

STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 9—Undoubtedly never before has a letter appeared in the Budget from this address. We moved here from Belleville on Aug. 20, 1957. The reason for that we will not discuss at this time.

The writer is a son of the Bish. John B. Renno of Belleville. Had I had the privilege of choosing my parents, birthplace, and date of birth, I must say I would not have changed it.

We do not belong to the Amish church anymore. We are members of the Locust Grove Mennonite Church. In this section of the country there are no other Mennonites, no Amish, and decidedly few christians. It is appalling to attend farm sales, where everywhere you turn, men are using the name of our precious Saviour in vain, cursing and swearing is the common order even in ordinary conversation. Thus affirming the truth of God's word, "Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." Rom. 3: 14. There are however, a few who take Christ seriously and live for him. We attend a small

Brethren in Christ Church, 17 miles to the Northeast.

The country is rolling, with many farms where people once spent long and hard hours clearing the land, making it fit for cultivation, now growing up with weeds and sticks.

Directly Northeast there is no farm land, all mountains, and streams, many coal mines. To the Northwest is the big Red Rock Mountain where the North Mountain Bible Conference is held annually. To the Southwest is fine farming country, nice farms, level land, no stones, 30 miles of it, tobacco can be raised. Eastward over a few mountains is the beautiful Conyngham Valley. Such a network of roads is here, that salesmen who see much country say they never saw such a place—roads, paved and dirt, but mostly in good condition. For instance, we take either one of three roads when we go to church. The longest and smoothest is 20 miles, the shortest and roughest is 17 miles.

We are glad for the appearance of the Budget in the mail. It brings news and views, some interesting, and others vexatious.

We appreciate J. J. Hershberger's articles. How can anyone complain of christianity being in the Budget, saying it ought to be a newspaper, when the Gospel is the best news man ever heard. If he doesn't even like to read it once a week in a secular paper, how can such a one enjoy heaven where the song of the Lamb and his redemptive power will be the theme forever. John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

March 16—A few interesting observations have been made recently.

The old Proverb is, small minds discuss people, average minds discuss things, large minds discuss ideas. By deciding into which of the three categories these observations fall, you may detect the size of my mind.

I went to New Jersey to haul a baler for my neighbor, which he had purchased from his former employee.

This man is retired. He was connected with the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey. He owns a large farm, and is exceedingly rich, but I believe is very unhappy. He had just purchased a new automobile for his wife, and in talking about it to us, he made mention of it as casually as I would if I had bought a new toy for my child. His wife was wearing a pair of riding slacks that cost \$40. She had 20 cats for pets, and two donkeys. They are dissatisfied where they live and are considering purchasing a home in the state of New Mexico. By observing these and other instances of rich people, I've come to the conclusion that the richest people who don't know Christ, personally are the unhappiest. For this reason, they have no hope of ever having it any better in the future. A man who is in debt looks ahead and hopes to get the debt paid off sometime. The working man looks ahead to owning his own home, his own farm, or what have you. But the man who is rich, is getting old, and has everything that money can buy, what has he to look forward to, never anything better than now. Small wonder a rich man recently here in the East pointed a double barrel shotgun to his head and pulled the trigger. He was unhappy, he wanted something money cannot buy, the peace of God!

Anyone who lives without a hope of ever having it any better must be unhappy. Christians, regardless of their present state, can rejoice because they know the future will be very pleasant in eternity.

One man I know, is working, planning and striving to provide for his family so they may have it better than he had. He had no easy way financially, but seems to be happy in this present life, even though he has no hope, to my knowledge, for a happy eternity.

This does not in any way mean that rich people cannot be happy.

There are some who I know of that use riches to help others. Also those who know the Lord are using their riches to spread the Gospel. A life that is lived only with self in mind is also futile and unhappy. If we don't live for the good of others, what purpose is there in living. If we give money for charitable causes with our glory in mind, this also cannot bring the desired results.

I am coming to realize more and more that the Bible has the answer to all our problems regardless of their nature, if we will avail ourselves of the privilege of reading and studying it. Thinking of a man who lived thousands of years ago whose mind also thought of riches and the pleasant things of this life and exclaiming it is all vanity and vexation of Spirit. He concluded thus: "Fear God and keep his commandments" for this is the whole duty of man." Ecc. 12:13

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Mar. 23—A real nice Sunday, today, with temperature in the 40's. Very little plowing has been done yet, however, one farmer plowed four acres already.

Eight-hundred people were snow-bound in a Howard-Johnson restaurant on the Pennsylvania turnpike near Morgantown, Pa., during the last big snow-storm, reported to be the worst in 40 years. 4 feet was reported in the Pocono Mountains. The turnpike was closed east of Harrisburg, also the northeastern extension, which lies from near Philadelphia to Scranton.

