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Unto You Is Born A Saviour

by Bert Webb

CHRISTMAS—A WONDERFUL WORD TO young and old! At the thought of it hearts beat faster and eyes sparkle. Christmas is a thrilling season of the year. It means gifts, happiness, festivity, families regathered, friendships renewed. All this and much more is wrapped up in the wonder of Christmas.

So great is the emphasis upon festivity, merriment, and the buying of gifts that one is reminded of a question asked in John 11:56 concerning the Lord Jesus—"What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?" A more literal rendering of this verse is, "What do you think?—will he come to the festival at all?" (Weymouth). There is danger that, in all the busy activities and hilarity of the Christmas celebration, people will forget the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Will He be the honored Guest at your festival this Christmas? Will you make a place for Him?

It is necessary to combine the accounts of Matthew and Luke in order to get the full story of the Birth of Christ. The story of the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, and the birth of the Babe while there, is well known. Luke says that Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." The city was full of visitors, due to the taxation. Accommodations were at a premium. And yet, I suppose that those who had plenty of money were able to get rooms. Those who had prestige were properly entertained. But as for Joseph, Mary, and the newborn Babe, "there was no room for them in the inn." The throng went on with their merriment or slept that night quite oblivious to the fact that the most momentous event of all time was transpiring in that very city. The situation is so typical of what we see today. The careless, busy throng rushes through the

holiday season without stopping to understand the true significance of the birthday of the Saviour of the world. There is no room for Him in all their preparations and pleasures during the Christmas season. Even in the ranks of professing Christians it is so easy, in the hurry and rush of a busy workaday world, to forget the Lord whose birthday we celebrate.

Luke tells us of the humble shepherds who were watching their flocks by night, when suddenly the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

The shepherds hastened into Bethlehem to see for themselves. It was a blessing to them that Jesus was not born in the inn, or in a palace, for then the door would have been shut against the humble shepherds; but He was born outside among the cattle and was lying in a manger where anyone and everyone who sought Him could find Him. Thank God, the Saviour with His pardoning grace still is accessible to all.

Matthew tells us of other men who came to see the holy child Jesus. He calls them "wise men from the east." These Wise Men came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." All must agree that these men, though apparently not Jews themselves, followed a divinely given sign to lead them to Christ. The unpleasantness of leaving home, the hardships of a long journey, the possibility of disappointment

in their search—all these things did not deter them from their purpose. They determined to see the Christ of God, and to worship Him, whatever the cost might be.

Similarly it remains for each of us today to rediscover for ourselves the unspeakable glory of personal fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. The bustling, mercenary, commercialized spirit of the season would hinder. The emphasis on gifts and brightly wrapped packages would overshadow the unspeakable Gift of God. But if we possess the longing and determination that was in the hearts of the Wise Men we will press on through all the turmoil and tinsel to reach Christ Himself and to worship Him in spirit and in truth.


We read of the Wise Men that they saw, they fell down, they gave. They brought gold—tribute to a king. They recognized Him as the King whom God had sent. It is written of Christ that "He shall reign..." Every knee shall bow to Him. All His enemies shall be put under His feet. How appropriate at this Christmas season to acknowledge Christ as King of kings and Lord of all—even of our own lives.

The Wise Men offered frankincense. This is a fragrant gum resin obtained from the bark of a tree, from which men made incense to offer to deity. How beautifully significant that these "wise men from the east" should recognize the fact that Christ is to be worshiped by the people of every land.

The Wise Men worshiped the young Child: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts—gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Not only gold—the symbol of royalty; and frankincense—the symbol of worship; but also myrrh, the symbol of suffering and death. Myrrh is a yellowish-

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The Prince Of Peace Has Come

by Harold Kohl

SOON CHRISTENDOM WILL BE CELEBRATING the birth of the Saviour. In a world of upheaval, many men are still blindly hoping for some super-personality to appear who will relieve or eliminate their present difficulties. Others believe that by man's own efforts the goal of universal amity may be achieved. But for the Spirit-illuminated soul the answer (and the only answer) for the world's increasing-dilemma has already been given. The super-personality has already arrived. The world's Saviour has come!

Hear the angels chanting in chorus as they sound the good news over Judea's rolling pastures and down through the centuries: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Peace! How wonderful and restful is the word. It lightens the heaviest burden, calms the ruffled soul, and forms the softest pillow for slumber. To the world in general today it is but an abstract ideal, but to the heart that believes Christ's words it is a tangible reality—Christ is our Peace.

The world tries to find peace in the strangest ways. It uses force and fear in fierce struggle. God offers peace of heart and mind through love and grace that is manifested in His Son, the Prince of Peace. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

The greatest enmity of all times is enmity against God, placed within the human spirit by Satan through sin. Sin separated man from God. It ranged man

on the side of Satan in his fight against God and holiness. God, the Creator, Father, loved to fellowship with man in sweet communion, but when man sinned God was forced by His righteousness to expel His disobedient creature from His presence. It was an act of divine mercy, for had the maximum penalty for man's crime been exacted it would have been instant physical death and eternal separation from God. But the Creator loved man in spite of his sin and planned a way for reconciliation to be made. The divine plan was to send His Son—His only begotten Son, born of a virgin, born in a stable, "Emmanuel," "God with us"—so that His people might be saved from their sins. Christ forged an eternal bond of peace with God by coming into the world in the likeness of sinful flesh to bear the penalty of man's sin.

The Christmas message is essentially a message of peace. That is made clear by the angel's word to the startled shepherds: "...and on earth peace, good will toward men." The history of man has been stained with repeated outbursts of uncontrollable temper, from Cain's cruel slaying of his brother Abel to the bloody Jewish-Roman wars. The iron hand of oppression was squeezing the souls of an empire of men held in its mighty grip. The conquerors' sleep was broken by the subtle plotting of shrewd seditionists. The world was in a flammable state. The heart of the masses, torn and bleeding, beat heavily with a longing for deliverance. Desolation was nigh.

And then, Peace came into the world. It came in the form of an infant, the Son of God. The hope and peace of a sin-troubled world lay in Him, and all the hopes of our modern strife-torn world still reside in Him. Christ is the Giver of Peace. He gives a peace that the world cannot give nor take away. Hear it, my friend! Believe it. Christ is your peace.

Receive Him and He will give you peace.

*"Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight."*

That little Babe that lay in the manger of Bethlehem was destined to accomplish what neither laws nor morals could do. By His birth, life, death, and resurrection He was to knit together once more a bond of peace and fellowship between God and man. His was a dedicated life and a tremendous task, but how faithfully He fulfilled it. Never once did He deviate from God's purpose. Never once did He falter in the path of duty, from the manger to the cross. Always He kept His mission clearly before Him. Always He was bringing God to man and man to God. In Him, God and man find each other.

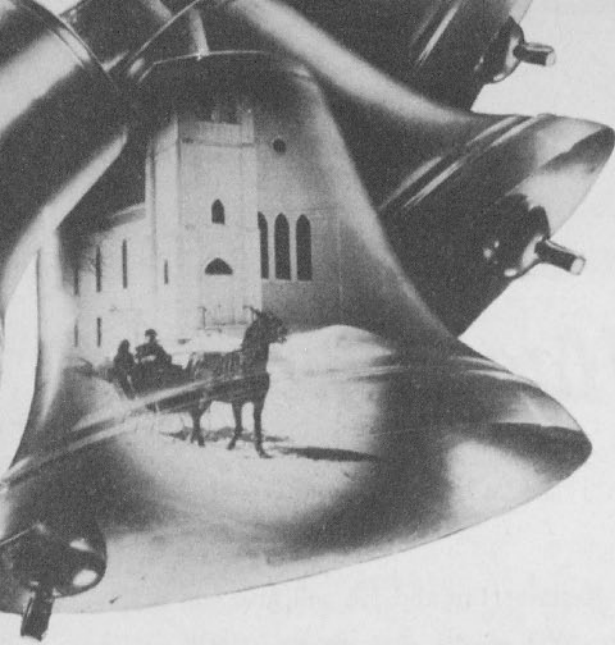
Viewing the wreckage of life wrought by sin, as though some great sea had broken its bounds and engulfed mankind, Christ's heart went out in fullest compassion and He called men to Himself to teach them the way of peace so that they might find rest for their souls. God had been offended and man was afraid, but Christ revealed God's love and merciful forgiveness. Listen to the words of the apostle Paul, in Ephesians 2: "...at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace...."

Among the gracious words that fell from the Master's lips, one of the sweetest was the word "Peace." There was creative power when He pronounced it.

When nature was on a rampage and
(Continued on page eleven)

Harold Kohl gave this message on the Assemblies of God radio broadcast which is called "Introduction to Life." This missionary broadcast goes out to millions of listeners in Southern Asia each week over Radio Ceylon.





