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A FRIENDLY ENDEAVOR

VOLUME II.

JANUARY, 1920

NUMBER 7

"THOU HAST GIRDED ME."

By LEWIS RUSSEL, Pastor,
Middleton, Ore.

"For thou hast girded me with strength to battle." These were the words uttered by David (II Sam. 22:40) in his song of Thanksgiving for the deliverance and victories realized over the Philistines at Gob and Gath in four successive battles. In these battles were four mighty giants, who were overcome and slain by servants who accompanied David. Immediately after the battles were over, David breaks forth into a song of praise and thanksgiving lauding the Lord God of Israel, who had girded them with strength to battle and made them to be more than conquerors. The text emphasizes the thought of battle, of the warrior and his source of strength.

In the first place, we, who have been redeemed by His precious blood, and called of God to service, are as soldiers of the Cross placed in a battlefield. We believe that he who said, "God has not placed us in a flower-garden, but a battle-field," spoke truthfully. Upon this battle-field, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places (R.V.), and all the wiles of the devil. All of these are allied together for the defense of their private property—Sin.

Upon this battle-field are many mighty giants under Satan's leadership, contesting for the souls of men, and the destruction of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we find ourselves in the midst of a mighty conflict, where the battle rages night and day, and one where the soldiers of the cross of Jesus must triumph, and they will if faithful for He girdeth us with strength to battle.

This girding with strength is two-fold, for it is inward and outward, and is the special work of the Lord, for HE girdeth us with strength. Strength is what we all need. Joshua was commanded to "be strong and of good courage," and in various other parts of the scriptures we are exhorted to be strong, but the right kind of strength is imperative. Physical strength is necessary and must be kept at its best if we would do good service, but spiritual victory is not dependent on physical strength always. Intellectual strength also has its place and must be brought into action. Besides these we might mention moral strength, and finan-

cial strength, all of which have their place and are necessary, but God has special strength for His people in the great battle for souls.

Jesus, just before His ascension, gave the command recorded in Luke 24:49, "tarry ye in Jerusalem till ye be endued with power from on high." This endowment with power from on high is the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire, emphasized by John the Baptist, and experienced by the one-hundred-twenty in the upper room at Jerusalem.

There is no intention here to ignore the strength received in regeneration which is the beginning of spiritual life and strength, but which is mightily re-enforced by the baptism with the Holy Spirit which removes the giant of carnality from the life with all of his troops, that we may not be hindered in pressing the battle to the gates. Paul in his prayer for the Ephesians prayed "That He would grant you according to His riches in glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man."

Brothers and sisters, is not this the strength we need? To be sure, it is the strength of God, the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. With this concrete foundation laid firmly in our very being, we are thus far prepared to battle, not in our own strength, but under the mighty girdings and anointings of the Holy Ghost within us — "ye being strengthened with might, by His Spirit in the inner man."

We are also girded with the strength of God's love and holy joy. If the devil could get us to going about as though the cross were an irksome duty, he will have won his point, but perfect love and holy joy are winners constantly.

Another means of strength is faith. Our faith must rest in Him, for the battle is not ours but God's, and the weapons of warfare are not carnal but mighty to pull down Satan's strongholds. So faith in God becomes our leverage as well as our anchorage. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, and the Red Sea was parted, the violence of fire was quenched, the dead raised, devils cast out, and lepers cleansed. Have faith in God, for it is a mighty weapon in warfare. The most strategic point of action upon the battle field is the closet of prayer. "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." This is the crying need of the church today and we are suffering beyond measure from it. Let us give our-

selves to prayer, much prayer, days of prayer, nights of prayer, intercessory prayer, prevailing prayer. If we would see the salvation of God, and the object of our efforts, the salvation of lost souls coming to pass, we must pray the prayer of faith. The amount of praying we do determines largely the extent of our faith. The more we pray the more we will be girded with strength to battle. Prayer is the great recuperating station, as well as the pivotal point of action. "Pray without ceasing."

Another vital means of strength is a thorough knowledge of God's word. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We need a working knowledge of the Bible. Without it we are handicapped, and in danger of defeat. Jesus used scripture to defeat Satan when tempted by him in the wilderness. How much more we need it. In the next place this knowledge is imperative if we reach the highest degree of spiritual life. "These words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and life." "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The Lord bless us all in "searching the scriptures."

