalm 22:25 NLT). This is everyone’s responsibility.

We need a revival within individual souls, to prevent people from becoming the prey of the enemy. Many a young person has turned to the Lord. The church rejoiced over the new life and passion for God. But then the passion waned, and this once-vibrant new Christian fell back into the world.

These two verses from the Psalms are so meaningful: “Revive me, O Lord, for Your name’s sake (Psalm 143:11), and “Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness” (Psalm 119:159).

What are the results of spiritual revival?

A spiritual revival causes each member of the body of Christ to recognize his place and to diligently perform all his duties. Faithfulness in small deeds makes us capable of managing greater duties. During a revival, our love for God, for brothers and sisters in Christ, and for all people grows stronger and deeper. Cooperation becomes more effective and humility more visible.

A revival strengthens the body of Christ’s defenses against spiritual illness, such as sensitivity, despondency, accusations, faultfinding, reluctance to pray openly, and many others.

In a certain village a revival took place. One young man, representing the youth of their small town, remarked, “Before the revival, none of us attended church services; now prayer meeting is the main attraction for the youth, and praying to God has become our greatest joy.” The young people gather from 10 pm to 1 am and pray for the revival to grow and multiply. There is not a single male between 18 and 35 years of age who does not attend the prayer meetings and prays.



Dear young people, may I ask you, are your church prayer meetings your main attraction, and praying to God your greatest joy? We all know that the youth can easily be attracted to recreational pursuits. For that they find the time, or can arrange their schedules to accommodate these pastimes with one another.

Every single youth group should ask, "What percentage of our young people enjoys the prayer meetings, and participates in public prayer? Furthermore, how well established are the parents and grandparents in the area of prayer?" He who prays much, breathes in rich, heavenly air. That's how revival takes place.

A well-known acquaintance from our town, who belongs to a different Christian denomination, expressed to me, "No young people attend the Sunday morning church services. During the afternoons, they get together at a church-run tea-room." That is truly not a reflection of the biblical church.

In the first five chapters of Acts we read five times that the church was "with one accord" (Acts 1:14; 2:1,46; 4:24; 5:12). Both the young and the old stood together. If a congregation loses this unity, then it has lost its biblical foundation. Then the youth forge their own path and lose biblical fellowship and oneness with the rest of the church.

Loved ones in the Lord, the strongest attraction at your church should be the prayer meetings. If a revival has taken place in your heart, then this will be the case for you. Revival conquers total indolence of the heart.

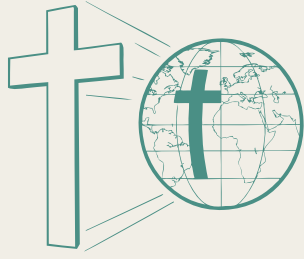
In Psalm 119:40 it says, "Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness."

A revival causes longing for salvation of lost souls. Those who sow with tears will reap in joy. Jesus carried heartache over Jerusalem. In the same way, we should carry heartache over lost relatives and friends, and should pray for the Lord to rescue them.

We need a regeneration, a revitalization, a revival. Therefore we all want to pray with Habakkuk, "O LORD, revive Your work!" O Lord, revive your church, revive me!

H. Kowalski





# Radio Broadcast

## The Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs  
Kitchener, Ontario

# “Go into all the world....”

*“And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)*

In the Bible the word “world” is used frequently but with multiple meanings. In Mark 16:15, Jesus was referring to all mankind when He said: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Paul wrote that God: “desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Our Lord’s great commission is confirmed by Paul’s statement. God’s plan of salvation includes all people, therefore it necessitates going into all the world. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told His disciples: “You are the salt of the earth . . . [and the] light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). This is the reason that God’s people are scattered around the world. Otherwise the great commission could not be carried out. When Jesus said: “Go into all the world,” He probably meant more than is generally understood.

We want to try and understand this commandment on a deeper level. The geographical world usually comes to mind when we think of the word “world,” especially those countries where the gospel has been preached infrequently or not at all. Certainly there are many people who have never heard the gospel message. It is possible that these people live on our street or even in our homes. We may have little connection with them but we can observe that they live in a different “world” than we do. We need to accept the fact that each person lives in their “own world.”

Our will, our minds, our thoughts, our society, and our place of employment shape our world. If the per-

sonal “world” of a disciple of Christ is not pure and exemplary, then it is difficult for him to get into another’s “world.” It is important to note that Jesus’ command to “go into all the world” was directed specifically to His disciples.