Receive Thy King!

Violet Schoonmaker

Pinellas Park Florida

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King!"

DO YOU INTEND TO RECEIVE YOUR King this Christmas? I nearly missed receiving Him last year!

Here at Pinellas Park Home, we received many things—beautiful Christmas cards, kind letters, gifts from loved ones, many parcels from the WMC groups. And we had a delicious Christmas dinner. We enjoyed fellowship in song, praise, worship, and prayer around the Christmas tree. Several times we sang together the words of the grand old hymn, "Joy to the World."

But somehow I failed to receive Him definitely and consciously. I went to my room when the day was over, feeling weary, hoping soon to lose my weariness in sleep. Then I began thinking of "God's inexpressible Gift," and how joyful the whole world should be that the Lord had come—the Lord of creation, the Lord most high, the Lord of lords and King of kings! He Himself actually came in person into this little, insignificant planet of ours—but was the world joyful? Some people were, but thousands at that very hour were seeking pleasure in dance halls, theaters, gambling dens, saloons, and places of vice.

Here was true joy for them if they would receive Him. But He stood outside in the rain, unnoticed, unwanted, unwelcomed. Perhaps, I thought, I hadn't welcomed Him into my own heart as I

should have done. I flung my heart's door open and began to sing, "The Lord is come! The Lord is come!" And I meant it, for He had come to me!

Then I realized how many hearts were closed to Him. Many even of His own children had not "prepared Him room" in the rush of the Christmas season. He stood outside their hearts and outside many a church door knocking for admission. Neither His own people, the Jews, nor the pagan nations of the world were receiving Him. He had come with arms full of gifts for them—beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness, healing balm for broken hearts, deliverance for the captives, and sight for the blind—but they would not receive Him.

A cry went up from my heart, "Let earth receive her King!" America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Islands of the Sea—receive your King! The cry turned into an agony of intercession as the tears rolled down my face, and my whole body trembled with emotion. For hours I was made to feel something of His sorrow in not being received, when it had cost Him so much to come.

When Jesus came to Golgotha,
they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet and made a Calvary;
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds and deep,

The Pentecostal Evangel

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For those were crude and cruel days
and human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to America,
they simply passed Him by;
They never hurt a hair of Him,
they only let Him die.

For men had grown more tender—
they would not give Him pain—
They only passed on down the street
and left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them,
for they know not what they do."
And still it rained the wintry rain
that drenched Him through and through.

The crowds went home and left the
streets without a soul to see
That Jesus crouched against a wall
and cried for Calvary.

—Poem by Stoddard (arranged by V.S.)

Christmas Love

Alice Reynolds Flower

TRUE LOVE IN ITS VARIED RELATIONSHIPS always brings hearts close to each other. And this is what happens at Christmas time in homes, in churches, and even to a certain degree in the practical hard-headed business world. Only love can make a true Christmas anywhere. Where there is no love, there is no real Christmas.

Love starts in the heart of God Himself who so loved the world that He gave His dearest treasure, His only begotten Son, to save us from sin. What that cost Him we shall never fully know until we stand in the glory of His presence with the redeemed of all nations saying, "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

The love was in the heart of God all the time, but it took the giving to reveal the fact to mankind. The measure of it was so great that there had to be an expression, and thus it was that He gave Jesus Christ to the world that first Christmas. Love must ever spend itself thus—it must give—it must overflow. God is Love—Christ is Love Incarnate—and this is why we see His blessings ever raining upon the just and the unjust—sunshine and showers, seedtime and harvest, mercies unnumbered everywhere.

To the extent God fills our lives, to that extent we too know the working of this same wonderful love. And how the world needs love-filled followers of

the Lord Jesus Christ today! With a cheap love counterfeiting the real everywhere we turn; with cold, unresponsive hearts among Christian professors; with heartless materialism evident on every side—oh, may God give us more believers whose hearts are burning with His own great love. Only thus can the work be accomplished that God is counting on His people to perform.

May your heart, stirred with the promptings of great desire and ambition for God, long for and receive a fresh infilling of divine love this Christmas time. Only thus will your service be its best and attain the God-designed fruitfulness. We are branches of the Vine, and consequently we should have within us the same life, the same outgoing passion of sacrificial love to all men, that is in Christ, the Vine. And it is only by our giving, our expressing this love in some form, that the world knows we really possess it.

To all men, did I say? Yes. And there is no hour in history like this present

one to make manifest the truth of this statement. Give your money freely wherever God makes clear, by all means. Give your time in unselfish, devoted service to those who need you. But when money is gone, and time is spent—thank God, you can still pour out your love in prayer, in tender words of understanding concern—on paper and otherwise. It will be easy to give to some from love's store: perhaps they do not need it as much as the less appealing ones who are a bit harder to approach. Include your enemies too—if you have any.

"Love has a hem in its garment,
That touches the very dust;
It can reach the stains
In the streets and lanes;
And because it can, it must.

"It dare not rest on the mountains;
It is bound to come to the vale:
For it cannot find
Its fullness of mind
Till it falls on the lives that fail."

Joseph and the Angel

Arthur Graves

WHEN JOSEPH FINALLY DROPPED OFF to sleep that night, his question was still unanswered and his problem still unsolved. The decision he must make meant a great deal to Joseph, and to Mary it meant even more. They had been very happy in their love for each other. How they had looked forward to making a delightful honeymoon of the journey to Bethlehem for the tax registration. Bethlehem, the city of David, and Jerusalem with its temple and all the other historic places they wanted so much to see. But now—"Joseph was minded to put her away." Everything seemed to be changed now. Why had this happened? Could it be of God?

While Joseph tossed in his sleep that night, Mary lay awake. Never had her faith been tested as when the angel brought the wonderful announcement of God's plan for her life. Could it really be so? Yes, she would not doubt the word of the Lord. Now, however, with Joseph failing to understand, doubts flung their stinging arrows into her quivering soul. The taunting voice whispered again softly, "If this were really of God would not Joseph know it. He doesn't believe you—and without him, can you go through?" Joseph was so good, so just, but here he was almost definitely decided to spoil God's plan. He "was minded to put her away."

He didn't realize what he was doing; he had been very kind and gentle about it—but his mind was almost made up. Mary had said all she could, had explained everything to him—now she could only wait and pray.

Among all the multitudes who looked and prayed for the coming of the Saviour, only a little group was to take part in the fulfillment of God's promise. You could count them on your fingers. There were Zacharias and Elizabeth who, like Mary, were being led of God. The angel of the Lord had appeared to them and, in spite of Zacharias' weak faith, they were both following step by step the divine instructions. The way was open for the coming of the forerunner—it seemed to be closing against the coming of the Saviour. Joseph and Mary, a young man and a young woman; Zacharias and Elizabeth, an old man and an old woman—the plan of the ages was committed to their faith and obedience—and Joseph that night was out of touch, was minded to put Mary away. The others had heard from God, had seen the angel, were following divine guidance. Joseph was making his own decision—and it was the wrong decision. They were in the Spirit—he was in the flesh—and God's plan waited while Joseph "thought on these things."

It seemed that the divine chain was about to be broken at this human link.

"UNTO YOU"

CARRIE JUDD MONTGOMERY

"Unto you is born a Saviour,"
Hear the midnight song of old;
Listen to the angels' chorus,
As they strike their harps of gold:
How the blessed Christmas anthem
Swells and spreads the wide world
o'er,
Till it reaches every mansion,
And each lowly cottage door.

"Unto you is born a Saviour,"
See the Christ Child lying low,
See Him stoop to meet the humblest
In this world of sin and woe;
Not for Him a gilded palace,
Not for Him a bed of ease,
While His people languish dying
Of their fatal sin disease.

"Unto you is born a Saviour,"
Lo, the message comes to all,
Not from pinnacle of glory,
But a lowly stable stall.
What a pulpit for His priesthood!
What a throne for Heaven's King!
Sky-born hosts look on adoring,
And the high Archangels sing.

"Unto you is born a Saviour,"
Oh, receive Him to thy breast!
This the temple of His glory,
Habitation of His rest;
This the home He came and sought
for,
When He left His throne above.
All the recompense He asks thee
Is thy humble, contrite love.

Looking back we can see how human wisdom was failing to harmonize with divine wisdom. Everything in the Gospel story shows that Joseph was trying hard to do right, was going slow in this serious matter, was doing the very best he knew—but that human best was wrong.

He has decided to wait until morning before making the final choice. As he sleeps we are thinking of how much may depend on a single decision. From this distance we do not feel the suspense of that night. The "fulness of time" had come; the prophecies had been on record for centuries; the angel choir was in readiness to burst into triumphant song above the wondering shepherds. Perhaps the first rays of the star had begun to twinkle in the East. Simeon and Anna, those precious old saints, were all prayed up so that they could hear the Spirit whisper, "This is He." One wrong step now by one young man could mar all God's preparations and hinder His will. And that young man went to sleep almost decided to take that wrong step.



