

LIFE of Ruedi Gerber - Habegger, 1906 - 2001

(translated into English from readings at his funeral on October 12/2001)

RUEDI GERBER was born on Giebel/Barau on January 12, 1906, third youngest of 13 children, three of whom had already died at an early age. He grew up on the farm of his parents, where, together with his brothers and sisters, he spent a hard working youth.

Early in life, he was expected to help in the barn and out in the fields which was mostly strenuous work. There was always time to sing; singing was one of his hobbies; just like it was the hobby of his elders and relatives.

During the plague in the year of 1919, his father Ueli died. It was a hard happening, as already in his young years, Ruedi had to take on the responsibilities of his parents farm. He fulfilled these responsibilities to ensure the continuation for generations to come.

His first job after finishing school brought him to the Lettenhof in Lindau in the Zurich area. Later, he was a student at the school of agriculture on the Schwand. He then worked on different farms, one of them at Ziegelried by Schupfen. At this time, he turned his life unto the hands of Lord Jesus, which deeply altered his future.

On March 8, 1929, he married Anna Liechti from Uebersruti near Langnau. She was a loving, hard working life companion for him. She did it all quietly and compassionately. On the same date, Ruedi took on the farm on the Giebel. For these young newlyweds, the coming recession brought on difficult years. They were blessed with 7 offsprings, four daughters and three sons. Besides good times, all of them were expected to help with the many chores on the farm. - Sundays, however, was a day of rest. So many times, Ruedi started this holy day with the song: Today is the day of the Lord. Special moments for him were always when he could go on some mountaintrips together with his four brothers.

At that time, it was customary to have farm help, like milkers, horse-men and house-maids. It was important to Ruedi to maintain a close relationship, which was most evident during harvest time.

A hardship in his way of life was the hospitalization for several months due to a kidney operation in 1954. Many of his dear and close friends were very helpful to him and to his family.

In 1963, he lost his dear wife Anna of 34 years due to a severe illness. This was an especially hard time for Ruedi and his offsprings. The "soul" of the house was no longer present. For this reason, in 1964, he turned the farm over to his two oldest sons, namely Ueli & John.

- In Elisabeth Habegger, the deceased found anew a dear and loyal wife, who stood fully and lovingly at his side. Together, they spent 35 years at the Stockli 'til August 1999. Due to failing health, they moved to the convalescent home in Langnau. Despite the loving care they received, it was extremely difficult for them to get accustomed to the new environment. Their grand-children and great-grand-children were dearly missed.

During his lifetime, Ruedi Gerber took great interest in world affairs, especially for the folks of Israel.- He was well read, loved to write and was very keen. While at the Stockli, he loved to take trips on his beloved mo-ped over the hills of the Emmenthal. During these trips, he loved to converse with the folks along the way.

During the past few months of his life, weaknesses due to his age became more and more noticeable and father became more quiet. He did however enjoy the many visits from relatives and friends of the church. Such meetings always provided important companionship. - Always in good hands due to his beloved and loyal "Lisebeth", and due to the devoted staff at the nursing home, he could say "farewell" while among his closest family members on Monday, October 8, 2001 and go on in peace towards Gods wonderful destiny.

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