The world of which Jesus speaks must be viewed from different angles. For example: we have the “world” of our place of employment, where we work with a group of people on a regular basis. Here we see, hear, feel, work, tolerate, and suffer. Here are opportunities and possibilities to be a light with our actions and our words. Other “worlds” are our neighborhood, the store, the school, the hospital, the nursing home, etc.

“To go into all the world” means to see the pain and suffering of the people around us, to step into their world and help them. When Jesus gave this command, He didn’t just think about remote, foreign lands but also of all those right next to us who are alienated from God and need healing. All humanity needs Him, and to save them, He needs us.

In Amos 1:1 we read: “The words of Amos, who was among the sheep breeders of Tekoa.” Here was a man who stood in the background. He was a shepherd and belonged to the poorest class of people. He worked, he listened and then it says, “he saw.” Finally he rose up and spoke. This made him an exception. He saw what others did not see and spoke what others did not speak. The amazing thing



was that his people listened and remembered what he said. A nation listened to the words of a shepherd and never forgot his message. He was a simple man but in his “world” God had spoken to him. Because of this, he could speak to these people and influence them. How can we influence the world around us?

#### ***Through a clear testimony***

Speak at the right time, in the right place and in the right manner. Silence is not always golden. I stood at the bedside of a very sick brother. Before I left, I pulled out my Bible and wanted to quietly read a passage and pray. Immediately the thought came to me: “Why should I read and pray quietly, why not out loud?” So I did, adding a few more words and praying. It seemed that the man in the other bed was not paying attention. When I finished, he turned to us and expressed his heartfelt gratitude. Our message must not remain behind closed church doors. With determination, we need to take it to the world around us and say with Peter: “what I do have I give you” (Acts 3:6).

#### ***Be a good spiritual influence***

A good and quiet influence is more effective than a frontal attack. David stood in the background but he conquered the dreaded Goliath with his slingshot. God does not accomplish His work through armies but through individuals. All that is sometimes needed is a bit of “leaven.” You may think that your light is very insignificant and small, but those who are in darkness will see it from afar. The most important and effective tool you have is the life you live. Let that speak for itself!

#### ***Go into the world with the experience you have***

Experience gives us wisdom. We gather experience through our own mistakes, our encounters with people, and the circumstances of our time. Do not get held up by your mistakes, but learn from them, and focus on the Word. Experience enriches and gives us skills for the tasks around us. We cannot be as effective in areas where we lack necessary experience. The more experience a person has, the more he will be able to connect with others. “Go into all the world!” Go in grace and in the power of prayer and you will be a blessing!





# One Brick at a Time

Johnny couldn't do it. He knew he couldn't do it. He stood in the middle of the room and looked around. Toy animals crouched behind the bars of cages he had made by turning over chairs. Cars and trucks were parked in the make-believe garage under the table. Blocks, balls, and toys were scattered about everywhere.

Mother was right. What a mess it made! He could never, never get it all cleaned up. Surely God didn't expect that of one small boy even if He did say, "Obey your parents." Mother had told him to clean up his toys. But how could she expect one small boy to do all that work? He tried to forget that one small boy had put everything there. He tried to forget that God says, "Children, obey your parents."

"I can't! I can't!" he whispered, as he turned and ran out the front door to see how the builders were getting along with their work on the new house next door.

"Hi," said Johnny. "Oh, you are beginning to lay the bricks!"

"That's right," said the man. "One brick, then another . . . and another." Johnny watched for a while then he looked at the great stack of bricks still on the ground. "That's sure a big pile of bricks!" he said.

"Oh, yes," the man agreed. "But I lay one brick at a time.

The pile keeps getting smaller, while the wall grows taller. First thing you know, the little jobs done well become a big job finished."

"I have to go now," Johnny said. "I have some work to do."

"Remember," the man called, "just one brick at a time."

Johnny ran home and went to work. First he put the cars and animals back on the shelves. Then he carefully laid the other things in the toy boxes.

"Johnny," Mother called. "Are you putting your things away?"

"Yes, ma'am," Johnny said. "One brick at a time."

"One brick?" Mother came to the door. She must have expected to see the room full of bricks! "Why, Johnny," she exclaimed. "What a good job you have done!"

Now he knew the Lord would help him obey if he did it just "one brick at a time."