Could the work of God be so easily defeated at the hands of a man? "Joseph... was minded to put her away."

Why Joseph was the last of the little group to hear from heaven, we are not told. But how our hearts thrill at the words, "Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream." That was what was needed. Just a word from the Lord and all was clear, all was harmony. The message of the angel explained everything. So different things look with the light shining on them!

As we ponder this incident in the first chapter of Matthew, we realize that God's work is not safe in unguided, human hands. We remember the words of the prophet Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Even that which is really of God can be hindered or destroyed unless what is begun in the Spirit is carried out in the Spirit. Without divine guidance Joseph was headed in a completely wrong direction. The thing which seemed wise to him was, in God's sight, entirely foolish. And Joseph was a just man doing the best he knew.

I do not suppose he understood the importance of the decision he was trying to make that night. We walk by faith, and see so little of God's workings at a time, that only with the perspective which comes afterward do we get the full import of individual steps. But if Joseph did not know, God understood the importance of that decision, and the angel was ready to bring the needed message. "Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him."

To millions of souls in foreign lands, Christmas is just another dreary day—no joy, no peace, no hope. Pray for them.

TWO CAVES

Alice E. Luce

COME WITH ME TO THE HOLY LAND of Palestine and let us visit

THE CAVE OF THE NATIVITY

Many hundreds of years ago an unknown innkeeper in an obscure village six miles south of Jerusalem had an unexpected stroke of good fortune. The Roman emperor ordered a world-wide census of his mighty empire, and a head tax had to be paid by everyone. Unlike modern census-taking, the citizens were not to be counted on a certain night in the places where they resided; instead the members of each tribe of the Jews were required to journey to the ancestral home of that tribe.

So it came about that Mary and Joseph—both descendants of the royal house of Judah—had to take the arduous journey of sixty-five miles to Bethlehem, the city of David. The innkeeper's house (or yard) was filled to overflowing with travelers recently arrived; so for the two travelers from Nazareth who had journeyed more slowly, there was no room in the inn. Thus it came to pass that Mary's child was born that night in a limestone cave just below the inn on the hillside, which was used as a stable. I have been in that hallowed spot, where the Son of God as a newborn babe was cradled in a manger. There the learned monk Jerome in the fourth century A.D. spent thirty years translating the whole Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin. That famous Version is known as the Vulgate.

A Christian church was built over that historic cave, and all through the centuries Bethlehem has been a preponderantly Christian village. From there one can look across the rough valleys and see the place where David in his exile trained his army of followers in the Cave of Adullam; while a little farther north, about three quarters of a mile from Bethlehem's sacred cave, lie the fields where the glad tidings of the Nativity were brought by the angels to poor shepherds watching their flocks by night. In those same fields Ruth the Moabitess once gleaned. On those same hills David as a boy cared for his father's sheep and learned "to sling his stones and sing his psalms."

What is the message of Bethlehem's cave to us? First, it speaks of POVERTY. Here the Lord of the universe came to earth to tabernacle (John 1:14) among men; not in a royal palace, nor in a great official's residence, nor in the halls of learning, but among the poor and de-

spised; yea, even among the humble beasts of the field. This is what *grace* means: love flowing downward, even to the very lowest. "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor."

The cave also speaks to us of PERSECUTION. Not only David, but many of God's saints in all ages, have been forced to take refuge in caves. (Hebrews 11:38).

Thirdly, the cave speaks of POWER. It has been dug out of a rock. It is no easy task to dig a cave. Even so, the human heart is by nature hard, and it takes the mighty power of God's Spirit to make it an abode for Jesus. May each reader this Christmas cry: "Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus; there is room in my heart for Thee."

THE CAVE OF THE SEPULCHRE

Not only at the beginning of the earthly life of Jesus, but also at its close, we find a cave. In the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in that garden a cave hewn out of the rocky hill of Calvary. Joseph, its owner, had dug that cave for his own burial; but he had the high honor of making it the tomb of the Saviour of the world and the scene of His glorious resurrection (Mark 15:46).

When Jesus received the Greeks on the last day of His public ministry, He spoke the solemn words of John 12:24-26, giving us the message of this second cave. He calls us at this Christmas season first to make room in our hearts for Him to be born; and then to follow Him like the "grain of wheat" that fell into the ground to die. A water baptism is a beautiful picture of how we are buried with Him in His death, and raised with Him to live a new life. Oh, that the lessons of these two caves may be truly lived out during the coming year by all, old or young, who read these lines!

There is an intimate relation between Bethlehem and Calvary. Jesus was born to die. He came to give *His life a ransom*. And only as we follow Him in death and new life can we bring forth the "much fruit" of which He spoke to the Greeks. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. As the old Latin proverb put it: DEATH IS THE GATE OF LIFE.

PASSING and PERMANENT

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Christmas Tree Decorations

Last year the American people spent fifty million dollars for Christmas trees and more than ninety million dollars for Christmas tree decorations. This is more money than all the people of America contribute to Foreign Missions in a year.

Christmas Under Communism

It is reported that Communist authorities in Iron Curtain countries are attempting to erase from the minds of the people the religious significance of Christmas. They have eliminated the word "Christmas" from the dictionary, substituting for it "New Year celebrations." The traditional Christmas tree has been replaced by a "New Year's tree." In place of Christmas carols the Communists have taught the children songs extolling the "achievements of our new social system."

Intemperance and Insanity

Church leaders should be deeply concerned over the steady increase in the use of liquor. Mrs. H. F. Powell, treasurer of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, says that close to ten billion dollars a year are spent for various kinds of intoxicating drinks—more than 9,885 millions. This amounts to more than a million dollars an hour for liquor.

Reports of the Public Health Service of the Federal Security Agency of the U. S. on first admissions to state and private hospitals for insane are significant in the light of the increase in liquor consumption. These Government reports show that first admissions due to alcohol psychosis or alcoholism have been increasing until about one in seven cases is due to alcohol.

In Voltaire's Chair

Peter M'Kenzie, the famous Methodist preacher, was being shown through Madame Toussard's Waxworks in London. Coming to one object, his guide said, "This is the chair in which Voltaire sat and wrote his atheistic blasphemies."

"Is that the chair?" said Peter. And then, without asking permission, he stepped over the rope, sat down on the chair, and sang with all his heart:

*"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moon shall wax and wane no more."*

Incidentally, Voltaire thought he had "exploded" the Bible, but today more copies than ever of God's Word are being sold; and Voltaire's house is a depot of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Unique Library

The library of the American Bible Society at its offices in New York City is unique in that it is devoted to a single book. It contains 19,208 copies of Bibles in 979 different languages and dialects.

Navajos to Have New Testament

The Navajo New Testament is now in the hands of the printer. The Navajo language, used by 75,000 Indians in Arizona and New Mexico, is exceptionally difficult, and the recording of it was complicated by several different orthographies; but the American Bible Society is proceeding with the publication work and it will not be long until the Indians have the story of Jesus and the gospel of His grace in their own tongue.

New Roads in Israel

Mount Tabor, generally accepted as the site of the Transfiguration, is now accessible by means of a new six-mile road which twists its way upward to the peak. The road was built recently by the government of Israel.

This is the second road to Bible landmarks which the government has built this year. The first was to Capernaum, near Tiberias. A third such road, leading to the Mount of Beatitudes, will be constructed soon. The new roads will be a boon to tourists.

Jailed for Burning Church

Two Spaniards, one the son of a leading political figure, were sentenced Oct. 27, 1954, to six months and a day in prison and fined 6,000 pesetas (\$150.00) for attacking and burning a Protestant chapel in Seville, Spain, in 1952.

According to the *Associated Press*, this was the first time anyone was ever convicted or even brought to trial in Spain for attacking Protestants.

Prayers on Railroad Menus

Travelers who eat in the dining cars of the Illinois Central Railroad can no longer excuse themselves from giving thanks to God for their food for want of proper words. Prayers for Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews are printed right on the menus.

Unconverted Convicts

It is said that 55% of 167,000 Federal and State prisoners will return to prison inside of five years of their release. In other words, over half of the prisoners will fall into trouble again because their experiences in prison did not give them a change of heart. Only Christ and His gospel can do that for men and women. Are we doing all we can to lead them to Christ?

American TV Criticized

General Wilfred Kitching, world leader of the Salvation Army who recently toured the U. S. and Canada, said on his return to England that he was distressed by American television because it mixed "the most sacred programs with advertisements for all manner of goods."

