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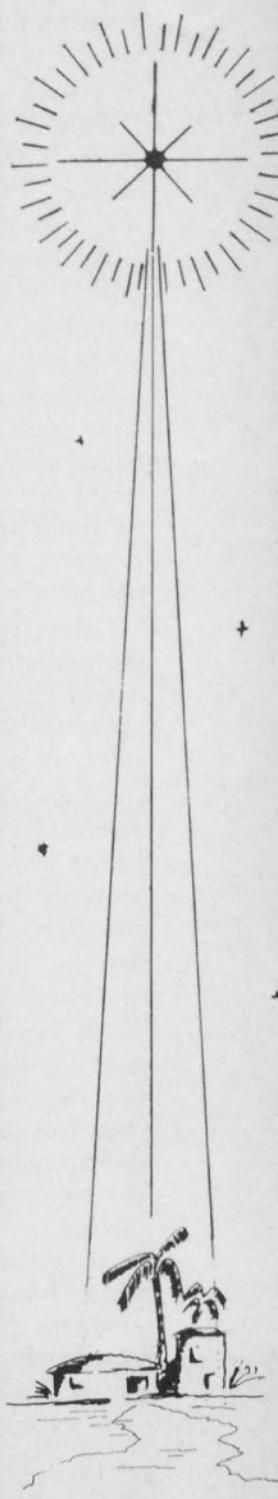
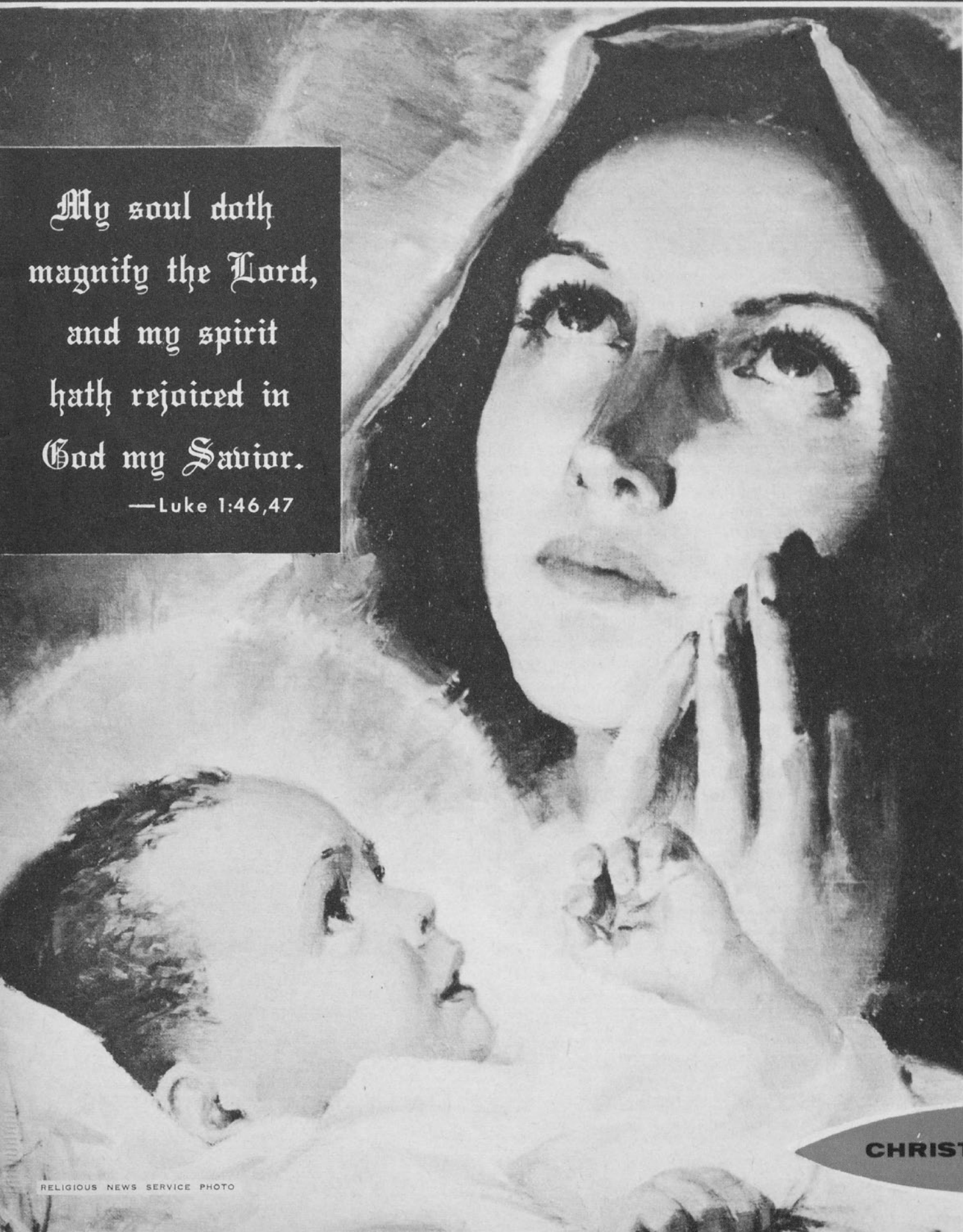
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December 21, 1958