Mike Todd is dead, killed in a plane crash. He had a remarkable life. He had his third wife, he was her third husband, they loved each other. At one time he was bankrupt and over a million dollars in debt. He died a millionaire. His wife didn't want him to leave the day he did, but wait till the next day. He was reluctant to leave, and came upstairs six times to kiss her good-bye for a trip from whence he never returned. He was in the moving picture business.

Paul Harvey is a famous news commentator, he speaks on the American Broadcasting network, a nationwide broadcast. And he speaks for 15 minutes. Today, among other things, he spoke about Amish people. And I quote him as well as I can remember it thus—"The Amish are a strange people, they remained like their forefathers. We have changed. They do not use modern methods of farming, and in spite of their ancient methods raise abundant crops. They do not drive to town in automobiles as we do, but in horse and buggies. If we

ask them why they don't use autos, they in return could ask us why we do, however, they are not that impolite. They have no juvenile delinquents, none! None of them are on relief, none!

"Near Wooster, Ohio certain of them refused to send their children to high school, and were put to prison—3 husbands and their wives. They say their religion forbids sending their children to high school. The Wayne Co. law says, 'send them whether it is right or wrong.' The most precious flower in all the world, the flower of freedom of religion, wilted and died in the Wayne Co. courtroom, when they were sentenced to prison. The judge seeking for scripture to defend the verdict said, 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars.' A defendant replied, 'and to God the things which are God's,' to which the judge did not reply."

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

We are having beautiful weather now, but it rains about once a week. Some plowing has been done, but this section of the country is possessed of many wet spots and hard pan underneath, and with all the snow and rain we had, the water has to evaporate for the soil to be dry enough to farm. Also many places are low or shaped like a bowl, and the water has no place to go, therefore it remains wet a long time in that spot. But there are advantages in this type of land. When it's dry, it holds moisture much longer than some places. Also many small stones tend to hold moisture. It is very easy to farm though if it does dry off. No tough limestone spots that refuse to yield to the harrow.

A man near Tunkhannock had a very unusual experience recently. Somewhat like the Bible account of Jonah, although he was not inside of a fish. He was out fishing on Sunday afternoon, with his son, a 15-year-old, also a girl 15 years old. His fishing rod fell into the water and he tried to get it and fell into the raging Susquehanna river, and was taken downstream. The girl also got into the water and tried to save him, but he shouted at her to get back or she'll drown too, which she did. The story ended here a few days ago in the paper, but yesterday it was continued because the man is not dead. They searched the river 11 Sunday nite and all day Monday, but failed to find him. The man floated down the river for 7 miles, he got hold of a log, but he was apparently more dead than alive. He was washed ashore and lay there for hours, but finally got to his feet, wandering aimlessly about, not knowing what he was doing. Very early on Tuesday morning he came to and knocked on a door and asked to be taken home. He thought it was Monday morning. He had clothes on, but no shoes.

He was thoughtful of others when he told the girl to get back, lest she drown, when he thought he would drown. He is 36 years old and the father of 4 children. It is remarkable that his life was spared. It must have been that God saved his life.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

May 11—Over last Sunday, May 4th, we had rain until Thursday evening. In all, a little more than an inch. It is still cool. We had frost on May 9th. It was 28.

I talked with one old resident about planting corn. He laughed and said, "I plant corn when summer comes. If it doesn't come, I don't plant. Around the beginning of June is my time to plant." This seems to be a good corn county. In spite of the dry weather last summer, you see much corn in the cribs yet.

No one seems to be in a hurry around here for anything. They all seem to have lots of time.

Recently I was to the Fairview State Hospital at Waymart, Pa. It is a prison house for the criminally insane. Each state has one of its kind. They have 1,332 patients, 415 employees. They use 29 tons of coal daily on an average, 41 tons in the winter time, 150,000 gallons of water a day, 1,000 loaves of bread. The electric bill for March was \$1,652.60.

I went to visit a prisoner or patient. I'm always impressed when entering a prison, with the doors inside the hall made of iron bars, every window barred, and when you rattle the door the guard comes and you tell him who you wish to see. He rattles the key into the big brass lock and the door swings open and then another set of doors are unlocked. It would be humanly impossible to get out, if they didn't let you.

While sitting there waiting for them to get the man I wanted to see, I was made to think of Hades. (God's prison house for unbelievers.) The difference in this prison is that people can get out, in Hades people only go in.

When you visit, the patient sits on one side of a table and you on the other. The table is closed down to the floor and a board edgewise on top, and a guard sitting at the end to see that you give him nothing.

It doesn't seem like an insane asylum. Everyone seems normal. The patient I visited, the doctor, said, has no conscience. He is very nice to your face but will act the opposite when you are gone. He led a life of crime.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

June 22—Very cool and wet weather prevails. A lot of hay is down, getting soaked. What isn't down is getting hard, and also loses its value. The corn looks yellow, and stands shivering in the breeze. A short while ago we had frost and the coldest morning on record for June. Back in 1891 it was almost as cold.