In conclusion, as we enter into the New Year, may it be with a consciousness of our utter helplessness to "fight the good fight of faith," except He gird us with strength to battle.

CRITICISM.

By E. H. PARISHO, B. S.
President Greenleaf Seminary.
(Concluded from last month)

Object of Criticism.

The object of criticism is to bring out the original ideas of the writer. The autograph copies of the books of the Bible do not exist at the present day, but in most cases there were more than one copy. Each differs from all the others, so that they ought to be studied by our best scholars and as nearly as possible bring to us the meaning of the author. The task of the critic is more fully understood when we remember that our Bible is but a translation from a dead language, the very spirit of which is not fully understood. Its idioms, its recently coined words, the number of hands through which it has passed, the alterations, eliminations, and additions, have

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SOCIETY NEWS

STAR.

Our services have been quite well attended in spite of the cold weather.

There is quite a bit of sickness in the community. Winston and Josephine Roberts have had the scarlet fever.

The McKibbon family is just over a siege of the mumps.

It has been decided to hold prayer meetings in the various homes for a time on account of the scarcity of coal.

We have a new member for our cradle roll in the person of Elsie Lorene, who recently arrived at the home of John and Agnes Davis.

Plans are under way for a program Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Lina Pickard and Dr. Mary Hunter left early in December for Los Angeles, California.

Our Thanksgiving service proved a success in every way. The church was well filled for the service. Rev. Thomas, pastor of the Christian Church and our pastor, Rev. Laura Townsend spoke.

There has been some good natured rivalry between the men, women and Endeavorers during the Every Member Enrollment Period. The first program was given by the women of the church. December 14th the Endeavorers gave the program and December 21, the men gave us something to think about along the line of missions. About \$175 was collected, part of this being money already pledged and a part new subscriptions.

Our quota of the Y. M. mission money is now over-subscribed.

Our Endeavorers are exceedingly glad for the visit of our Y. M. C. E. superintendent, Chester Hadley, and wife. We hope he won't stay away so long next time.

MARION.

Henry Loretz and family have moved to Independence, Oregon, and we surely miss them, especially Lenora, for she was such a big help in our C. E.

Our meetings have been hindered a great deal by the scarlet fever scare, but we hope that is all over now, and we will begin to have our regular members with us again.

The pastor and his wife, (Blaine and Nellie Bronner) were very pleasantly surprised on Thanksgiving night by a donation shower given by the members and a few that were not members.

Mrs. George McNeal has been sick for about a week with the grippe. We hope will soon be able to be out again.

ion was very much favored on

Quarterly Meeting Sunday by having with us on Sunday morning Clyde Thomas, and in the evening L. Clarkson Hinshaw. Not having either of the meetings announced until that morning we were afraid that we would have very small crowds for outside speakers and we did have a small crowd on Sunday morning but we were agreeably surprised when we came into the church about seven-thirty p. m. to find a good crowd there and before the meeting started there were over a hundred present.

Mary Thomas, our organist, is going to leave us for a month or so and go to Jefferson to help take care of baby twins. We will surely miss her, but we are glad she isn't going farther away.

The Marion people who had potatoes to sell are in hard luck for practically all of the potatoes froze during the awfully cold spell. Some of the people lost as high as 250 sacks. Those of us who lost the few that we had stored up for winter thought we were "pretty bad off."

The Bronners are moving again and will live about a half mile east of the Friends church.

QUILCENE.

May we make an appeal? In all three of our points, Quilcene, Leland and Brinnon there are grand openings for Christian work. We are fearfully handicapped for Christian workers. In many cases the soil is virgin, that is to say the people are not gospel hardened, but they have not enjoyed opportunities common to almost every other meeting in Oregon Yearly Meeting. Is God talking to your heart about moving somewhere? Will you let Him talk to you about one of these places? Climate and natural advantages cannot be excelled anywhere we think, scenery and surroundings are idyllic, opportunities for investment or for work are good, especially in small farming, logging or fishing. Roads are excellent. Both salt and fresh water fishing and all kinds of hunting are to be had on all sides; this is northwestern Washington's Holiday Land. A beautiful ten-acre home with excellent house, wind mill, water laid on, hot and cold, garage, machine shop and outhouses galore can be had within a couple of hundred feet of the main state highway for only \$2,000. There are many such opportunities. There are some openings for business men—a shoe repairer for instance, rooming house, restaurant, etc. Best of all, young people of but average ability who are not being used around some of our big meetings because of the presence of plenty of people above the average, would prove a God-send in any of these points. What we want is Spirit-filled, God-sent, humble willing Christian families, whose greatest service per-

haps would lie in raising the average tone of family and personal living. Is God talking to you? If so, write our pastor, J. Sanger Fox, at Quilcene, Wash.