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD

*My soul doth  
magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit  
hath rejoiced in  
God my Savior.  
—Luke 1:46,47*



**CHRISTMAS ISSUE**

## If He Were Born in 1958

If Christ were born in our day, we wonder how many would attach any special significance to the event.

Modern media of communication would flash the news around the globe, perhaps, but it would not make the headlines. The world press would give more prominence to war talk from Moscow or peace talk from the U. N. It would feature satellites or scandals in bolder type than any dispatch from Bethlehem about a Jewish birth.

Only in Judea would a modern newspaper give much space to the events. The Bethlehem paper, due to local interest, might carry the banner, "Shepherds Report Strange Voices in Sky." Probably it would quote several eyewitness accounts and add that "despite ridicule from many bystanders the men insisted the strange phenomenon was related to the birth of a baby in a local stable." It might add, however, that "when asked if they found the baby the shepherds nodded, grew less talkative, and were vague about its location."

Reasons for this reticence would be inferred in other stories on the same page. One would tell about King Herod's declining health, his unprovoked rages, and his ill-concealed fear of a successor. Another might say that Herod was losing face with Caesar Augustus. Possibly it would quote "political observers" to the effect that the Roman Emperor had shown a lack of trust in his puppet ruler by appointing the governor of Syria to direct a Palestine census.

Other reports would play up the people's fear of heavier taxes, and the bitter resentment among those who made long overland trips, exposed to bandits, only to find all inns filled. One story would tell about the innkeeper who had talked about an infant being born in his stable to a devout couple from Nazareth.

A newspaper editorial might ask what these reports of mysterious sights and sounds in the sky could mean. It might admit that the editor was puzzled over rumors of the birth of a Jewish king—but probably there would be a note of skepticism in his review of the situation. For no matter how marvelous or well-documented a miracle may be, it takes faith to believe it. The natural man cannot receive the things of God; they are spiritually discerned.

All knowledge of divine truth comes to us by revelation on God's part and by faith on our part. It was by revelation that Mary learned her firstborn child would be the Son of God. It was by revelation that Joseph also received this knowledge. It was by revelation that the shepherds were led to the manger crib. Later Simeon received the revelation . . . and Anna the prophetess . . . followed by the various disciples . . . and Saul of Tarsus. The Spirit of God is still revealing to honest hearts the marvelous truths of Jesus and His saving grace. This Christmas we may each receive new revelations of His wonderful purposes and power. The revelations will not come to us through a newspaper but through the Bible, the Word of Truth, and through the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth.

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# THE *Name* WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME

A Radio Address by C. M. WARD

**I**N PHILIPPIANS 2:9 WE READ, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."

When I was a child the Christmas season was about ten days long, but now the merchants are stretching it from Labor Day to New Year's. No other festive occasion has enjoyed such expansion. George Washington's birthday still occupies just one day. The dimensions of Independence Day are firmly fixed. Armistice Day has almost disappeared, but Christmas gets bigger every year. Why?

From the viewpoint of business the answer is not hard to find. No one is more aware than the merchant that the Name of Jesus is a "name which is above every name." His birthday is responsible for the biggest sales of the year. It is a Name to be reckoned with in dollars and cents.

But beyond the commercial appeal, what is there about the Christmas season which takes such a hold on the lives of men? I think the answer is in our search for happiness. It is the expression of an inward longing. It is a cry for the love of God.