What's in a name? In bible times people only had one name plus the name of their father for recognition. Now people have last names. Since this part of the country is not so far from the East coast, many Polish and Russian people live here. They have tongue-twisting names. Oftentimes they end with the letters "ski" or "vich". Lozowski is the people's name from whom we bought our farm.

Klomovich is a family we know. He was just ready to enter into the monastery, and be a priest, but due to his intensive study of scripture and the testimony of others, the word of God got into his heart and of course he was born again.

We visited with John Zaginowli one Sunday afternoon. His

mother was there. She came from Poland when she was 18. She cannot talk English too well. She said in Poland there was no room for advancement. You stayed at home. If a man's children married they just lived at home with the girl's parents. The fathers went and got the young men for their daughters. John's wife said her mother either had to take the young man her father brought her or leave home, so she left home and came to America. To them it is a wonderful place, but we take it for granted.

Pizzerusso's are people I bought some hay from. Then there's Grabowski, the junk man and Charnitski, the cattle dealer, as well as Perkoski, whose name I see on the mailbox between here and Shickshinny.

There are many Benscooters around too, but they are not Polish, as well as Savage, Bogart, Yapel, Hayman, Hock, Chapin, Learns, Boston, and many more. There are also quite a few Yoders over on the Berwick side of the mountain.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

June 30—Summer has come officially and practically at about the same time. It's much warmer now and things are really showing a difference.

It was noted with interest a few weeks ago how the scribe from Belleville, Pa. likes to rest his horses and sit down and enjoy nature. I know exactly what you mean. Farming with horses is no mean occupation. However it can become frustrating to look over at your neighbor and see how he does his work easier mechanically.

I used to farm with horses, and enjoyed it too. Tractor farming is easier in a sense, and yet it makes me just as tired to do a day's work with it as it did with horses. Only it's tiring in a different way. You get tired all over not only the legs from walking. But it's nice to sit down and watch nature while the tractor rests. To observe the handiwork of God just the same. The method of farming used cannot bring peace and happiness and satisfaction to the soul. It takes peace with God, plus the Peace of God, before a man really enjoys a purposeful and enjoyable life.

We motored to Belleville, Pa. on June 29th and attended church where we hold membership.

Big Valley looks nice. It's about 10 days further on in the season than this part of Penna.

The wheat is more yellow and barley is ready to cut.

We enjoyed church quite a bit and to make it more enjoyable, we listened to Robert Hartzler, who is a worker at Hope Rescue Mission, of South Bend, Ind., give of his experiences. We are glad for what God is doing through his servants to reach many of humanity's derelicts.

They have Gospel services every night of the year and over 200 people confessed Christ as Saviour in a year's time. They are there to help people physically, socially, economically, and spiritually. It was very inspiring and gave one a spiritual uplift to hear him relate his experiences. May God raise up more men with a vision.

We were surprised several wks. ago by a visit by Crist Peachey and his pastor from Union Co. They live only 40 miles from here, and thru reading the article in the Budget, wanted to see us. Come again.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

July 6—The weather suits us perfectly. After a week of wonderful hay weather, we had over an inch of rain. In looking at the refreshed vegetation one was reminded of the Garden of Eden. It was a little late to make hay but it's better late than rained on.

People here didn't make hay on the 4th of July, but they make hay on Sunday if they can. Of course, unbelievers need no more keep Sunday to please God than they should partake of Holy Communion. Jesus Christ is mentioned here much more than in a community where they are predominately christians. But he is only mentioned reproachfully, which to me is very repulsive.

There are still old fashioned people around. One man farms with horses, hauls his manure with a high wheeled wagon, and spreads it by hand. When my tractor wasn't working, he said he wants to lend me his black horse till I get it fixed.

Another heaps his hay and pitches it by hand. However, he does use a tractor to pull the wagon.

According to modern science, this earth is coming to an end fast. So says Billy Graham. Also

Russia is contemplating melting much of their country's ice by spreading black dust over it, and thus draw heat from the sun. If this can be done, and science says it can, it will raise the ocean level 33 feet. This would flood nearly all seaports. And the forces of nature are also behaving strangely.

Did you know that only three percent of the world's population is really Christian?

And that one-half of the population never heard the name of Jesus once?

And that 83 persons die every minute without being saved from sin?

These are statistics given by people who deal in facts.

The North Mountain Bible Conference has opened July 3rd. It is 7 miles northwest from our place. People from far and near attend for a week of two of vacation. It will last for 7 weeks.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

July 21st—Wonderful growing weather. It rained almost every day, a little. It would have been nice if we would have had half of this rain last summer.

We have been keeping 30 head of cattle on 1½ acres of ground almost all summer, and when it rains so much, it gets sloppy where they eat, as I chop and haul in the pasture to the cows. My farm is all in contour strips of 90 feet width and it would be hard to pasture it. There are also about 20 acres in permanent pasture, but that isn't much good except in the spring. The former owner had it for 15 years and said he never put any manure on some of the pasture.