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## Special Services for 2016 in Germany and Canada

*Youth Conference in Kirchberg, Germany:*

MARCH 4 - 6, 2016

*Pentecost Conference in Herford, Germany:*

MAY 14 - 16, 2016

*Easter Conference in Hamm, Germany:*

MARCH 25 - 28, 2016

*Fest in Winnipeg, Manitoba*

MAY 21 - 23, 2016

*Camp Meeting in Blaubeuren, Germany:*

AUGUST 20 - 27, 2016

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# How to Worship in Spirit and Truth

*“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)*

## **What is True Biblical Worship?**

The English word “worship” comes from two old English words put together: “worth” and “ship”—the quality of having worth. So to worship means to declare something or someone to have worth. When we worship God, we are declaring that God is worthy of all glory and honor—that His worth surpasses all else! We do this when we praise God by speaking or singing about how great He is. We also declare His worth by giving attention to His words, by our obedience to His will, and by joyfully giving all we have to Him.

In the Bible’s original languages, both in Hebrew and Greek, there are two kinds of words for worship found in the Bible. For the first meaning, the most common word in the Old Testament for worship is the Hebrew word “shachah” and in the New Testament it’s the Greek word “proskuneo.” These words both basically mean to bow down, to kneel, to put one’s face down as an act of respect and submission. Our body language is saying, I will do whatever you want me to. I am ready to listen to your instructions and I am willing to obey.” It involves the reverence we have for God.

The other kind of biblical word for worship literally means “to serve.” In the New Testament, the Greek word is “latreuo.” Roughly half of the time this word is translated as worship, and the other half translated as serve. It carries the idea of doing something for God—making a sacrifice or carrying out His instructions. So when we think of worshipping God we must remember these elements: We’re proclaiming God’s worth with an attitude of deep reverence and submission to God, and it’s expressed in our service and sacrifice for Him.

True worship is something that happens not just when we are in a church service singing praise songs to God, but it is something that encompasses all of our proper responses to God. We were created as worshipers and are at all times worshipping something! God’s desire is that all of our worship would be focused on Him.

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment” (Mark 12:30).

Worship includes:

- *Responding with our heart and emotions* - Our love and gratitude to God, the joy we feel in His presence, and the expression of these emotions through words and songs of praise and thanksgiving.
- *Responding with our mind* – Our belief in God’s worthiness, thinking carefully about who God is, listening attentively to His Word, desiring to learn all we can about God and how to please Him, and surrendering our will to Him.
- *Responding with our actions and words* – Putting into practice what we believe will please God, serving others as a way of expressing our love and devotion to God, witnessing to others about the greatness of God and the Gospel.

Our worship should include all of these. Some people focus primarily on speaking or singing praise to God. Praise is important, but if all we do is praise God, without ever obeying what He says, we need to question whether we believe the words we are saying. We need to be attentive to what He tells us because He is worth listening to. Actions speak louder than words, and if our behavior isn’t



changed by God, then our actions are saying that God isn't important. Imagine a ship where all of the sailors proclaim "We love our captain! We honor our captain!" But when he gives a command they never obey. When we really believe that God is worthy of all honor and praise our desire is to please Him as much as we can. We will be eager to not only listen but also apply what we hear. Worship must affect our behavior.

### ***What Are the Conditions for True Worship?***

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

*In spirit* – Worship must be with the inner man. It is a matter of the heart and mind. Both must be fully engaged. External things don't matter if the heart isn't right. It doesn't do any good to worship at a certain place or with certain rituals if our attitude isn't right. "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me" (Matthew 15:8). We can sing the right songs and hold our hands in the right way, but if our hearts and our minds aren't in it, it isn't pleasing to God. Think about the way that we participate in prayer during our services. How about the way we give our tithes and gifts to the Lord? Or the way that we actively listen to the sermons? What about the way that we serve and help out? Try contrasting that with the way that diehard sports fans engage in watching a soccer game! They are rooted to the action, they are totally engaged, they are willing to spend their money, time, and energy to proclaim the worth of their team. When the game goes into overtime they don't complain. Yet we are worshiping the God of all Creation, the great I AM! Shouldn't we be the ones far more excited and devoted? May God help us to worship Him with all of our heart and mind fully engaged!