A minister friend told this experience. He said that in a certain church where he pastored it was customary for the children to come with their parents to the morning worship service, then just before the sermon the children would march out to their various classrooms. As they marched past the pulpit he always tried to smile at each little child. But apparently he didn't always succeed. One day a little curly-haired four-year-old ran out of the procession and threw herself into the arms of her mother, sobbing as though her

heart was broken. After the service the pastor sought out the mother and asked the reason for the tears. Reluctantly the mother quoted the little girl as saying, "I smiled up at God, but He didn't smile back at me." To that little child, this minister stood for God. He had failed to smile as she passed by, and for her the world went dark!

There is a light that peeks through the terrible darkness of this world at Christmas time, and men and women inwardly long for the smile of God as desperately as the child longed for her minister's smile.

It is the Spirit of Christ that makes Christmas. You can buy toys any day of the year. You can have stuffed

turkey any time you want it. There are all kinds of opportunities for music and parades. It isn't just celebrations and presents and things. There's something more significant that gets into the world when men begin to think about Jesus.

I have had a feeling in recent years that behind the lengthening of the Christmas season there is the unutterable cry of a war-weary and sin-cursed race for a bit of comfort, a short recess, a moment of healing.

The stubborn fact is that the gospel is not something able men have created. It is not wishful thinking. It is not a popular bit of fiction that has become a best seller. It is something

(Continued on page thirty-one)

## Our Christmas Feast

*"... the world by wisdom knew not God . . .  
But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God—"*

**We celebrate a mystery today.**

**For hungry hearts a joyous feast is spread.**

**Our hearts are made for truths our minds ne'er grasp,**

**So let us feast upon this Holy Bread.**

**Here at the lowly crib we humbly bow,**

**The Holy Babe to worship and adore.**

**A virgin mother holds Him tenderly—**

**The holy feast is spread forevermore.**

**No wisdom or philosophy of man**

**Can understand or know this mystery—**

**That God should come to us in human form**

**To bring us Life and die upon a tree.**

**The heart alone can trace this mystery**

**Through fields of revelation where it dwells.**

**Come! let us open wide the inner heart**

**And feast on Truth which reason never tells.**

*John Wright Follette*

Listen to C. M. Ward every Sunday night over REVIVALTIME, the Assemblies of God radio broadcast that is heard over the NBC network and independent stations from coast to coast and around the world.

*The Christ Child comes with soft, light feet  
To touch earth's paths, and make them sweet.  
Where'er those shining footsteps fall  
New light and hope are over all;  
New love springs up beneath their tread,  
New glory on the old is shed;  
And he who follows where they go  
Tastes a deep joy no others know.*

BY MRS. AUDRE PITTS

# Inasmuch

THE LITTLE GROUP OF LADIES breathed a sigh of relief when at last the Christmas box was all neatly packed, tied, and labeled. The next morning the expressman would call for it, and soon it would be on its way to the home mission workers.

Quickly they left the home of the president, Mrs. Dunning, and went their separate ways, some to do a little shopping, others hurrying home to put up a tree or to finish some baking.

Mrs. Dunning set the box aside and hurried downtown to finish her own shopping. Later that evening she returned home tired but happy, and wrapped the gifts she had selected with loving care for relatives and friends.

That night she dreamed an angel proclaimed that Christ would visit each home in the community on Christmas Day. Everyone made elaborate preparations for the expected Visitor. Early on Christmas morning Mrs. Dunning opened her front door and there was the Master coming up the walk. She invited Him in out of the cold and tried to make Him most welcome.

Filling her arms with the expensive gifts she had bought the evening before, she laid them at His feet and knelt before Him in worship. But with

hardly a glance at the beautiful packages He walked to the corner of the room and picked up the carton that had been packed for the missionaries.

With a loving, pitying look at the woman He said, "You have made a mistake. *These* are the gifts you meant for *Me*."

Embarrassed and ashamed she cried out, "Oh, no, Lord, those are not for you. That is only a box of used clothing and discarded toys for some home missionaries. These costly gifts were meant for you."

But in a low, gentle voice the Master said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . , ye have done it unto me." So saying, He lifted the box in His arms and went His way.

Mrs. Dunning awoke, trembling and ashamed. Over and over in her mind rang the words of Jesus: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least . . . ye have done it unto me."

So that was the gift they had offered to Him—to the Christ who was Himself the greatest Gift ever given!