REX.

December 9th and 10th Rex was visited with a heavy snow fall. The highway between here and Portland could not be used for over a week on account of so many big snow drifts, unusual indeed for this part of the country.

On the morning of December 10th, Nate L. Wiley found the snow drifted above the top of his chicken house door. When he had shoveled his way in he was surprised to find one B. P. Bidy, without sufficient clothing for such a winter, frozen stiff.

The young people have had a great deal of enjoyment coasting down the long hill by the church and parsonage.

December 15th, after school, about 25 of the third and fourth year Pacific Academy students got sleighs and came to Rex, enjoying a brief hour around the fire-place at the Wiley home while refreshments consisting of weenies, buns, pickles, hot chocolate, apples and popcorn were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Asa B. Butler have purchased a new piano.

A short Christmas program was given Sunday evening, December 21st, by the Sunday School, and a liberal offering taken to help the children in Bible lands.

We wish all readers of "A Friendly Endeavor" a very happy New Year.

ROSEDALE.

At our Christmas entertainment, an offering was taken for the suffering Armenians amounting to near \$22.00. Also a donation consisting of canned fruit was sent to the Albertina Kerr Baby Home at Portland.

Our young people are all at home from college enjoying the Christmas holidays.

Jay Gardner and family are spending the Christmas week-end with relatives in Portland.

Mrs. Nellie Cook, from Piedmont, has been visiting at the parsonage for two weeks.

Mr. William Cammack and family are spending their furlough with the Ralph Cammack family. Mr. and Mrs. Cammack have spent twelve years as missionaries in British East Africa, where their three children, Seymour, Jane and William were born. We have been privileged to hear some account of their work which was made doubly interesting by exhibition of a wonderful collection of baskets, skins, ivory, beads, jewelry and other curios. Mr. Cammack will preach for us the evening of December 28th.

Plans are being made for a new church at Rosedale. Considerable money has been subscribed, and we were just ready to begin work on the basement when the cold snap came. But we hope to resume our work in the near future.

Cecil Pearson who went to France in the reconstruction work, is expecting to spend his vacation in Rome. Floyd Bates who was with him, expects to start home January 1st.

Virgil Snow visited us Sunday evening.

SCOTTS MILLS.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Taylor arrived home from their visit to Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa. They report a very enjoyable trip although saddened by the passing from this life of Mr. Taylor's father. They arrived at Salem, Iowa, in time for the funeral. His was a victorious life and a peaceful death. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

A good service was held on Thanksgiving Day. An offering was taken to pay return fare of Agnes Glenn to Japan amounting to \$261.00. Our C. E. has been supporting a Bible woman in connection with Miss Glenn's work for several years.

Our church has purchased the C. A. Adleman property for a parsonage which is being occupied by our pastor and wife.

Our meeting is increasing in interest and attendance. We are thankful indeed that our Father has sent to us Brother and Sister Sims.

Our Sunday School is preparing a missionary program to be given Christmas eve. An offering will be taken for Central America.

The C. E. business meeting was held at J. E. Coulson's on the evening of December 19th. The election of officers for the coming six months was the principal business of the evening. The election being as follows: President, J. W. Magee; vice-president, Edith Kellogg; secretary, Lila Brouger; treasurer, David Delano; reporter, George Kellogg. One associate and two active members were received at this time.

FIRST CHURCH PORTLAND.

The New Years' meeting of the C. E. is to be led by Mrs. Audrey Swanson. An interesting program is being prepared, one of the features being a debate. Resolved: That our C. E. does not need to be improved upon during the coming year. This promises to be interesting.

Howard Pearson, the last of our boys to return from reconstruction work in France, surprised us all by coming home December 20th.