"By the time you have mixed up motor oil and baking powder with the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm," he asked, "what opportunity is there for the creation of a religious atmosphere?"

Signs of Spiritual Awakening

There are numerous signs to indicate that America is experiencing a spiritual awakening. Dr. E. R. Elson, pastor of the National Presbyterian Church (to which President Eisenhower belongs), has listed these signs as follows:

(1) Mass evangelism. (2) Laymen's movement. (3) Serious college students dedicated to God. (4) Better clergy. (5) Phenomenal sales of Bibles and religious books. (6) More religion on radio and television. (7) Increased church membership. (8) Increased church building. (9) Dedication of national leaders to Christ.

Military Chaplains Needed

Multiple millions of American boys will be drawn into the armed services during the next several years. All of them will have spiritual and moral needs. Brigadier General Frank A. Tobey, Deputy Chief of Army Chaplains, has therefore appealed to gospel preachers to offer their services as reserve chaplains.

"Our chaplain reserve strength must come from volunteers who feel an obligation to provide religious and moral ministrations for the men and women of the army," he says. "I have no doubt that clergymen of all faiths would respond immediately in the event of all-out mobilization. But without previous training, they would not be available for immediate assignment. In such a situation trained reserves would be invaluable."

Hear C. M. Ward on

Revivaltime

Sermon Subject for

December 19

"LOT'S WIFE"

Every Sunday—

10:30 p.m.—ABC

Stony Ground Yields a Harvest

George H. Carmichael
(Recently returned from the Middle East)

THE HASHEMITE JORDAN KINGDOM IS stony ground, literally as well as figuratively. One tourist remarked, "The highlands here look like they have been stoned to death." One often sees a wide hedge of stones gathered from the tiny field it encloses, but the field appears still blanketed with stones. Really, it makes one wonder if the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom does not have more than its share of stones. The Arabs have a legend that when God created the world He had a considerable amount of material left over, so He poured the sand in Arabia and dumped the stones in Palestine.

It is not to be wondered at that Jacob used a stone for a pillow at Bethel, for the countryside was simply bedded with them. David had no difficulty finding five smooth round stones with which to attack Goliath, for the brook Elah abounded in stones. No wonder there are so many references to stones in the Scriptures! When walking over this rocky terrain I have been made to realize the wisdom of God in promising Asher shoes of "iron and brass."

Two factors make the Jordan Kingdom a "stony ground" for missionary work. Perhaps the greatest reason why this field has been unproductive is that this is a Moslem land. Ninety per cent of the population is Mohammedan. From hundreds of minarets comes the Moslem call to prayer five times each day.

As I have meditated on the parable of the sower, I have wondered if the "stony ground" were not figurative of Moslem lands, for Islam is indeed a rock defiant and unyielding. Where Islam rules the harvest is very slim. The gospel seed springs up, but soon withers under the persecution that is the lot of those who accept Christ. The history of sowing in Moslem lands is therefore one of heart-break and disappointment.

Is it not a strange paradox that in this land, where Christ was born, Islam now rules? Our Christian world turns to Bethlehem once a year, while the Moslem world turns five times daily toward Mecca. Here are the sites reminiscent of the life

and ministry of Christ. Here is Calvary, where the cross was lifted high, but all about the spot are thousands in total ignorance of the gospel, without hope and without God.

The second reason for this being "stony ground" is that the Eastern churches, wedded to their ceremonies and traditions, are stone dead spiritually. The priests of these churches, although they represent themselves to be custodians of Christianity, actually are enemies of the Cross, and are a great barrier to the spread of the gospel. They say, "Are we not already members of the Christian community? We were born Christians. Why is there need for a New Birth?" Where there is no interference from the priests there is an eager response to the gospel message.

Our Assemblies of God missionary work in the Holy Land began about twenty-five years ago. Our missionaries sowed faithfully and with tears but the hearts of the people were as hard and unyielding as the ground on which they lived. The results were meager. Now we are beginning to reap the results of their sowing. It is the familiar pattern—one sows, another waters, but God gives the increase. Hard hearts are breaking under the searching and convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

God is giving us a harvest in the Jordan Kingdom, in spite of the opposition of Islam and the apparent indifference of the Orthodox clergy. God is calling out a people for His name from among the people of the Bible lands.

We continue to sow, in absolute assurance that God will not let His Word return void. The ground is still stony and hard; the soil is unfriendly; opposition is still a factor to be reckoned with; but we believe this is God's hour for reaping in the Jordan Kingdom. Time is becoming a precious commodity. The opportunity for reaping may be short.

"The missionary enterprise is not the church's afterthought, but God's forethought."



A view of Bethlehem from the Shepherds' field

MISSIONARY *News Notes*



Kathryn Long has returned from Ceylon. Her present address is: 513 West Walnut St., Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

* * *

Little Claire Christel was born to Mr. and Mrs. Fredolf Sondero in Tokyo, Japan, on October 29. Congratulations!

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Pencovic sailed for Egypt on November 17. They will be ministering in Egypt until they receive their visas to enter Israel.

* * *

David H. Baker and family have returned from Indonesia. Their present address is: 320-D Mission Road, Glendale, California.

* * *

Mrs. Ruth Beckdahl and children have returned from India. They are making their home for the present at Mission Village, Springfield, Missouri.

* * *

C. E. Greenaway and family returned to Dahomey, French West Africa, on November 12 to continue their missionary work there.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Greenaway
French West Africa

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert W. Brown sailed for Indonesia on November 15.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. H. Vosler sailed for Liberia, West Africa, on November 19.

* * *

Word has reached us of the safe arrival of Rosa Reineker in Ceylon. Until further notice her address is: 75 Watarapola Road, Mt. Lavinia, Colombo, Ceylon.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Walker have returned from Cuba and they are now located at 942 South Westlake, Los Angeles, California.

* * *

Rex Jackson is in need of twenty-five S. S. picture rolls for the first quarter of 1954 (not 1955), for use in his work in Africa. These rolls should be sent directly to him at Box 41, Aba, Nigeria, West Africa.

* * *

Henrietta Tieleman of Formosa writes: "The Vignas have just arrived from Hong Kong. We are happy to have them here. The Bible School had a welcome for them last night and we are all rejoicing in the Lord's goodness."

* * *

Adele Flower wrote recently from Venezuela, South America, about an accident in which she and Mrs. Paul Ruth, another one of our missionaries, was injured. They were in a bus traveling to a Sunday School conference one night when two tires blew out as they approached a bridge, breaking the axle and hurling the bus through the cement railing and into the dry river bed below to land on its top. The chassis remained hanging to the bridge and burst into flames. By the light of the flames Adele noticed a hole in the windshield through which she and others crawled out. Some passengers were seriously injured but miraculously none was killed. Mrs. Ruth suffered a broken ankle; Adele is bruised considerably and still is in bed, very weak. Thank God for sparing their lives. Let us remember them in prayer.

IMPORTANT!

Lillian Trasher of Assiut, Egypt will be featured speaker at the Foreign Missions conference held in connection with the six Regional Sunday School Conventions. She will also be speaking at the vesper services held the second evening of each of these Conventions. (See announcements of dates on page fifteen.)

brief chats



WITH
NOEL PERKIN

VICTORY MARCH DAY JANUARY 16th.

It is sometimes strange how God leads and gives direction to His people. You know, we have been much concerned over the shortage in our general Foreign Missions Fund, often called the *Undesignated Fund*. This fund has been overdrawn to the extent of \$100,000 for the maintenance of our missionaries. WE MUST PAY THIS AMOUNT BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

We were visiting in the home of one of our good missionary-minded pastors and talking about this particular problem, when his fourteen-year-old daughter spoke up and said, "Why don't you ask all the pastors to have a VICTORY MARCH, and clear off this deficit in one day by having all the people give a dollar each?"

Why not? It would be comparatively easy for everyone to give a dollar, and it would be a simple means of paying back this missionary overdraft.

Of course, this is not a new idea but we think it is a good one. After praying about the matter we decided that this fourteen-year-old girl might be expressing the mind of the Lord. We consulted with the Missions Committee and the Executive Presbyters. They enthusiastically approved the idea of appealing to all our pastors to have a Victory March Day to clear off the deficit.

We are suggesting Sunday, January 16, as the day for this special offering. Our pastors have always given generous and loyal co-operation in the many national and world-wide projects of our General Council fellowship, and we trust they will make another special effort to carry the Assemblies of God over the top in this world-wide ministry. We know this will mean sacrifices in many instances, but we believe that God will bless us as we seek to meet this urgent financial need.

One pastor on the West Coast has said we can count on \$1,000 from his church; and another pastor from the East, occupying a much smaller pastorate, has promised that at least \$100 will come from his church.