Unable to erase the feeling of guilt from her troubled mind, Mrs. Dunning prayed earnestly for forgiveness. As soon as the breakfast dishes were done she called each member of the group and urged them to meet at her home that afternoon. Although they were busy, the excited voice of their president aroused their curiosity and they were all present for the special meeting. Simply but vividly Mrs. Dunning told her dream. Hearts were touched and tears flowed, for each felt ashamed and guilty before God.

After they had prayed together, they began to plan another box. They sorted

the contents of the first one, keeping out those articles worth sending and discarding the rest.

"We still have time to get more gifts," Mrs. Dunning said. "We can get them ready today and meet again tomorrow to pack the box."

"Yes, and let's make the gifts for the missionaries really worth while," suggested one. "We can buy for them just as if we were buying for some of our own families. If all the boxes they receive are like the ones we usually send it must be a test of their consecration every time they receive one."

As a result of their planning, good warm clothing was brought in for the man and his wife in charge of the mission station. And when Beth Dunning, who was sixteen, learned that the girl of the missionary family was her own age and size, she insisted on sending her a new skirt she had never worn. Clothing and toys were also included for the younger children.

The climax of the afternoon came when Mrs. Dunning's youngest daughter went to her play room and got her largest, newest doll. "Here, Mama," she said, holding it out. "Send it to the missionaries' little girl. Maybe she never had a dolly like this."

\* \* \*

When the box arrived at the mission station the family gathered around. All were quiet—even the youngest little girl—as the father opened it. Of course, it wouldn't do any good to hope, thought the sixteen-year-old daughter, yet one couldn't help wishing for something *new* to wear.

At last the box was open, and there was a joyous cry of delight as the big doll was hugged close in the arms of a little girl who truly had never owned anything so beautiful.

When the last gift had been removed from the box and duly admired, the family knelt together in prayer and offered broken words of thanks to the Father above, invoking His richest blessings upon the people who had sent the gifts.

But to the little group who packed the box, the greatest blessing was in knowing that *inasmuch as they had done it for the missionaries they had done it unto Christ*; and they rejoiced in the knowledge of having given good gifts to the Christ of Christmas.

—S. S. Banner





Mrs. Gribling and a portion of the gifts

*We'll Never Forget*

# THE ARIZONA WMC CHRISTMAS PARTY

**BY STERLING STEWART**

*Missionary to El Salvador*

**M**Y FAMILY AND I ARRIVED AT THE Delbert Gribling home in Phoenix just the day before the annual Arizona WMC Convention last year. We found it a beehive of activity, with Mrs. Gribling, district WMC president, preparing food for special meals, wrapping packages for the missionaries, making last-minute arrangements at the church, and attending to a multitude of other details.

The Gribblings had just returned from a quick trip to Southern California where they had gone with a truck and trailer to pick up a load of clothing and other supplies that the Southern California WMC's had gathered for distribution among the Arizona Indians.

The Christmas party for the missionaries to the Indians has become a

permanent and important part of the annual convention, which is always held in December. In fact, it has become the highlight of the convention. So much planning and preparation goes into assembling gifts for the occasion that even the business sessions which precede the party ring with the joy of Christmas.

All during the convention the pile of gifts grew higher and higher under the big, beautiful tree. Pastors came with their groups from all over the state, bringing boxes filled with canned goods and other groceries which were finally lined up all the way across the front of the First Assembly in Phoenix.

My heart was touched when someone told me that some of the small, struggling churches had not been able

to fill their boxes, and the pastors themselves had taken out of their own meager supply to finish filling them. Besides the groceries there were myriads of other gifts from WMC groups. The sacrifice was laid high upon the altar of the church.

The last day of the convention was the big day—the day of the Christmas party. All of the missionaries, dressed in the colorful regalia of their tribes, marched into the auditorium. The place was filled with people—those faithful members of the churches who are co-workers with the missionaries, making it possible for them to continue their labors for the Lord. Leading the parade with Sister Gribling was Mary Campbell, Southern California District WMC president, who was also the convention speaker. Then followed the newest recruits to the Lord's army—the Missionettes—and finally the thirty-five missionaries who were present. Our eyes were wet with tears as we realized afresh what a privilege is ours to be called of God to be a part of this great army going forth in the power of the Holy Spirit to defeat the foe.