The first wedding to be solemnized in the new church building was that of Miss Marie Hall and Mr. Ward Haines, on Thursday, November 27, Rev. Homer L. Cox officiating. The church was tastefully decorated in green and white. Mrs. Alice Hanson sang, "When Song is Sweet," preceding the ceremony. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Julia Hall. Mr. Dean Smith a cousin of the groom, acted as best man. After the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents. Mrs. Haines is president of our society, and we as young people, follow this couple with our best wishes for a long, happy and useful life together.

On Sunday morning, December 28, our former pastor, Lindley A. Wells, had charge of the service. He gave us a soul-stirring message on the faithfulness which every true follower of Christ should have. Mr. Wells has been engaged in the evangelistic field with headquarters at Wichita, Kansas. He expects to take the pastorate at Greenleaf, Idaho, the first of the year.

The Sunday School Christmas program was given at the church Christmas Eve. Rev. Morris gave a stereopticon lecture on Armenia, which was very vivid in portraying the need there. About \$225 was raised for these sufferers.

The Quarterly Meeting, December 5, 6, 7, was held in the First Church. The sessions were helpful and full of the Holy Spirit. On Friday evening a reception was held for L. Clarkson Hinshaw, our new Yearly Meeting Superintendent. The reception was held in the Endeavor room and was attended by nearly 300 people. Rev. Hinshaw gave wonderful messages at different sessions, and was well received. We feel that he and Mrs. Hinshaw have already won a place in our hearts.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, a charming young lady came to make her home at the parsonage. Her name is Catherine Marcile Cox and she weighs around eight pounds.

SECOND FRIENDS, PORTLAND.

We are so glad to have Martha Isler with us again, after her absence of several months back in the state of Wisconsin on the account of her father's sickness. She reports that she is glad to get back among her friends again.

Theodora Dunbar, who is attending school at Pacific College, spent her Christmas vacation at home with her folks. We are glad that she came home in time to help out in our Christmas programme.

Harry Tamplin has just recently returned from France. He reports a great work being done over there by the Friends.

On Friday evening, December 26th, a public reception was given in the church

to Harry Tamplin and Martha Isler, who have been absent for some time. However, this reception to these was used partly to camouflage the real purpose of the gathering, which was the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. Allen Dunbar. A short program was rendered in which Harry Tamplin and Matha Isler gave a short account of their trips. Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar were presented with a gift of silverware and went through the old Quaker form of ceremony.

We are glad of the increased interest that is being shown in the Young Peoples' prayer band. As a result of these prayer meetings, several souls have been reached.

SOUTH SALEM.

The Christmas season being so all-engaging, the little Friendly Endeavor was almost forgotten.

Our regular business meeting was held December 13th, at the home of Ross Miles. Games, pop-corn and apples were enjoyed about the fire-place.

Our society joined with the other Endeavorers of the city to provide some Christmas "eats" for the poor of the city. Potatoes, apples, canned fruit and other staple articles were collected.

We trust that the Christmas spirit has pervaded in all our hearts, and a truer appreciation of God's unspeakable Gift given voice in thanks unto Him.

We wish you all a blessed New Year.

SPRINGBROOK.

Carl F. Miller, our pastor, expects to leave here Christmas evening for Indiana. He has been called on business relating to the Five Years' Meeting.

Springbrook is slowly coming back to normal after the shock of being snowed under and then freezing. Several people have lost fruit as a result of the cold. However, the sleighing is fine.

We expect to have a revival meeting here soon, and we hope that you will remember us in prayer.

HIGHLAND.

We were inspired and helped by the message of Mr. Shafer, of Kansas, given the evening of December 7th on the subject of "Spiritual Blessings." The meeting of the morning of November 30th was also one of marked spiritual blessing. It was led by Mrs. Lee. These times of rich refreshing directly from the hand of the Lord feed our souls and make us feel our dependence on Him.

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NEW YEAR.

"There is nothing so new as time! Every fresh day is absolutely unique. It comes unexampled, unspoiled, original, out of the treasure-house of Time. He brings from that storeroom, not things new and old, like the householder of the Bible, but only things brand-new. No two days are alike. The sun never rises twice in the same way. There are always variations in the weather. You never feel the same two days in succession. The greetings of friends are different. Your tasks, however monotonous, always come upon you from a slightly different angle. There are incessant little changes all through the most humdrum series of days.