We are enjoying the Bible Conference at Red Rock. Some very gifted men of God teach the Word. Ralph Neighbor was there the first week in July. No doubt some of you have some of the books he has written. He speaks very fluently.

This past week, Walter Main of Scotland was there, also Homer Hammondree and Paul Beckwith. These two travel together from one Conference and Evangelistic Meeting to another. They were never married and have no home life. Somewhat like the life of Paul the Apostle. They used to go with Billy Sunday and Mel Trotter. No doubt many of you remember those two men of God.

The trouble in the Middle East seems to look rather serious at times, as though it may erupt into a global war. Iraq is the place where the Garden of Eden is supposed to have been, and according to prophecy will be the place of the last great battle, the battle of Armageddon.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

They say in the good old days people lived simple lives, very different from our modern age. But did they? To harvest wheat, they cradled it, tied it in bundles, and shocked it. After letting it sit for about a week, it was hauled in the barn and mowed, then pitched out and flailed or tramped out, then the straw raked off, and the wheat and chaff thrown into the air to clean the wheat. All this was hard work and took much time. Now through modern science, on Friday afternoon we started on ten acres and finished it, and until Saturday evening all was away and done, with most of the straw in the barn. Which is the more simple? In ten hours we can do as much or more than they did in ten days.

A man once told me all the new inventions are of the evil one. As he employed a chain saw to cut wood, I asked him if that was also evil. He thought it was. The Bible says, Abstain from all appearance of evil.

A Dr. Steele was speaker at the Bible Conference this week. He is associated with African Missions. A few of the things he said were, that there are more conversions there among the Islam religion in the last 4 years, than there were in the last 35 years. For no other reason than the more prayers of God's people here in America.

Centuries back, Africa was well populated with strong Bible believing churches. At least 500 bishops are known of. Now it is practically pagan — Mohammedism. If anyone there accepts Christ, he accepts a death sentence. Mohammedism is militant. It says, believe or die.

Dr. Steele also said no church has a right to exist if it isn't a missionary church. Any church is a missionary church, or a mission field. It is a movement or a monument, beautiful to look at, but utterly useless, (and as some monuments are, full of dead men's bones).

I took an old man along one evening. He very willingly speaks Bible, and reads it a lot, but he doesn't believe in hell. He told me missionary work is utterly useless—the heathen will not be lost. He attends no church, and is critical of any gospel preacher. He says we do not possess eternal life here and now. We get it only after death, so no one knows whether he is saved.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 10 — Wars and rumors about fighting is the order of the day. Beside the Middle East situation, it's growing tense in Formosa, and another Island which the U. S. is supposed to protect.

Kruschev made a speech today declaring Russia will wipe out the United States and Britain if—! Soviet foreign Minister Gromicko arrived in New York today and a special police force was taken to the airport to protect him and while they were gone a jewelry store was robbed of over One Hundred Thousand dollars worth of jewelry.

Practically all the news we hear is bad news. And while the atomic war clouds hang over our heads, it is wonderful to be led beside the still waters and say, "To be absent from the body, is but to be present with the Lord."

To those who wish to know exactly where we live, it is 5 miles northeast of Stillwater. If you have a road map and find New Columbus, we live two-tenths of a mile from it, or as we used to say, "a couple of rooster steps."

Today we were in Buffalo Valley, at the Mennonite church.

They have a nice sized congregation. Banks Weaver from Juniata Co. preached the sermon.

We were at his son John's for dinner, and then on to Chriss Peachey's, who was at our place once and invited us up to church and to their place for dinner but just the Sunday we came he was not at church.

Chriss and Mast Stoltzfuses and we all went to see Alvin Wengards in the afternoon. They are natives of Big Valley.

I wish to serve notice to the writer from Buffalo Valley, you should specifically name your post office. You may get mail addressed to you and since Buffalo Valley is not a post office you would probably not get it.

It is challenging to think of how many people read articles written in the Budget. It is almost frightening and creates a responsibility. John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 17—Well, another week has rolled around, and it's time for another four cents worth. I have already received a 2c postal card worth more to me than \$2000 could ever have been. A word of encouragement from a Bro. in the Lord is of inestimable value.

Also a quiet Sunday evening at home, out under the maple trees fellowshiping with your life companion and children is worth more than a good gospel meeting. I do not in any way infer that a good gospel meeting is worthless, far from it. There are those who stay at home too much. It gets lonesome and has a tendency to make one irritable. And there are those who go away too much, bringing the same results. The Apostles admonition is appropriate, "Be temperate in all things", also "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Freedom of religion, and freedom of worship is a gift of God. There is that in man that cannot be controlled by man. No man can tell another how he may worship his creator.

We took another little stroll today and visited with the new church that has started in Big Valley. We were invited because Harry Wenger and his father, Frank, were there from Kansas.