We took our places on the platform, and then came the distribution of the gifts by the pastors and WMC members. What a demonstration of the joy of giving! Those who gave were as enthusiastic and blessed as those who received. The glory of God filled the

*(Continued on next page)*



Mrs. Gribling and the Sterling Stewarts



Missionettes participating in program

house as spontaneous praise flowed heavenward from the entire congregation. The missionaries were realizing what a blessing all that food would be throughout the long winter months. The linens and other gifts would bring joy for several Christmases to come.

Our children, David and Becky, were, I believe, the happiest and most excited children in the world. Many months before, Sister Gribbling had contacted

every WMC group in the district to give each the responsibility of a portion of the project to supply us with clothes for our next four years in El Salvador. They had responded above all expectations, and nothing was left undone. We are grateful to all who gave us such a wonderful Christmas.

After the convention was over and the gifts packed in the cars, all the missionaries were invited to drive past

the Gribbling home to finish loading their cars with still more supplies. There were boxes upon boxes of clothing that had been sent from Nebraska, Southern California, and Arizona to be given to Indian Christians.

We shall never forget our experience at the Arizona Christmas party. May God continue to bless the work and sacrifice of the Women's Missionary Council. ◀◀

## The Babe of Bethlehem—

# SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN

BY J. S. EASTMAN

*Mount Carmel, Illinois*

**T**HAT JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF God should become the Son of Man, the Saviour of the world, is the greatest wonder of all history. It is the greatest paradox known to man. He was the only sinless man who ever lived, yet He died as a sin offering for the sinner.

Jesus is supreme and unique in His capacity. He wrote no books, yet endless volumes speak of Him. He never established a college, yet hundreds of institutions are erected to His glory. He was not a graduate of any school of learning, yet at the age of twelve He baffled the doctors of the law in the temple. He received no medical degree, but "he healed their sick."

He appreciated great crowds, yet took special interest in every individual. He associated with the wisest, yet received little children. He led no army, never

married, and had no family; yet He has a vast number of blood-washed ones whom He calls His sons and daughters. He was crucified and buried and might have been forgotten but for one thing—He arose from the dead and abides in the power of an endless life.

Jesus Christ is truly Immanuel! He is in every respect the "God-man." Indeed, the Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would be Deity incarnate. What a mystery! God and yet man! Exalted and yet debased! Master and yet servant! Priest and yet sacrifice! Undesired and yet the "desire of all nations!" In the world, yet the Creator of the worlds!

The Son of God became the Son of Man that the sons of men might

become the sons of God. Man was made in the image of God but that image was marred by sin. Then Christ came in the image of man to *restore* man to the image of God. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.

Behold the glory of the incarnation! The great Creator condescended to be like His creatures! He willingly exchanged the form of God for the form of a slave. He who made man after His likeness was made after the likeness of men. As God He made the first Adam, yet He came as the "second Adam" from heaven. Though He was God above all, yet He was made lower than the angels for a little time. He became the visible image of the invisible God!

"What condescension, bringing us redemption!" As God He filled all things; as man He was cradled in a mother's arms. As God He had no genealogy; as man He is the "seed of the woman." He was before Abraham and yet was Abraham's descendant. The Ancient of Days became the infant of time. He is known as the "everlasting Father," yet He is called the "holy child Jesus."

At once Jesus was Son of man and Son of God. As man He stood by the grave and wept; as God He called Lazarus forth to life. As man He walked on the earth; as God He walked on the sea.

The holy God became the sinner's substitute. The Lord of glory became the "man of sorrows." Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became

PHOTO BY H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS



poor. The Son of God became the Son of man to die for men. He who is the "resurrection and the life" was cut off for others. He was wreathed with eternal glory, yet wore a crown of thorns. The mighty hands that fashioned the worlds were nailed to the cross. The Light of the world hung in supernatural darkness. He who is the Mighty God was crucified through weakness. He who upholds all things staggered beneath the load of a wooden cross.

Men said, "If thou be the Son of God..." But God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

What shall we say more? He who was judged of men and will yet judge the world, is He not the mighty God? Why need we any further witnesses? Bow your knees before the Son of God; own Him as your Saviour; acknowledge Him as your Lord. ◀◀

# The Gift of Peace

BY VIOLET SCHOONMAKER

IT WAS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON that I learned a valuable lesson concerning the peace of God. I had been shopping for a gift and had lost my purse which contained about twenty-seven dollars.