Won't it be wonderful to see this \$100,000 deficit melt before the warmth of love manifested by God's people in giving 100,000 extra missionary dollars? It will be a great victory for Christ and

MONTHLY REPORT

Foreign Missions Department

September, 1954
CONTRIBUTIONS

Alabama	\$ 2,115.61	North Dakota	2,384.19
Appalachian	735.99	Northwest	17,433.28
Arizona	1,084.85	Ohio	10,707.90
Arkansas	2,296.54	Oklahoma	9,688.27
Eastern	12,835.02	Oregon	11,119.74
Georgia	5,634.16	Polish Branch	50.12
German Br.	1,165.62	Potomac	7,767.83
Greek Branch	77.30	Rocky Mtn.	4,997.46
Hungarian Br.	263.17	Russian Br.	46.86
Illinois	8,321.63	So. Calif.	21,316.46
Indiana	4,889.30	South Carolina	670.07
Italian Branch	145.09	South Dakota	1,729.78
Kansas	6,758.12	South Florida	4,761.79
Kentucky	521.97	South Idaho	1,190.97
Lat. Amer. Br.	305.33	South Missouri	8,898.57
Louisiana	2,684.73	South Texas	6,996.41
Michigan	8,958.10	Tennessee	1,386.91
Minnesota	13,245.56	Texas	9,382.33
Mississippi	1,042.02	West Central	4,028.52
Montana	3,141.27	West Florida	1,824.16
Nebraska	3,914.34	West Texas	3,833.59
New England	4,395.04	Wisc.-N. Mich.	4,936.08
New Jersey	6,299.85	Wyoming	490.18
New Mexico	1,688.28	Alaska	176.88
New York	7,201.26	Canada	126.00
N. Calif.-Nev.	17,553.09	Foreign	88.33
North Carolina	843.73	Miscellaneous	408.00

Total Amount Reported	\$254,557.61
District Funds	\$12,679.19
National Home Missions	2,879.58
Office Expense	3,995.19
Literature	105.41
Given Direct to Foreign Missions	38,083.13
	57,742.50

Received for Council Foreign Missions	\$196,815.11
Received for Non-Council Foreign Missions	2,872.95
Missionary Offerings not Allocated to any State	21,062.97

Total Receipts for Foreign Missions	\$220,751.03
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DISBURSEMENTS

Basutoland	\$ 230.00	Brit. Guiana	150.00
Belgian Congo	3,799.80	Paraguay	493.00
Gold Coast	10,286.49	Peru	5,265.34
Liberia	8,821.77	Uruguay	1,977.00
Nigeria	5,327.70	Venezuela	2,210.20
Nyasaland	2,012.56	Egypt	5,824.50
Sierra Leone	872.75	Greece	338.00
Tanganyika	395.50	Hash. Jordan Kingdom	1,094.00
Togo Dahomey	5,601.71	Iran	207.00
U. of S. Africa	5,153.91	Israel	878.50
Upper Volta	5,729.46	Lebanon	75.00
Europe	8,028.63	Syria	55.00
China	3,960.05	Burma	460.90
Fiji	485.00	Ceylon	3,020.71
Formosa	3,467.80	India	44,446.83
Hawaii	2,853.06	West Indies	10,353.14
Indonesia	4,489.23	Children's Educ. in U.S.	1,867.00
Japan	5,906.66	Deputation- al Expenses	552.60
Korea	1,367.37	Fld. Secretaries	2,340.00
Malaya	2,803.17	Literature	189.25
Philippines	18,695.47	N. Y. Office, Shipping	1,200.00
Samoa, Amer.	620.00	N. Y. Office Public Relations	860.00
Lat. Amer. Work in U.S.	258.52	Refund & Trans. to Other Depts.	11,728.21
Cent. America	8,781.05		
Mexico	3,449.73		
Argentina	1,536.50		
Bolivia	2,814.34		
Brazil	2,655.00		
Chile	1,964.10		
Colombia	883.75		

Total Disbursements to Council Foreign Missions	\$218,836.36
Non-Council Missionaries	4,240.78

Total Disbursements	\$223,077.14
Charged to Hold Acc't	2,326.11

Total Receipts	\$220,751.03
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His kingdom.

Seven hundred and thirty-six missionaries are counting on you! With God's help our churches can wipe out the debt by joining the Victory March on January 16, 1955.

SUNDAY'S LESSON

A PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK'S LESSON BY E. S. WILLIAMS

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIBLE

Lesson for December 26

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God" (v. 14), for divine revelation comes by the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (v. 10). By the Holy Spirit God has revealed His truth to chosen men for our benefit. "Which things we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth" (v. 13). This implies that not only the thoughts but also the words of the Bible are inspired. The present lesson affirms the inspiration of Scripture, but puts more emphasis on the Spirit's application of the Scriptures than upon the fact that they are inspired.

1. POWER BY THE SPIRIT

a. *Paul's Manner.* Paul depended on the power of God rather than on oratory. Oratory may please, but it takes the power of God to convict and save. The Corinthians, like many others, loved beautiful rhetoric and fineness of speech. But in order that their faith should stand not "in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God," Paul "came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom." He makes it clear that when he speaks of "excellency of...wisdom," he has in mind man's wisdom. Paul was not without that wisdom which comes down from above. His was "the wisdom of God in a mystery" (v. 7), a wisdom "which none of the princes of this world knew" (v. 8). The Greeks sought to feed the intellect, and to this end their wise men sought after wisdom (ch. 1:22). But depending upon exhibitions of fine words and philosophical discourses did not help them to know God (ch. 1:21). Paul was not without knowledge; neither did he ignore its proper use. But his ministry was related to redemption. He would have man's faith to be built not on the wisdom of man but on the power of God (ch. 2:5).

b. *Paul's Message.* Paul's message centered in Christ: he said, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (v. 2). He relied not on the persuasive words of man, but on the Spirit of God (v. 4).

c. *Paul's Humility.* As a man of learning Paul might have made use of that which would please the natural man, but he refused to allow anything to overshadow the Saviour. Christ must be fore-

We wish to thank Brother Williams for his kindness in writing the weekly comments on the Sunday School lessons. He has done this for several years and we know from numerous letters that his thoughts on the lessons have been very helpful to many readers.



E. S. Williams

Brother Williams is unable to continue writing this page due to his heavy responsibilities as dean of Central Bible Institute. In its place there will be a new feature called "Daily Devo-

tions." The page will carry a Bible reading and a brief devotional article for each weekday. The Bible readings will conform to the Sunday School lesson outlines of the National Sunday School Association which are followed in our adult quarterlies.

This new feature will begin next week. A number of excellent writers in our Assemblies of God fellowship have very graciously consented to contribute to it. We hope this new page will enrich the lives of all EVANGEL readers. May it serve as a constant reminder of the importance of daily devotions in both private and family life.

most. The life of Paul demonstrates excellence of character and greatness of courage. Nothing kept him from faithful service to the Lord. He was always possessed of a beautiful spirit of humility and self-effacement. He never appeared proud and self-sufficient, but served "in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling" (v. 3).

It is possible that Paul suffered some humiliating quality of speech, of which he was very conscious. Did he not write to the Corinthians that some said his speech was contemptible (2 Cor. 10:10)? Or was their complaint caused by their discontent with the simplicity of the gospel and a desire to hear something which would satisfy their "itching ears"? Some say he had sore eyes (Gal. 4:15). If Paul suffered some natural deficiency, it was more than offset by the power of the Spirit that rested upon him. As he spoke before Governor Festus, the Governor cried, "Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad" (Acts 26:24). Festus felt there was no lack in the knowledge of Paul.