This is a group of people that felt they could not worship along with the Old Order Amish, hence banded together, and one of them bought an old school house, and remodeled it into a gospel meeting house. And the Church of God in Christ Mennonites, known as "Holdermans" were the choice of these people to work with, and were invited to hold meetings, etc. They are now affiliated with them.

They now hold meeting every Sunday morning and evening with prayer services on Friday evening. Perhaps some say this should never have happened, but human beings, being constituted as they are, what else was there to do. It is known as a big "jump" from Amish to Mennonite, and many don't wish to take it. Hence a smaller "jump."

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 8—We attended the Crusade for Christ campaign in the Big Valley section. We were there for 3 meetings. Myron Augsburg brought good messages. He is a good speaker, talks fast, and is well educated. Being there only a few times, a full and true evaluation cannot be made, but I do wonder if it isn't just another Crusade that comes and goes, like Jeremiah said, and we are not saved. People get so used to hearing the gospel they take it for granted, and as the parents of Jesus did when visiting Jerusalem, "supposed him to be in their midst." The evangelist can not bring revival. It is when God's people take God's word at face value and act accordingly that things happen God's way.

The writer from Gap, Pa., insinuated that the Stillwater scribe is a disobedient child. How long is one a child? Under the law of Moses, at 18 he was considered a man, I believe, and I am almost twice that age. Jesus said, a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. When the Bible says "children" it means those who are under their parental roof and are provided for by their parents. When it says thou shalt honour father and mother, no one is excluded. Question: Are honor and obey the same?

I am happy to answer the question asked by the Belleville scribe on I John 5:13.

That verse means what it says. He wrote the epistle so we would

know we have eternal life. 40 times in that little epistle he talks of positive knowledge. A few verses further he says, "He who believes has the witness in himself." May we therefore conclude that he who does not have the witness in himself does not believe in Jesus Christ.

Cool weather, down to 33 one morning. Since the moon will not be full for a while, we probably won't have a frost right away. It was down to 40 one morning

and a neighbor, an elderly man, was out mowing weeds with a tractor without a shirt or hat on. I thought it was cool with two shirts on. John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 14—It is rather inconvenient if the Budget does not come on Saturday, and it hasn't the past while. Perhaps since letters and postal cards received a postage boost, more attention is given them. The inconvenient part is, you can't read your article before you write another one, and the Budget seems to lose half its value if you can't read it on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Today at sundown marks the beginning of a new year for the Jews. According to their calendar it will be over 200 years yet before 6,000 years since their deliverance from Egypt have expired. I've heard three Rabbi's discuss what has been accomplished in the last year and what is their desire for the new year. They represented the Conservative, Orthodox, and Reformed Jews. They agreed that the past year has been very unusual in that people are perplexed, and distressed, not knowing what will happen next.

It caused me to think of the words of the Lord Jesus, who

prophesied, such conditions just before his return. These Jews plan for the new year was for peaceful co-existence, men leaving each other alone, and getting better morally and spiritually.

I heard this on the American broadcasting network, & appreciated the fact that our government gives the Jews such liberty, as it does, to everyone as far as that is concerned.

We farm land that belongs to a Jew. He seems to be easy to get along with and has a good reputation at the bank. He also requested that I put some Gospel signs on his barn. It is along the main highway. I wondered why, but gladly did it. He once told me, the only difference between my religion and his, is that I believe Jesus was here, and he is still looking for him.

On the above mentioned network, Dr. Bob Pierce stated that there were one - half million christians on the island of Formosa. We should pray for them as they are living in a powder keg which could explode anytime. Dr. Pierce spoke from Holland, in the city of Dortrecht, where 1300 local pastors were engaged in a conference. He spoke by telephone. This is where the Amish and Mennonite confession of faith was born.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 28—Very wet weather at present, quite a contrast to last fall. The hurricanes that are raging, in all possibility bring more rain.

Visitors at our house were Pre. Harry Wenger, and a Preacher Haynes, and another man whom they called Recks, with my brother Eli. They were engaged in a series of meetings at the new church that started in Big Valley. Have not heard of any results as yet.

The above mentioned Mr. Recks was a former Army Intelligence officer. He stated that the weapons used in World War II were like bean shooters compared to present-day weapons. Then he said we could see our enemies, we fought with guns, and knives and bayonets, we even got after them with rolling pins once when they came into the house. (Pretty much similar to Shamgar when he killed 600 Philistines with a straight stick, or ox goad.—Judges 3:31) But now he said you cannot see your enemy. He may be 2,000 miles away and push a button, and a guided missile will bring certain destruction. This man was in Hiroshima and saw the unbelievable destruction wrought there.

Chester Hartzlers also stopped in and visited a little while one day. They are from Belleville.

Two local churches were busily engaged in distributing miniature bibles at the Bloomsburg fair. These bibles contain well chosen scripture verses. They are 3x3 with 24 pages each.

I was privileged to help in this ministry. We gave 20,000 copies, and I believe everyone who participated received a great blessing, as well as those who received and believed the verses. God promises us that his word shall not return void but accomplish that which He desires.