That night I could not sleep. I berated myself for being so careless and thought of all the good that money would have done my children in India. I wondered why I should have lost it just at Christmas time.

Finally I arose and sat in my rocking chair. Then the Lord reminded me of Philippians 4:6, 7. Only a few weeks before He had made this scripture so real to me in a time of anxiety—"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

I realized I had been worrying just like a person who did not know Jesus as the source of peace! I began to feel convicted that I was allowing the

loss of money to rob me of the peace of God. I determined to do just what the Word of God told me to do. With prayer and supplication I let my requests be made known to God. And again, as in the experience of a few weeks previous, I began to realize how glorious is the privilege of talking with God.

I told Him all about my loss, and while I was speaking a song of peace began to flood my soul. It was midnight and I could not sing aloud, but over and over again I repeated softly the words of the hymn—

*"Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight  
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;  
In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls  
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.*

*"What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace  
Buried deep in the heart of my soul;  
So secure that no power can mine it away  
While the years of eternity roll."*

Suddenly, all my burden lifted. I didn't mind the loss any more. I couldn't understand the abrupt change. How could I comprehend the "peace that passeth all understanding"? Peace was mine and that was all that mattered. After that, I completely forgot that my purse had been lost until someone asked whether it had been found!

I began to realize then that peace is the essence of Christmas. "Peace on earth" was the angel's song. "The Prince of Peace" had come to make "peace through the blood of his cross." His voice would still the tempests of life when He rebuked them. Peace was His parting gift to His disciples on the night of His betrayal. How little they knew the fiery trial that was to try them! But He knew, and He encouraged them by saying, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

His first words to His disciples after His resurrection were, "Peace be unto you." And this is His message to us today. Trials will come. If it were not for the storms we could not enjoy His peace; if there were no sorrow, we could not know His comfort; if no pain, His healing touch.

I did not find my purse—but I found peace which was much more precious. It was God's Christmas gift to me. May it be yours also! ◀◀



## WHERE DID YOU BURY YOURS?

You know the parable of the unfaithful steward and his hidden talent as well as we do. But have you ever really thought about it in relation to your own money and property? Have you considered that the "nest egg" you have banked or invested may be buried in so far as God's work is concerned? That's right. Just as truly as if you'd wrapped it in a napkin and hidden it away!

"But," you say, "I must depend upon the income from my money and property to maintain me as I grow old." If so, you are exactly the person who should read the free booklet on Assemblies of God Gift Annuity Agreements. It explains in detail how you can bring your earthly means out of hiding and put them to work for God—without losing the income you need. In fact, *the income might actually be increased.*

You should look into this today. Send the coupon for your free booklet.

**M. B. NETZEL**  
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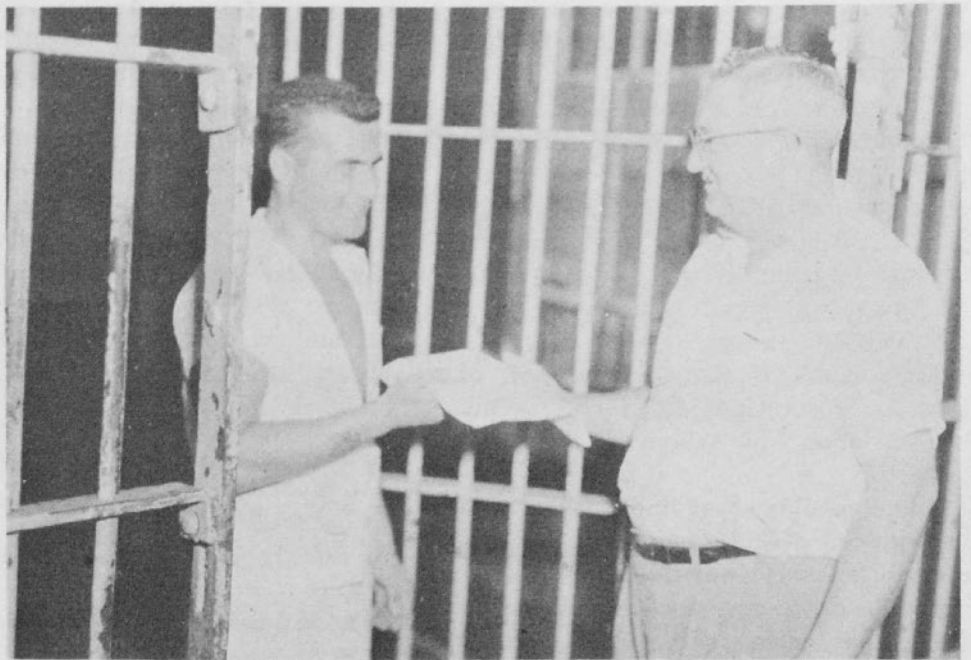
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# Christmas Behind the Bars



Chaplain Watson presents a shirt as a gift to an inmate.