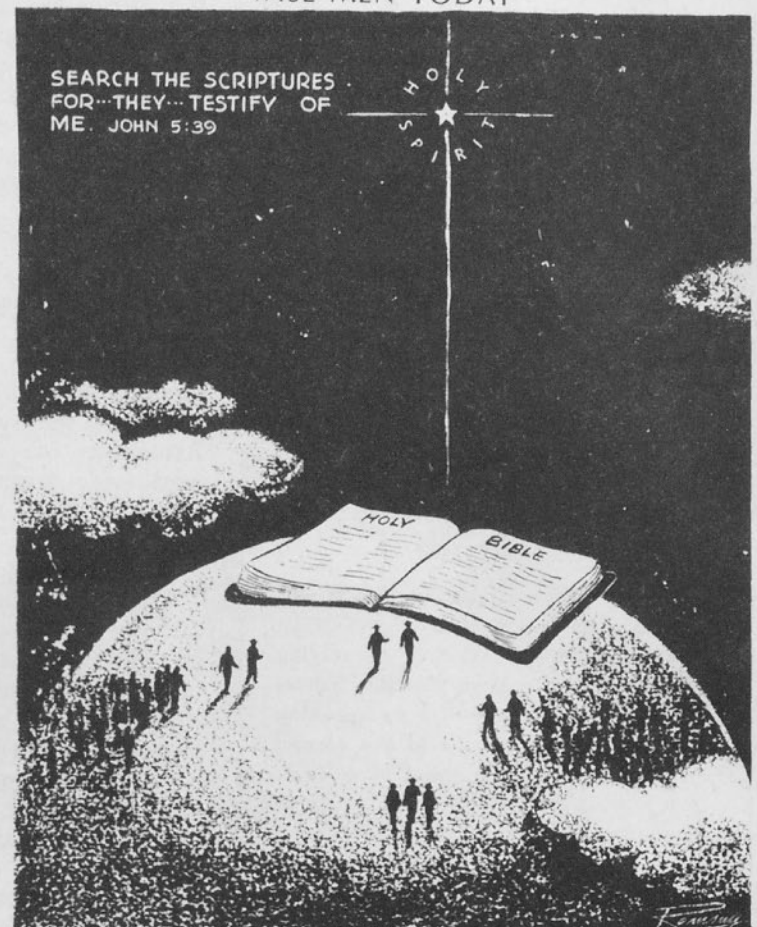
2. WISDOM OF THE SPIRIT

a. *False Wisdom.* Paul warned the Corinthian Christians not to be carried away with "the wisdom of this world" (v. 6). Redemption cannot be imparted by the wisdom of man, but by the power of God only. Wisdom appeals primarily to the mind.

The gospel appeals to the heart; it is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." People are easily led astray, captivated by human personalities and human eloquence. Little did Paul care for popularity and worldly fame—his ambition was that he might win the hearts of men to Christ.

b. *Wisdom from God.* Paul recognized in the gospel a wisdom deeper and richer than all of the wisdom of this world, a wisdom which "none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (v. 8). In Christ, Paul found "all the treasures of wisdom and

WISE MEN TODAY



knowledge" (Col. 2:3). In redemption God demonstrated a divine wisdom beyond the comprehension of the most brilliant natural man. God foresaw that man would sin. And if man sinned, God must provide him a Redeemer. The wisdom of God manifested itself in salvation. The wisdom of the world leads to death. The wisdom of God appears as foolishness to natural men because "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not" (2 Cor. 4:4). Only those who are taught by the Holy Spirit are able to discern the true value of spiritual things (v. 14).

3. REVELATION BY THE SPIRIT

a. *The Hidden Wisdom.* The wisdom of God is so far beyond the wisdom of man that "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (v. 9); "Canst thou by searching find out God?" (Job. 11:7). What finite mind can fathom the depths of infinite wisdom? Salvation is a work of God; it must be received by faith, not by the power of reason.

b. *The Hidden Wisdom Revealed.* Although the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8) are beyond the power of natural man to fathom, they are not beyond the power of the Holy Spirit to reveal (v. 10). Much is still hidden in the counsels of God. Little do we yet know concerning a "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." And we are very limited as yet in knowledge concerning the "many mansions" which Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Our knowledge may be incomplete, but the Spirit has revealed to us all we need to know in order to serve our Lord faithfully in this life. It is the beauty of salvation that we know Him who knoweth all things, in whom all perfect wisdom dwells.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

Why the Angels Sang (lesson for Sunday, December 19). Lesson text: Luke 2:4-17.

UNTO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOUR

(Continued from page two)

brown to reddish-brown aromatic gum resin with a bitter taste. It was used by eastern embalmers—a reminder to all who could understand that here was One born to die for a careless world.

What folly for Herod to suppose that he could turn aside the eternal purpose of almighty God. The cruel king seemed to stop at nothing to eliminate a possible successor to his earthly throne. He commanded that all the children that were in the Bethlehem area, from two years old and under, should be slain, hoping thereby to destroy this One who, according to the Wise Men, had been born King of the Jews. But Christ moved inevitably and unerringly forward from

the cradle to the cross to fulfill the eternal plan of God. Indeed He was born to die as the Saviour of the world; but, thank God, He is alive forevermore, and one day soon He shall return to earth to reign in righteousness and in peace.

The "Christmas spirit" of many is revealed in the post-season questions—"What did you get? Where did you go? What did you do? What kind of Christmas did you have?" Let the wayward remember that Christmas is not a season for liquor, surfeiting, and selfishness. It is a time when all the world should stop to remember that God has sent the Saviour and He has died for our sins.

And let the child of God rediscover the true import of Christmas, that we may commit ourselves with a renewed allegiance to Christ. "What think ye—will he come to the festival at all?"

Purim and Christmas

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON CAN BE made between Purim, the Jewish festival, and our Christmas. The Jewish festival is an annual celebration of the great deliverance that is described in the Book of Esther.

1. THE PLOT

There is a striking similarity between Haman's plot to destroy all the Jews in the provinces of Medo-Persia, and Herod's plot to destroy all the young Jewish children in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

Haman, the Agagite, was prime minister, and the king had commanded that all the royal servants should bow and reverence Haman (Esther 3:2). But Mordecai, the Jew, would not bow down to a mere man, let alone a descendant of Agag, the heathen king whom God had cursed. Haman's pride was hurt. He plotted to destroy Mordecai and all the Jews. Likewise it was selfishness and pride that caused King Herod to kill the Jewish children. His purpose was to destroy the Babe who had been born "king of the Jews," lest this Babe become a rival for his throne. To what lengths a wicked heart will go to satisfy its ambition and obtain homage!

2. DIVINE INTERVENTION

Behind the scenes a struggle was being waged between God and Satan, a struggle over the preservation of the Chosen People in the one case and the preservation of the Chosen Saviour in the other. In both cases, God intervened and He did it by night. He deprived the king of sleep (Esther 6:1) in order to bring Mordecai the Jew into royal favor, that

his people might be spared. And He sent a dream to Joseph to warn him to flee into Egypt, that the Christ Child might escape Herod's cruel clutches.

3. GOD'S HANDMAIDENS

In each case there was a holy young woman through whom God could send salvation. Esther, like Mary, was a virgin (Esther 2:2) and was devoted to God.

4. THE HANDMAIDENS' COURAGE

Esther showed great courage by going into the king's presence unbidden, there to plead on behalf of the salvation of her people. Her act could have cost her life (Esther 4:16). Mary, too, showed unsurpassed courage when she submitted to the plan of God. Her reputation and position as a virtuous bride was in jeopardy. But God cared for His handmaidens. Both Esther and Mary were spared the possible consequences of their deeds.

5. THE ENEMY DEFEATED

Haman, the enemy of the Jews, was hanged on the very gallows he had built for Mordecai, the Jew (Esther 7:10). His proud career ended in public disgrace. Herod likewise, though he took upon himself the lofty title of "Herod the Great," went down into infamy. After a most unhappy life he died unmourned and unbeloved by his own people, to pass into history as a name soiled by violence and blood.

6. A BENEFICENT REIGN

Mordecai, the godly Jew, was promoted to the office of Prime Minister in Haman's place. Of him it is written that he was "great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed" (Esther 10:3). What a foreshadowing of the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all who accept Him as Saviour are made infinitely rich. Christ too has bequeathed peace to all His followers.

7. THE CELEBRATION

The Jews were commanded to celebrate their great deliverance each year by exchanging portions and giving to the poor (Esther 9:22). How much more should we, who have been delivered from a fate much worse than death, celebrate the great salvation that Christ has brought us by exchanging portions, gratefully and unselfishly, and by giving to the poor.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE HAS COME

(Continued from page three)

the sea was about to engulf the little boat in which He and the disciples were afloat, He arose and said, with a majestic gesture, "Peace! Be still!" And immediately there was a great calm. How well it il-

lustrates His power to give peace to the sin-tossed soul.

When in the synagogue a poor man possessed of devils was stirred to wildest fury, Jesus released him from his thrashings and his evil talking by His calm command of "Peace!"

A little woman, tormented with sickness, trembled with fear as she confessed to having touched Him. He gently calmed her by His word, "Go in peace, and be whole of thy plague."

When a poor, sin-laden woman was harshly spoken of by a proud Pharisee named Simon, Jesus reassured her of His forgiveness by telling her, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

How gently Christ led people from the paths of sinful frustration and troubled soul-wandering into the way of peace! Did He not amply fulfill the prophecy of Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, who declared that Christ had come "to guide our feet into the way of peace"?

Oh, that you might know the things that belong to your peace, my unsaved friend! Consider Jesus viewing Jerusalem as the city lay spread out before Him,

turbulent with its intrigues and seething in its sins. He weeps. Why? Because He longs to give her inhabitants peace—true peace with God and with their fellowmen—but the people of Jerusalem had refused to listen. His teachings were to them too idealistic. They chose desolation and suffering, while the Prince of Peace sorrowfully exclaimed: "If thou hadst known the things that belong unto thy peace! If thou hadst known the day of visitation!"