*In truth* – It is not just open for us to choose however we want to worship God. Our worship must be in full ac-

cordance with the Word of God. It must be based on the true doctrine and theology of the Bible! It must be true to who God is and reflect His full character and ideals. It must never be based on what we like, what pleases us, what we are comfortable with. God requires our worship to be in Truth!

*In holiness and purity* – "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2b). Our thoughts and conduct must be pure and holy for us to worship God properly. If there is sin in our life we cannot respond to God in true worship.

*Exclusive to God* – "For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14). We cannot worship God along with other things. There's no room for loving any other "gods" even one percent. We cannot let money or possessions, self-consciousness or reputation, busyness or anything else get in the way. Worshiping God is to be our highest priority.

*With the right purpose* – "For the Father is seeking such to worship Him" (John 4:23b). God wants us to come and give Him the worship He deserves. We don't come to experience worship but to give worship to God. Our focus is turned away from us and all else onto God. True worship is all about Him and His glory!

The Bible makes it clear that God's purpose and desire for us is that we worship Him. It is to be central in our life, not just something that we add on to our already busy schedule. It is our supreme duty—and it is our maximum privilege!

Ryan Henkelmann

# If You Would Believe

## Part 2

### *A Letter from Christ*

Mother and her three sisters all experienced salvation during a time of great revivals after the First World War. At that point in time, their parents were skeptical of this new movement. Knowing themselves to be under the microscope, the sisters determined to win their parents' confidence, not with words, but through their conduct. They showered their parents with more courtesies and love - the new life, the new creation in Christ, must be visible in their daily lives.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

To help them grow and walk in the Word, the four sisters, Hulda, Lydia, Wanda, and Else agreed to live out a new Bible verse each day, a verse they would eagerly put into practice that day, adding, as the Apostle Paul writes, a new paragraph to the letter from Christ, to be known and read by all men.

"You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts to be known and read by all men; and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human

hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:2-3 RSV).

On a particular day when the sisters had agreed to put into practice the verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:16, "Be joyful always" (NIV), one of the sisters was found weeping in her room. "Else! What is it? Isn't this the day we all agreed to be joyful, and we find you crying? What happened?"

"Yes," she sobbed. "That is true. But today, everything is going wrong for me. Can you understand how difficult it is to be joyful when everything, absolutely everything goes wrong? It just overwhelmed me, so here I sit crying."

Two lessons mother was attempting to convey by relating this story from her young Christian walk with God: Above all, God's Word must be lived out - we are a letter from Christ. Second, God's children are not protected from sufferings.

"Know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings" (1 Peter 5:9 NIV).

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory (Romans 8:17 NIV).

### *Blessed be the Name of the Lord*

Hidden behind long rows of cedars, overpowered by a huge barn at the end of the yard, crouches the lowly farmhouse where mother was raised. On a hill, flanked by two ponds, the blades of a huge windmill flail in the wind, driving the flour mill that mother's father had erected. In autumn, the entire family assembles here to bring in the harvest. Growing up in a family of four sisters and one

brother, hard physical labor was no stranger to mother. "I'm an iron lady," she used to say at the time. "Nothing can fella me."

In the harvest of 1926, drenched in sweat and exhausted from the hard labor, the sisters lingered in the barn, chatting. A chilling draft pushed through the open barn door, finally urging them into the warm house.



Shortly thereafter, Hulda was gripped by tuberculosis and died. Lydia too, the oldest sister, became infected, and died. Within a short time, grandfather had lost two beautiful daughters to tuberculosis. Overwhelmed with grief, he stood at Lydia's open grave sobbing:

"The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21).

And now, the fatal disease which had already snatched two of her sisters in the prime of life was holding mother in its death grip. Death held no fear for her. Indeed, the thought of dying even appealed, since that would mean going home to her beloved Redeemer Jesus Christ.

Mother's father entered the room where, with each breath, she struggled for survival. Despairingly he sobbed, "First Hulda - then Lydia - and now Wanda." Unable to contain himself, he turned away and left the room.

Gripped by her father's agony, she summoned her remaining strength, labored to raise herself from the bed, and risked the first halting steps. Carefully, sliding one foot before the other, she inched toward her prayer spot in the garden among the cedars. Falling on her knees, she prayed: "Father, I'm ready to come home. The mere thought delights my soul, but I cannot bear to see my father's anguish. Lord, have mercy! If it is your will, you can heal me. Jesus Christ, you are the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Placing her finger on Isaiah 53 she whispered:

"Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the

punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5 NIV).