On Friday there were 30,000 people at the fair; plus many more who didn't buy tickets. After 9:00 p.m. they opened the gates and it was free. I don't know how long the crowd lasted but we left around 10 o'clock and they were there so thick it was hard to walk. Multitudes, multitudes, of pleasure-seeking people! How many were there who had found real pleasure and satisfaction in knowing the Lord Jesus?

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 5—Scientists have a new headache. It has to do with the moon. They do not believe what the Bible says, about where life came from etc. They try to reason things out, and the theory of evolution has resulted. Scientists warn the army to be careful how they shoot rockets to the moon. They think perhaps life started on the moon and if it is contaminated with explosions, or things from the earth, it might destroy a lot, or all, of the valuable evidence.

May I suggest they meet him, who created the moon, and all things, and the millions of dollars wasted on research of this kind, can be put to better use.

Human nature is an interesting study. Basically it is the same the world over. It has never changed since the fall of Adam. Therefore God need not change His word.

Human nature is depraved since the fall of Adam. But when an individual accepts the fact that he is a lost sinner, and asks for mercy on the merits of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, something happens. He keeps his nature, and receives a new nature, therefore he has two natures.

I was at an auction and saw two women, one dressed in American fashion, the other dressed colonial style. They were related to the man having the sale. They were working together. Why such a vast difference in appearance? Dress made it. Since they were basically the same why need they dress different? The one sought the favor of God by dress, the other thought it didn't matter.

Human nature goes to the extreme too. Some are known to walk on sharp nails, and torture their body, literally crucifying the flesh the way human nature understands it. Some deprive themselves of modern conveniences. This is a milder form of torture, but with the same thought in mind, to help find God.

Some people in their worship services are very formal, everything must be done the way it always was. Others say it doesn't matter, and they make much noise, loud prayers, etc. Still others say this is irreverent. They are more quiet. Let's remember, God looks at the heart and the heart only.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 13—Well, we almost made it. I mean to the moon. Pretty close to half-ways. The moon is supposed to be 238,000 miles away and the rocket reached around 80,000, but veered off out of its course. Who would have believed 25 years ago that a man-made object could travel 25,000 miles per hour.

One hundred years ago they even scoffed at traveling 50 miles per hour. I suppose man will get to the moon in the not too distant future. What he wants there I don't know. There isn't supposed to be any water or air there, no vegetation. At night it's terribly cold and in the day it's scorching hot, because of a lack of atmosphere.

I have the promise of traveling at a terrific rate of speed thru space. I'm looking forward to it with anticipation. The Lord himself shall descend with a shout, and the voice of the arch-angel—we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

Remember this promise is only for those who are alive by the Spirit of God. Those who are dead in trespasses and sins will not experience that.

When Methuselah was born, his father Enoch walked with God. I believe he expected to be taken away at any time, but it didn't happen for 300 years. Even so we, if we expect to be taken without dying, we will walk with God, if we expect it to happen at any moment. I am truly thrilled with the thought of "Traveling up" as the Lynnhaven scribe termed it. I'm not going because I'm good, but because Jesus is good and he gave me his goodness (2 Cor. 5:21). I don't think I'll stop at the moon. Who would want to live there? Let men go there if they want to. I'm not interested.

Pope Pius the twelfth, who was revered and worshipped by thousands, has had to die like any other man. Now where is he? He will doubtless still be worshipped as a saint, but can he help?

The islands of Quemoy and Matsu had no bullets fired for a week now. I hope the cease-fire continues indefinitely. But that cannot be had until the Prince of Peace comes, and then they will beat the swords into plow shares and won't learn war any more. Besides the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters now cover the sea (Isa. 11:9).

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 27—Genuine fall weather, rainy, cool and cloudy. There is not much corn picked yet, as it was slow in ripening.

We enjoy reading the articles from Arizona by Tom Byler, Jr., and yesterday we did what he would like to do—we were to Big Valley and saw many old friends. We attended communion services at Locust Grove. We spoke with Tom Byler, Sr. It's always an encouragement to my heart to speak to an old man like that, who has known the Lord, and has been faithful to Him for many years. He said his son Tom is a good writer, and can write nice long letters home.

It has been asked in the Budget as to whether there is any scripture prophesying whether man will get to the moon. To my knowledge there is nothing that says whether he will or will not.

In the 40th chapter of Isaiah we read about the greatness of God, how he measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and counted the dust, weighed the mountains in scales, reckons all the nations of the earth as less than nothing, and verse 22 says—"It is he that setteth upon the circle of the earth and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers."

I personally believe that man will get to the moon and beyond. After all the moon is not far away compared with some of the stars, which are one million light years away and are hundreds of times larger than the sun, which is 93 million miles away.

A light year is the distance one could travel going at the speed of light, which is 186,000 miles second, or 143,400,000 miles per hour. And it would take a million years to get to those stars traveling at that speed.