"Homer, in his great poems, lingers lovingly over a laundry scene, and exults in 'garments for a change.' He must have appreciated the kindness done men and women by Father Time in washing out our lives for us every night, washing and ironing them, and laying them by our bedsides clean and shining for us to array ourselves exultantly every morning.

"There are souls so mean and degraded that in spite of this gracious attention they hunt around in the closet, fish out some soiled linen, and deliberately put it on, casting only a sour glance at the fresh clothes waiting for them by the bedside. Heaven forbid that such a soul be mine on any day of the year."—Amos R. Wells.

A SOLILOQUY.

So Nate Wiley found a B. P. Bidy cold and stiff in death over there at Rex. Death is at all times depressing of course, but what is a B. P. Bidy? A Bidy is a hen—but what sort of a hen is a B. P. hen? A Baking-Powder Bidy, a Blue-Print Bidy, a Blackberry Pie Bidy, a Bean-Pole Bidy, a Brown-Pill Bidy, a Bantam-Pullet Bidy, a Best-Pet Bidy, a Beautiful-Pink Bidy—It's making me dizzy—do you suppose by any possible chance it could be a Barred-Plymouth Bidy? Just a plain old Plymouth-Rock hen! Well, well!!

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all added to the difficulties of the task. Yet it must be done.

Many critics have been largely influenced by their reaction against traditionalism. This has led them to fanciful interpretations and a failure to appreciate historical facts. The vast majority of these critics have been influenced by the philosophical writings of Hegel, whose mind was constantly revolving around the "incomplete."

German Rationalism has moulded the religious sentiment of the German nation completely. "Educated reason is the standard of religious truth." In philosophy the German people set Rationalism against "Empiricism," but in religion Rationalism also took its place. The German people had been inoculated by Voltaire in Frederic's day and the plant has grown and brought forth its fruit, as in France, and bitter fruit it was. Professor Bowne says, "a man's life is different when he has full faith in God," and this has surely been proved in both France and Germany. "A rose would smell as sweet under any other name." The result of lack of faith in God is the same no matter what the name under which it goes. Nihilism in Russia, Rationalism in Germany, and Communism in France have meant the destruction of society, loss of human feeling, war, bloodshed, wreck of civilization, no home, no marriage, no church—all swallowed up in the one cataclysm of anarchy. No God, no hope, no Christ. Let us pray God that the immorality in private life which is unchecked in these three countries may never be in America.

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Gladys Scott, one of our former presidents, will spend a part of her Christmas vacation in Des Moines, Iowa, as a delegate to the Student Volunteer Convention held there December 31st to January 4th. The other delegates from the college Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A. are Miss Sutton, of Newberg, and Paul Elliott, of Springbrook. They leave from Portland, Sunday, December 28th.

Hubert Armstrong is spending his Christmas vacation in Salem. Adella has gone to Roseburg to enjoy vacation with her parents. We were pleased to have Mrs. Armstrong with us for a visit even if it had to be a short one.

Byron Kenworthy was a week-end visitor in Highland this past month.

Lillian Frazier, who has been ill of tonsillitis and la grippe, is improving. We will be glad to have her at C. E. again.

Rosedale and Springbrook are not the only ones who are enjoying new hymn books and lively choir practice. Highland is enjoying "Church Hymns and Sacred Songs" very much.

Our Endeavorers are helping with the Christmas program to be given Christmas eve. An interesting exercise is to be presented by the members of the young peoples' classes showing how Christmas is observed by the different nations of the world.

Lois Thompson and Florence Frazier gave a birthday party at the home of the former. Their birthdays being the same day they celebrated together Saturday, December 20th. An enjoyable evening was spent in games and music.

The man who once most wisely said,
"Be sure you're right, then go ahead,"
Might well have added this, to-wit:
"Be sure you're wrong before you quit."

Consecration.

"Willing to receive what Thou sendest,
Willing to lack what Thou withholdest,
Willing to relinquish what Thou takest,
Willing to suffer what Thou inflictest,
Willing to be what Thou requirest,
Willing to do what Thou commandest."

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