Friend, I urge you—let not this Christmas be merely a time for the warm fellowship and merriment that the yule log and festooned tree provide. Let not this day include merely the good will of man toward man. Let it not be remembered only for the gifts we share with one another. Instead, let it be the time for giving yourself to God. Accept the Saviour and the forgiveness He promises to the repentant soul. Come like the Wise Men. Bow low at Jesus' feet and offer Him your heart, your life, your fullest allegiance. Give Him the gift He desires most of all. In exchange He will pardon your sins and give you the priceless gift of His peace.

close to 36,500 certificates being issued as a result. The books used were *Bible Doctrines* by P. C. Nelson and the entire series of departmental manuals.

It is expected that Training Month will continue to climb. More Sunday Schools than ever before will be participating this year. Many perhaps will have their first training course. For others it will be their second, but for most of them it will be another link in their systematically planned chain of training.

The slogan for Training Month is "Every Christian a worker and every worker trained." The main book selection is *AND HE GAVE TEACHERS*, by D. V. Hurst, a new book especially written for this year. In addition several plans for departmentalized schools are being suggested. The executive group of your Sunday School will do well to study your school needs and decide which plan best meets those needs and which one is most easily adaptable to the facilities and attendance of the school, and then follow through with that plan.

You, too, can join in Training Month and prepare your Sunday School workers for more effective Sunday School work. Not only that, but through Training Month you can enlist new Sunday School workers. In fact, you can train the entire adult constituency of your Sunday School. You can make the slogan a reality in your church—"Every Christian a worker and every worker trained."

Put Trained Teachers in Your Classrooms

Sunday Schools are growing! Classrooms are crowded; auditoriums are cramped. All across the nation new "educational" buildings are being erected; others are being remodeled to provide more facilities. Almost every Sunday School is in one stage or other of a "building campaign." It is heart-warming, to say the least, to see this tremendous interest in providing more facilities in order that the Word of God might be taught to more pupils.

But what good is a classroom filled with pupils if it has no teacher? What value are adequate Sunday School facilities without an adequate teaching staff? The buildings do not teach! Along with all this building more teachers must be enlisted, trained and put to work. Present teachers must be given refresher courses as well as new courses of study. If Sunday Schools are to continue to grow, they must have larger and better trained staffs. Each worker must be a specialist and must know how to do his work most efficiently. Teachers are also learners—they must continue to learn if they are to teach effectively—and they must be provided with constructive and well-planned learning opportunities.

The administration of the Sunday School is responsible to provide for the training of its workers. Someone has said, "If you want good employees, train them yourself!" While the merits of such a

method may be argued pro and con for an industrial situation, there hardly seems room for argument in the Sunday School situation. There is practically no other source of good Sunday School workers than the training program conducted by the Sunday School itself.

The average teacher teaches as he was taught. (He merely recalls the methods he saw employed and attempts to use them himself.) But the average is not good enough when it comes to the Sunday School teacher. He must be trained; he must be taught how to teach.

January is Training Month—a month set aside especially to emphasize Workers' Training. In most cases one of the book selections for this month will be studied. The purpose of Training Month is not to replace the Workers' Training that churches have had throughout the year but it is to be an extra emphasis for one month.

Training Month has grown each year. The first was in 1952. The book selection was *Sunday School Administration and Organization* by Hart Armstrong. A total of 15,000 certificates were issued as a result of this first training month. In 1953 the effort gained momentum. The book used was *Ye Shall Be Witnesses* by D. V. Hurst. A total of over 30,000 certificates was issued as a result of this training month. Training Month, 1954, was an even greater success with

AMONG THE ASSEMBLIES

PRICHARD, ALA.—The last week of October, J. H. Bostrom of Los Angeles, Calif. conducted a one-week meeting at the Prichard Assembly of God. His sound gospel preaching and missionary spirit were a real inspiration to our Assembly. We have invited him back for a future date.—J. D. Stevens, Pastor.

SOUTH FORK, PA.—We have just finished a 1½-week meeting with Evangelist Frank Tomassacci of Shickshinny, Pa. Five were saved, one was filled with the Holy Spirit, and several testified to bodily healing.—David A. Forkey, Pastor, Pentecostal Assembly of God.

DETROIT, MICH.—We have just closed a meeting with Evangelist Robert Rogers of Alabama. Several were saved or filled with the Holy Ghost. The last night of the meeting we baptized 14 in water.—Holland Edmundson, Pastor, Detroit Bethel Assembly of God.

MODESTO, CALIF.—We had a wonderful Bible study on the Book of Revelation with David Burris of Hot Springs, Ark. The interest and attendance was good throughout the entire series. We are looking forward to having Brother Burris again some time.—Ernest M. Adams, Pastor, Airport Assembly of God.

PARRY SOUND, ONT., CANADA—Evangelist and Mrs. W. W. Wright from Houston, Tex. were with us for a meeting. We enjoyed their singing and praying, and particularly their ministry from the Word of God. A number of people were healed. A lady who had been suffering from sugar diabetes, and who had been taking insulin for some time, was healed. She has not taken insulin since then. Now she attends our meetings regularly.—J. Gordon McElhoes, Pastor, Pentecostal Tabernacle.

REVIVALTIME

WESTERN UNION

We are happy to report that there has been a most gratifying response to the urgent appeals in behalf of our REVIVALTIME broadcast.

As you know, we were faced with the necessity of limiting the release of REVIVALTIME to a selected list of independent stations, discontinuing our use of the ABC Network, unless we had an immediate response in giving in answer to prayer. We praise God for His faithfulness and for the way you have stood with us in this crisis hour.

Decision Day for REVIVALTIME was Sunday, November 21. At that time we received a multitude of telephone calls, telegrams, and letters, together with most heartening offerings. In fact, for several weeks the Radio Department has reported a substantial increase in offerings, indicating a sincere response to the emergency. In view of these clear-cut indications of sentiment and desire on your part, your Executive Presbyters have authorized the signing of a further contract with ABC whereby REVIVALTIME will be continued on its present basis.

Our authorization for renewal of the ABC contract is contingent upon the following provisions:

1. We are taking this action because we believe it is the express wish of our constituency, as indicated by the gifts which you have given; and we will be governed by your further giving in the matter of keeping the broadcast on a network basis.
2. If at any time there is a marked decrease in contributions for REVIVALTIME so that it lacks the necessary financial support, we will avail ourselves of the right provided in our contract with ABC to cancel immediately our network releases after giving the required notice.
3. There will be no further expansion of the Radio Department's operation in any area unless fully underwritten beforehand.

THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

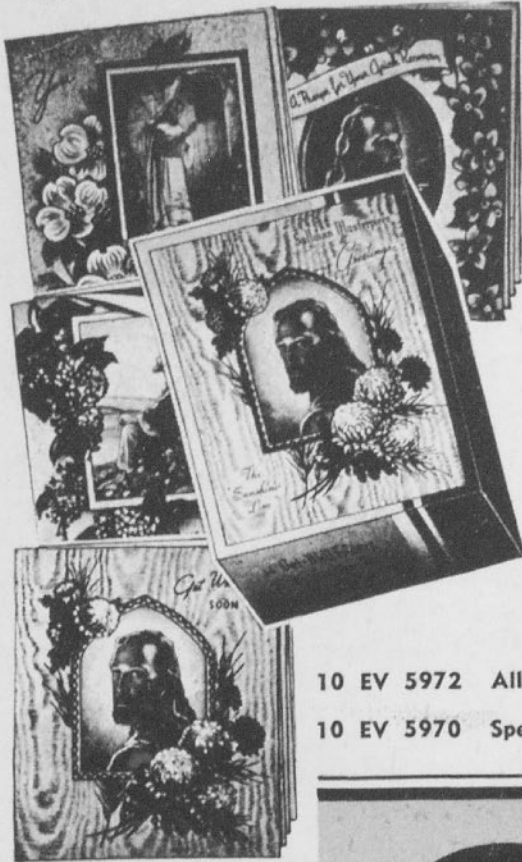
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WILMINGTON, DEL.—The Musical Vanns (Brother and Sister A. R. Vanderploeg) were with us for three weeks, and the Lord gave us a great victory. We were thrilled night after night as conviction swept through the audience. There were about 40 decisions for Christ, and the entire church was quickened. We give God the glory.—Jacob Heinrich, Pastor.

COLUMBUS, GA.—The Eighth Street Assembly of God enjoyed a meeting the first two weeks of October with Evangelist C. L. Duck of Greenwood, S. C. He preached the gospel in such a joyful manner that Christians were inspired to delight themselves in the Lord and His work, and sinners were made hungry for God. Backsliders were reclaimed, and several received outstanding healings.—W. W. Pennington, Pastor.