If God could make such a big universe, no wonder all the nations of this earth are less than nothing in His sight. I can't understand how anything could be less than nothing, nevertheless believe it.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 2—October 1958 is gone forever, and what has been accomplished? According to statistics 45,640 people committed suicide, or one person every minute. Just this week, a young woman, 26 years old, and mother of four young children, was found hanging in the shed by her husband when he came home from work. What an awful sight it must have been. They live about 15 miles from our place.

I spoke to a waitress in a restaurant. She said she tried to take her own life 3 times already, but always has been unsuccessful. She said if she could only die, it would end her miserable life. Surely Christ spoke of our time when he said men's hearts shall fail them for, fear, and waiting for those things which shall come to pass.

On the same day I also spoke to a psychopathic person. (I cannot find that word in the dictionary, but that's what the doctor called him.) He does not have a conscience. He is like a certain species of frogs, which turn to the color of anything they sit in. He is very intelligent, above average, very clever. The doctor said such persons are absolutely hopeless. Nothing can be done to help them. This young man is 31. The doctor said he will have visited and spent time in most every prison in the country, until he comes to die.

The noted evangelist, and soul winner, John R. Rice is holding meetings, starting today, Nov. 2, at the Ebenezer Baptist church at Plymouth, 20 miles from here. I have read much of his writings, but have never seen him, but expect to now. He is the man from whom I have received much of my bible instruction. Many of you will not agree with his teachings, but don't overlook the fact that thousands of souls have been saved by his ministry.

If he did not have much to show for his ministry I wouldn't have much confidence in him. Peter and John had the man standing by, and the Sanhedrin couldn't say anything against it. Rice will probably have more men standing by at the Judgment than any of his critics.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 9—My how time does fly. It's time for another article for the Budget. I'm thinking of a man in our community who had a stroke several years ago. He is not old, and has a large family. He can't walk or get around at all—time probably goes slow for him.

Corn picking is almost over, with an abundant crop, and the weather cooperated nicely. Every crop was good this year but our cows are doing poorer than they ever have, and I heard another man speaking something to that effect. Milk is selling for around \$5.00 per cwt., and golden Guernsey milk is \$6.50 per cwt. for 4.5% test.

Eggs are between 40c and 45c per dozen at the farm. Our chickens are doing very well, better than ever, many laying down their lives in service. We lost around 40 or 50 with "blow-outs", and are at a loss to know how to stop it.

Evangelistic meetings are going strong in several places. However, I'm a little skeptical as to their effect. Few people attend, and most of those who do are very complacent and satisfied.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 24th—It's no wonder our chickens lay well. We give them lots of water. On Thursday noon I turned on the water and didn't shut it off until Friday morning, and guess what!

A number of readers responded when I reported in the Budget we were having trouble with "blowouts". We received many different remedies but only one that we hadn't thought of. We say thank you!

We received a phone call telling of the death of Benjamin Byler of Elverson, Pa. He was just ready to move to Florida, and then he died. He was a young man, possibly with lots of plans for the future, but they all ended Wednesday night. We had spoken to him different times and believe he was prepared to die, and now is in a place far more beautiful than Florida.

On Oct. 5th, the Budget contained an article about the right use of modern conveniences. It has been requested that I explain this in the light of Luke 16:15,

which reads—for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Many cannot tell what the first part of this verse says. It is pride and self-justification that is so highly esteemed among men. If it did mean things, then it certainly is wrong to have money, for what is more highly esteemed than money? To love it, is the root of every evil.

It is not so easy to write articles from this section of the country because none of the readers would be interested to know that Mr. and Mrs. Grabowski visited with Mr. and Mrs. Yarnolowicz.

Stillwater is not in Lancaster county, though we received a post card addressed that way. This is Luzerne county, in the northeast part of the state. It is over 100 miles north of Lancaster county. Wilkes-Barre is the county seat. The altitude is not so high, therefore we have longer growing seasons than Somerset-co., which is much further south.

It was reported that a minister called an Army general by phone and asked them to stop sending rockets to the moon on Sunday as it is the Lord's day. The general replied, "There are only two days in a month that are suitable to hit the moon, because it is closer to the earth, and if these come on a Sunday, we'll just have to fire and ask God to forgive us." John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 1 — Winter has come quickly. It was cold so long last spring, and a cool summer. Now it is zero weather before November is gone.

No matter how bad we think the weather is, if you listen to a newscast it's always worse some other place, with much snow and motorists stranded. We did not have much snow. It turned to rain, in spite of the temperature being 28 degrees, with much ice.