"My beloved Savior", she continued, "I have experienced the first part of this Word. You have paid the penalty for my sins, and now I have peace in my heart. Peace with God! You have given me the assurance of eternal life. My sins are forgiven. You have atoned for them on the cross at Calvary; but in this same passage your Word says, by His wounds we are healed.' If the former is true, and I have indeed experienced this, then I lay claim to the latter also. If you have already suffered for my sickness on the cross, Lord Jesus, then there is no need for me to continue to suffer."

In that moment her faith took wing. Mother personalized God's promise, "By his wounds I am healed." She leaped up from her knees, raced up the path at full speed, the path along which she had so painfully shuffled only moments earlier. She raced up and down a second time, deeply breathing in the fresh air. The pain in the lungs had vanished.

"Yes, it is true! I can breathe again! I am healed! By God's grace and through His mighty arm I am instantly healed from tuberculosis! Praise to the Almighty! How great You are, my God!"

Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you" (John 16:23).

Jesus said "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23).



# Church of God in Vernon

War-torn Europe was destitute. Many refugees grasped the opportunity to cross the Atlantic and immigrate to North America. Among them, German-speaking people from various countries came to Canada. Since British Columbia had a relatively mild climate compared to the prairie provinces and was suitable for growing fruit and conducive to other farming activities, a number of families moved west. The German Church of God had its first beginnings in 1936, here in the beautiful city of Vernon, nestled between three lakes. Without an official pastor, they worshiped together within their homes and then in an old building until 1939.

The first building was constructed in 1939-40 by the local congregation and dedicated to the glory of God on October 26, 1940. In 1949, a large influx of immigrants joined the German Church of God fellowship on what is now known as 27th Street. Brother Lawrence Gehring was the pastor at that time, and soon the church building was too small. Therefore, the English-speaking saints of the

congregation began a new church in 1954, which today is the Pleasant Valley Church of God. The German congregation eventually outgrew the facility on 27th Street. The current building was built in 1964, on 25th Street, and was dedicated to the glory of God in the summer of 1965. In 1994-1995, an addition and renovation constructed a new front entrance, an elevator, and an upgraded basement.

A house next door, owned by the church, operates as the “Little Ark Daycare” and is supported with prayer by the local congregation. May the seeds planted in those little hearts, watered by God’s love and mercy, bear fruit for eternity.

As the Okanagan Valley is a prime location for retirement, the German-speaking fellowship also saw the need to help seniors, widows, and widowers find suitable homes at reasonable cost. Therefore, a non-profit society was formed in 1977. Land was purchased, planning began, and Sunnyvale Retirement Home was dedicated to God’s glory on June 12, 1983. Countless hours and extreme dedication to this cause by volunteer labor from young and old alike resulted in a home with 18 suites. Since that time, two homes on the same block have been purchased and renovated to provide three additional suites. Sunnyvale was not intended to be an income source for the local church, but to identify real needs and minister to those concerns. God continues to bless this ministry. Praise the Lord!

People initially congregated because of common language, and founded lasting friendships through the years. The desire was to reach German-speaking people and awaken them to biblical truths. By God’s grace, many heard the gospel and were saved, finding peace for their





souls. They were baptized in the lake and desired to live a holy life.

Baptisms, picnics, and revival services continue to be celebrated together in fellowship with the Kelowna congregation, as these two congregations are situated so close to each other. The underlying purpose of fellowship in community is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, to encourage believers in love and unity, and to foster spiritual growth.

It was during Pastor Jakobsh's time of ministry that the need for ministering in English was recognized. One Sunday morning, Pastor Jakobsh realized newcomers in the pews did not understand German. His heart was burdened knowing they would not understand the message. Under conviction by the Holy Spirit, the Brother asked the congregation . . . "What would Jesus do?" . . . "If they were Russian, would Jesus speak to them in Russian? If English, would Jesus speak to them in English?" The people answered, "Yes." Pastor Jakobsh could speak Russian, Polish, German, and English, and so he shared the main points of the Sunday morning message in English before preaching his German sermon. The following Sunday, the newcomers brought along their friends.