MICHIGAN CITY, IND.—We had a successful four-week meeting with Evangelist and Mrs. J. Haskell Woodridge of Jacksonville, Fla. The messages both day and night were delivered with power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Fourteen came to the Lord for salvation, three were filled with the Holy Spirit, many were refilled, and a number were healed. People came to the meeting who had not attended our church before. The Sunday School attendance increased. During the meeting we opened our new, two-story, 30 x 60 Sunday School annex.—by Lavirta Horstman. (Stewart H. Robinson is Pastor.)

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MINN.—During October, Evangelist Jimmy Nicholson of Springfield, Mo. was with us in a three-week meeting. A real spirit of revival was felt in all departments of the church. Six received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, including my six-year-old daughter, Rebecca Jane. The Sunday School attendance broke all records, with 236 present. The over-all giving of the congregation, even though we are in a building program, was the best of any meeting.

We are looking forward to occupying our new church some time next month. The new building has a seating capacity of 400. We have invited Brother Nicholson to come back for another meeting in the future.—Douglas M. Henderson, Pastor, Peoples Church.

MIDLOTHIAN, MD.—Evangelist John Higginbotham of Cleveland, Ohio, was with us for three weeks recently. The Lord met us in a wonderful way, and several received outstanding healings.

Three women were healed of diabetes. One had taken insulin daily for eight years and had had other diabetic complications. She no longer needs the insulin and she is healed of the other troubles. The other two ladies also used insulin daily, but they no longer need it.

A man who was blind in one eye for twelve years, can now see to read large letters and recognize people.

A nine-year-old child, who had been in the hospital 15 times, was healed and was able to run without limping or falling.

After the meeting closed, a man who is a member of the Assembly was taken to the hospital. The doctor called his family and told them that he could not live more than a few hours. God undertook, and the following night the patients in the hospital ward were talking about the miracle that happened to this man the night before.

The last Sunday of the meeting we had a water baptismal service. Ten new names were added to our Assembly membership roll. Three have been saved since the meeting closed.—A. W. Phillips, Pastor.

COMING MEETINGS

Notices should reach us three weeks in advance, due to the fact that the Evangel is made up 19 days before the date which appears upon it.

HONOLULU, HAWAII—Assembly of God, Dec. 20—; Evangelists Frank and Gladys Lummer, Davenport, Iowa. (Eldon Vincent is Pastor.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle, 12th and C Sts. S. W., Dec. 28—Jan. 9; Evangelists Faye Wakefield and Wanda Jean Hill, Dallas, Tex. Union baptismal service (four Assemblies) on Jan. 7.—by Harry V. Schaeffer, Pastor.

WINFIELD, KANS.—Assembly of God, Jan. 2—16; Evangelist and Mrs. James Colburn, Houston, Tex. (Gordon Nelson is Pastor.)

As a Christian...



Snow, lying in white ruffles along the edges of the limpid brook; black trees with each tiny branch silhouetted against a gray sky in dainty filigree—the glory of a frosty winter day! We who have the song of the Lord deep in our hearts cannot but be enraptured by the handiwork of our Creator. Yet may we not lose sight of the fact that men and women all about us have only the chill and darkness of winter in their hearts. They never have known the warm glow of divine peace. Theirs is only unrest and unsatisfied longing.

*“In the winter
it is summer
in my heart”*

*Am I spreading
the sunshine of
His love to those
in need about me?*

Our task is great. Let us “work while it is yet day” to bring the message of Life to those in spiritual need. As our Sunday Schools are operated efficiently, their message will be more effective in the community. Perhaps you are longing to know how to make your school more efficient. Then you will be glad to know about the six Regional Sunday School Conventions soon to be held. Plan to attend the one nearest you where you can receive the answers to your problems. For further information on housing and registration, write the National Sunday School Department.

Southcentral—Houston, Texas—January 18-20
Southwest—Long Beach, California—February 8-10
Northwest—Seattle, Washington—February 28-March 2
Northcentral—Omaha, Nebraska—March 15-17
Northeast—Boston, Massachusetts—March 29-31
Southeast—Nashville, Tennessee—April 12-14

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YELLVILLE, ARK.—Assembly of God, Dec. 26—; Evangelist Ben Walden, Blytheville, Ark. (Chester Esmond is Pastor.)

ELMIRA, ONT., CANADA—Pentecostal Tabernacle, Dec. 14—; Sherratt-Mayfield Evangelistic Party, Oakland, Calif. (J. L. Gorman is Pastor.)

WINFIELD, ALA.—First Assembly of God, Dec. 26—; Evangelists Joel and Esther Palmer. (T. L. Satterfield is Pastor.)

TAMPA, FLA.—Bethel Temple, Dec. 26—; Eskelin Family, Detroit, Mich. (C. W. Ringness is Pastor.)

AKRON, OHIO—Krumroy Assembly of God, Dec. 31—; Evangelist Al Silvera, Fresno, Calif. (Robert E. Roop is Pastor.)

HOUSTON, TEX.—Central Assembly of God, Quitman at Keene, Jan. 2—16; Evangelists Cordelia Donnell and Mildred Holler. (W. A. Wilkerson is Pastor.)

ANADARKO, OKLA.—Workers' Training Class, Jan. 3—9; N. B. Rayburn, instructor. Assemblies in Gracemont, Stecker, Cyril, and Cement are co-operating. (O. T. Craig is Chairman.)

LINCOLN, ILL.—First Assembly of God, 1228 N. Kickapoo, Dec. 31—Jan. 16 or longer; Evangelist and Mrs. Dan Kricorian, Boston, Mass. (Lennis Blackburn is Pastor.)

DALLAS, TEX.—Mt. Auburn Assembly of God, 703 S. Beacon, Jan. 2—16; Evangelist E. R. (Pete) Winters, Albuquerque, N. Mex.—by Lonnie R. Mullen, Pastor.

EAST CHICAGO, IND.—First Assembly of God, Dec. 31—Jan. 16; Evangelist Homer Peterson, Portsmouth, Va.—by Harold Brumback, Pastor.

OVERLAND, MO.—Faith Assembly of God, 9740 Lackland Rd. at Wismer, dedication of new church, Jan. 7 at 7:45 p.m. D. A. Hastie, District Superintendent, speaker. Friends and former associates urged to attend.—by Glenn W. Gilder, Pastor.

MARSHALL, MO.—Sedalia Sectional Fellowship Meeting, Jan. 1. Also homecoming and dedication of new church. Raymond Phillips, founder of church, will give history of church in morning service; David Hastie, District Superintendent, will bring dedicatory message in afternoon. Night meeting also.—Warner L. Miles, Pastor.

DURANT, FLA.—Pleasant Grove Assembly of God, Jan. 2—; Evangelist Carl Alcorn, Fort Worth, Tex. Dormitory rooms available to all who make reservations; reasonable fees for rooms and meals.—by W. H. Magee, Pastor, Durant, Fla.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT MINISTERS' INSTITUTE—First Assembly of God, Cor. Carpenter and Klein, Springfield, Ill., Jan. 4—6; Edgar W. Bethany, Columbus, Ga. and Victor Trimmer, National Home Missions Secretary, guest speaker. Services morning, afternoon, and evening. C. A. Rally, Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Dick Fulmer, National C. A. Secretary, speaker. Rooms provided as far as possible. For reservations write host pastor, George E. Mandel, 524 N. Klein St., Springfield, Ill.—by W. R. Williamson, District Superintendent.

MISCELLANEOUS

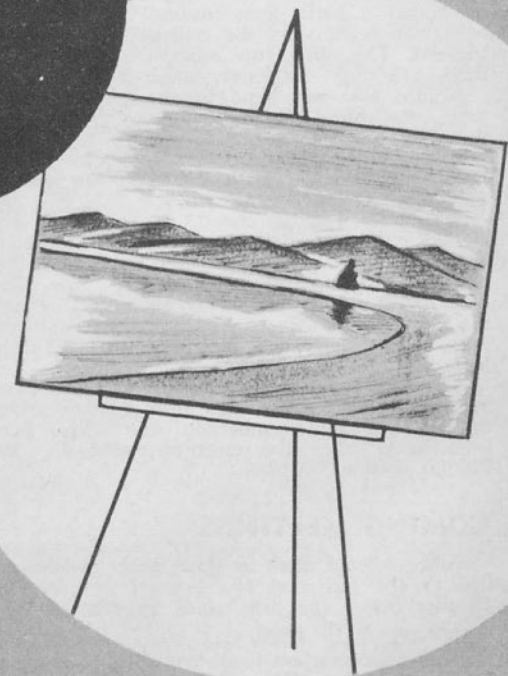
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