For the second time in my life, I have spoken to a person who claimed to be an agnostic, that is, they don't believe in God because He cannot be comprehended by one of our five senses. Both were very well educated, above average in intelligence. The last one was a lady 64 years old. She was an acrobatic teacher. She taught how to dance and do stunts. She claimed she can still stand on her head and do cartwheels, but not so well as she used to. Her father was a medical doctor, and an atheist. She was never taught to go to Sunday School, but demanded that her children go. She said, "Religion is a wonderful thing to cling to at the time of death, I lost 2 children, and my mother, and have nothing to hold on to." But so many denominations all claiming to work for the same end, yet not working together did not make sense to her. I suppose it doesn't make sense with anybody.

The church where we attend has started a house-to-house visitation program. On Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 we go two by two and knock on doors, and ask the people, what is their idea of how to get to heaven. The answers are varied. A few invited us into their house to discuss the matter with them. One evening there were six people who declared they are not saved, they don't know Christ but they would like to know Him and be saved.

What do the readers think about this plan? Should we mind our own business, and let people go on in their sins? Or is it right to be concerned about the need of others? John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 7—Winter is not here officially, but it sure is practically. It seems it's getting colder earlier and more severe every year. And no matter how bad we think it is, there's always some old fellow who says he remembers the time when it was worse. One man said he remembers when it snowed the middle of November and there was much snow and good sledding for 100 days thereafter.

We are not too interested in sledding any more, we do all our transportation with wheels.

In the oldest German hymnal, the Ausbund, is a hymn that I often think of as it says, "The winter time is typical of the law, cold and rough." And also a more modern chorus says "even in winter time it's summertime in my heart."

Of the interesting letters we received, I will pay special attention to one by William B. Martin of R. 5, Wooster, Ohio. He stated that he has no objection to having his name used in the Budget. He is 74 years old

and loves the Lord. I rejoice doubly when I hear or see old people rejoicing in the Lord. And on the other hand I am doubly saddened when I hear old people ready for the grave, take the precious name of the Lord in vain. I think it would be a gracious and enviable position to be old, and in the will of God.

This old brother, who is young in spirit, says he can say, amen to the article in the Budget of Nov. 6 on page six by an Amish minister, presented by Ezra Kanagy. He wonders why this minister refrained from using his name.

While I personally cannot agree doctrinally with every view point of this brother, we agree in this that we both have the same spiritual Father by the new birth.

I am a father of three sons, and I find that they quite often disagree, even to the point of strife, but they are still brothers, the sons of one father. Punishment must oft times be meted out to make them lay their differences down. And here is a lesson for us spiritual brethren.

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 14th — Another year has come and is almost gone. One generation is coming and the one we are in is going. People who were small children not long ago are getting married, and people older than we are one by one passing from the scene. Only a few years ago we were teenagers, then we married and now, lo and behold, we have been married 13 years and it seems like only last year.

One old man told me that old age is pathetic, and it is partly true. When you think back to when you were young you call them the good old days. When responsibilities were few and cares light, life went whirling on. But with advancing age the responsibilities increase and physical abilities decrease.

But let us not live in the past. As Christians, the best is yet ahead. What glory, what rejoicing as we see Him face to face, and tell the story saved by grace!

How could I ever live without this glorious hope? No wonder old people who have rejected Him feel they have nothing to live for and often take their own life.

I will never forget what my uncle Ezra (now deceased) said: "No life on earth, regardless of how miserable it may be, is nearly as bad as being in hell for-

ever. If we believe, we have eternal life now." Not in the future, right now!

John R. Renno

STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 22—We now once again have several million of our dollars whirling around us in the form of what is known as a satellite. It's also quite significant that this man-made object in outer-space should send the same message back to earth as the angels who announced the Saviour's birth. "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

I believe at this time of the year, more sin and debauchery is going on, celebrating the birth of the sinless one than any other time of the year.

Billy Graham said he stood on the street corner in Washington, D.C. and counted 500 people go by and only three that had a smile on their face. People aren't joyful — they're mad, the way they rush about.

Sir Isaac Newton was a christian man who lived 200 years ago. He was also a scientist. He predicted that at the time of the end of the Gentiles, according to Daniel, "many shall run too and fro, knowledge shall be increased and the Lord Jesus would give rapid transportation and intercommunication to the world in order to give rapidly the knowledge of himself, and the good news of the gospel would be spread faster than ever before." He also predicted that men would travel at the speed of 50 miles an hour. Voltaire, who was an athiest, laughed and said the bible makes men fools, if a scientist would believe that by study-

ing it. I doubt if there are many people who read this that haven't traveled at least 50 miles an hr. Voltaire said men couldn't get their breath going at that speed. Now men can travel much faster than bullets.

I believe a preacher like Billy Graham or Theodore Epp can speak to more people in one day than the Apostle Paul spoke to in his entire lifetime. Possibly there are more saved people on this earth now than ever before, but the percentage is smaller, due to the tremendous increase in population.

The state of California is said to increase its population at the rate of 800 people a day, 600 by birth and 400 migrants. But wickedness is certainly on the increase. I rejoice to think that when Jesus comes to reign then there will be peace on earth and no wickedness any more.

John R. Renno