Again, Pastor Jakobsh, feeling pressed by the Holy Spirit, asked the congregation if Jesus would speak to these newcomers in English? The answer was . . . "Yes!" Therefore Bro. Jakobsh began to write his sermons in both German and English . . . side by side. The Sunday morning service was now officially bilingual. The youth flourished under the ministry of Pastor Jakobsh and local people came to hear the Word of the Lord. Many today look back and thank God for Pastor Jakobsh's insight and obedience to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Change is not always welcome or easy, yet the congregation understood the need for survival of the Church of God in Vernon for future generations.

After Pastor Jakobsh retired in 1997, Pastor Arthur Lange followed God's call and returned to Vernon a second time, having served here earlier. In February 2010, Pastor Lange needed emergency open heart bypass surgery. This opened the door for the Glanz family to transition from the Kelowna congregation and enter into ministry.

The prayer of the Vernon congregation is that all who attend would experience God . . . His mercy . . . His grace . . . through the power of His Holy Spirit. May the people of Vernon see "Christ in us, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27) and true spiritual growth in Christian Believers as they live out their faith in daily practical application of the inspired Word of God, as taught by the Church of God.

#### Pastoral Leadership for the German Church of God was as follows:

1950	Rudolf Jeske
1953	Lawrence Gehring
1954 - 1958	Adam Flatt
1958 - 1969	Friedrich Henschel
1969 - 1972	Josef Jakobsh
1972 - 1981	Arthur Lange
1981 - 1989	Erich Siebert
1989 - 1997	Josef Jakobsh
1997 - 2010	Arthur Lange
2010 - present	Gary Glanz

## Obituary



### Pastor Josef Jakobsh

Vernon, BC

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'"*

*Revelation 14:13*

Brother Joseph Jakobsh was born on the 26 of July, in Sarnowka, to his parents Johann and Helene Jakobsh.

In 1939 the family, along with many other families was transferred to Warthegau not far from Hohensalza. Josef Jakobsh grew up speaking two languages. At home they spoke German (Schwäbisch) and in school he learned to speak the Polish language.

Because his parents were of the Catholic faith, they took him to mass every Sunday and he learned the prescribed prayers and was even altar boy during the services.

Then came the gruesome time of WWII. At the end of the war Joseph, like many others, was brutally mistreated and incarcerated, even though he was only 14 years old. On top of all the mistreatment was that nagging hunger. He almost starved to death in prison.

Joseph suffered the affects of this mistreatment for the rest of his life.

Because he was so young, he was removed from prison and put in a labor camp. The time of mistreatment and being away from his parents lasted from early 1945 until the middle of 1949.

Josef recalled how through all these years he would faithfully recite the prayers he had memorized.

"One Sunday when I was by myself I recited my prayers as usual: 'God have mercy. Holy Mary, pray for us . . . ' While I recited my prayers, something absolutely incomprehensible happened. I suddenly heard a voice that said, 'You know that you are praying incorrectly?' I turned around to see who was speaking to me, and seeing no one, replied: Lord how can I be saying the wrong words? I learned these words long ago. I am a true Roman Catholic. Again I heard a voice: You do not pray your heart's desire, but merely recite the words you have learned. To this I replied: Lord, I have never heard of praying my heart's desire. From that time on I began to say prayers that came from my heart, I folded my hands and prayed from the depths of my soul, Lord, let me see my father and mother again, because if I stay here much longer I will die. To my amazement, shortly thereafter I was told that I would soon be released from the labor camp.

"This was a day which I will never forget, the 13 of June, 1949. On that day, I was the only one to be released. Leaving Poland, through East Germany I finally reached West Germany on the 1 of August 1949 where I was reunited with my mother, sister and brother."

In August 1950 they first stepped onto Canadian soil at the coast of Halifax and continued to Winnipeg, Manitoba,

where he also saw his father. Even though the beginning years in Canada were not easy, they were very blessed in comparison to years of starvation, and now they were living in a free country.

A special milestone in his life was when he and his friend Philipp Goeres traveled from Winnipeg to Langenburg, Saskatchewan in August 1952 to help the Betke family with the harvest. This family was part of the Church of God. Joseph didn't notice at first that every day one of the family members was missing at the table. Father, mother and three daughters were fasting and praying for the salvation of this young man, Joseph. In this home he was surrounded by love and carried on hands of prayer. God began to work in his heart and gave him a hunger for God's Word, so that when he returned to Winnipeg after the harvest, he purchased his first Bible.

How wonderful are God's ways! God used witnesses, co-workers and pastors to show Joseph the way of life. Through the messages from Brother Adolf Lutzer, his personal Bible study, and reading the *Evangeliums Posaune* (*Gospel Trumpet*), he saw the light of the Gospel. He repented with all of his heart, and through the blood of Christ he became a child of God. Even though his parents initially were very much against his decision, God gave him the grace to remain faithful in his trials and temptations.

In 1954 he moved from Winnipeg to Edmonton, Alberta. Here he married Sonja Machel on June 25, 1955, and was able to share joy and sorrow with her for over 60 years. Brother Gustav Sonnenberg officiated the wedding and gave them Philippians 4:4-7 as their foundation for life together.





Five years later he obeyed God's call into the ministry. From 1960–1963 Joseph and his family served the congregation in Medicine Hat, Alberta. After that they served in Wetaskiwin, Alberta from 1963–1968, and from 1968–1972 they served the congregation in Vernon, British Columbia.

A special place of service for them was Aylmer, Ontario. He ministered to people who came from Mexico and were of the Old-Colony religion. These people were not only looking for a church to join but also salvation and freedom in Christ. It was a difficult but also rewarding time of their ministry.

With all their abilities and strength they served the people in their community, and many found peace with God and assurance of their salvation. The ministry in Aylmer was also a starting point for the ministry in Mexico.

After serving in Aylmer for 10 years, they followed the call to serve the congregation in Calgary, Alberta. They served there from 1982–1987 and then went to back to Vernon, British Columbia, where they served from 1989–1997.

Even while he was retired, he did not stop working for God. He helped, encouraged, stepped in to substitute

where needed, and was an example in sharing his personal testimony wherever he had opportunity to do so.

Jesus once said about John the Baptist: "He was the burning and shining lamp" (John 5:35). This could be said about Brother Jakobsh as well. In his simple but friendly manner he became a guiding light for many souls to find Christ. Brother Arthur Lange, who preached the message at his funeral, shared how even on his death bed, Brother Joseph compelled him to share the Gospel with his neighbor in the hospital. To the nurses and doctors that cared for him he said: "I am going home, I will see Jesus!" This wish was fulfilled on the 27 of November, 2015.

He is mourned by his wife Sonja, his children Ralph and Ute, Doris Jakobsh-Roorda and Paul, Randall and Lilli, four grandchildren, his sister Hannah Ruban, and other relatives as well as his brothers and sisters in the Family of God.

H. D. Nimz



PASTORS' SONG AT THE FUNERAL

## *The First Sounds of the Trumpet*

*I greet you all, o worthy readers,  
In Jesus name, God's precious Son.  
I wish you peace from Christ, our leader,  
With blessings flowing from the throne.*

*I greet you as the Gospel Trumpet,  
Which sounds the Foundation of Faith  
To show God's love, and be a compass,  
By things the Holy Bible says.*

*I come to you with seeds of blessing,  
I sow them in the Name of God.  
To young and old, and all confessing,  
With open hearts the truth that's taught.*

*I lift my voice from the beginning  
To speak what God has told me to.  
I offer hope to every sinner,  
All who repent find life anew.*

*I use the sharp Sword of the Spirit,  
Which is the mighty Word of God.  
O may it conquer all who hear it,  
And do its part upon this sod.*

*Now justice is my line of measure,  
My plummet is called righteousness;  
For rich and poor, in work or leisure,  
It is the way of God that's best.*

*And I must stress sanctification,  
The Bible leaves no other choice.  
In holiness keep your salvation  
Or you won't be in Paradise.*

*The Bond of Love, I will proclaim it,  
Perfection, faith and unity.  
These are for all, o reader claim it -  
With righteousness and charity.*

*Just as Christ was, He is today,  
And will be in eternity.  
If you are sick, do not dismay:  
His mercy is reality.*

*O, He has borne your grief and sorrows  
For soul and body, yes indeed!  
With all your heart trust in the Savior,  
And He will give you what you need.*

*The evening light with all its glory  
Brings forth its bright rays from the sun.  
Till Babylon the great has fallen,  
Her devastation, it must come.*

*Till all true Christians, born of Spirit  
Have left that city full of vice;  
And Christ has gathered all his people  
Whose names are in the book of life.*

*Live holy lives, oh my beloved,  
And pray for me that I be bold;  
That what I've said here and above  
Will be fulfilled as has been told.*

W. Ebel

This poem appeared in the first German  
Evangeliums Posaune on January 1, 1895.