By **R. S. WATSON**, Prison Chaplain

**T**HE LONELIEST TIME IN A PRISON inmate's life is the Christmas holiday season. He not only misses the gaiety of the yuletide, but also the giving, even more than the gifts. Above all else, he misses the "togetherness" that has become an American tradition at Christmas time. To supply these needs in some small way and at the same time to present the occasion as the birthday of Christ is one of the many duties of a prison chaplain.

Weeks before Christmas the inmates begin making purses, billfolds, belts, rugs, and other articles to send home as presents. I have seen them do with-

out things they needed in order to buy material for these gifts. Then they would become so excited over the gifts that they would send them home long before the Christmas season began. It is easy to tell where a prisoner's thoughts are as he sits silently in the cell, yard, or chapel and stares into space. Christmas is a time for home-going and his thoughts are on home.

Although it is not usually permissible to send food through the mails to Kilby Prison (Montgomery, Alabama), it has been the custom for several years to allow each inmate one food box from home at Christmas. A list of approved

items is issued well in advance of the receiving date, and the inmate sends this list home for his family to observe as they pack his box. It would be hard to explain the joy and excitement in the face of a prisoner as he opens that one box and pulls out a much-longed-for chocolate cake or some other food.

But there is another side to this picture. It is the situation of the man who has been in prison so long that he has lost contact with the outside world.

"What are your folks sending you this Christmas, Joe?"



The Men of the South quartet sing carols at Christmas program.



A prisoner practices music for the Christmas program.



"I don't have anyone left out there," is a common reply. Or, "I only had one sister the last time I heard and I don't know where she is now."

As a means of helping these forgotten men, the Chaplain's office here makes a survey each year and builds a file on inmates who will not receive packages from home during the Christmas season. When this list is completed, church and civic groups are contacted and asked to adopt as many men as they can for one year. These groups are furnished with a list of the items the men will be permitted to receive, together with as many names as they request. In addition to this, they are given a bit of personal data about the inmate as regards his interests in order for them to write to him, plus sizes of his shirt, socks, shoes, and underwear. Shirts and underclothing must be solid white cotton, and socks must be solid colors with no flowers, dots, or darts, and shoes must be solid black or brown. They must be shipped by the store where they are purchased.

"This year I received my first letter and Christmas package in the seventeen years I have been here," one man said last Christmas.

The small iron-barred cells are home to the men, and they will do almost anything within reason to give their cells the Christmas touch. Small sprays of holly and a few inches of tinsel will be found dangling from the center of the ceilings. Greeting cards are often displayed as a means of showing the number of friends an inmate has in the "free" world.

Chapel services are well attended in prison during the Christmas holidays.

Much time is spent by the inmates in decorating the chapel and in preparing the Christmas program. Last Christmas we presented a play, "A Christmas Miracle," which was written by our organist.

This year's program will again feature our robed choir, and plans are underway to present a portion of Handel's *Messiah*. Our choir has grown until we only have about half enough robes for the group. We are praying for money with which to buy more.

It would be hard to put on paper the joy it gives a prison chaplain to hand a present to a man who has no earthly ties on the other side of these cold steel bars. Can you imagine the

(Continued on page 31)

## New Church in Nebraska

BY L. E. WILKINS

IT WAS IN JULY, 1954, WHEN A NUMBER of brethren gathered in Kearney, Nebraska (a city of 15,000), and pitched a tent at 26th Street and Avenue "G." Revival services were started at once with F. L. Sobotka as evangelist. Brother Sobotka grew up in Kearney as a Catholic, and this fact attracted many to the meetings. Nearby pastors and their congregations helped in the services.

Interest was excellent and a number of people desired an Assemblies of God church in their city. We were asked to come and establish a church, and after much prayer we resigned the church at Lexington, Nebraska, and took up our duties here.

We were granted the use of a hall—rent free—for the services, and it was our church for over three years. Seven people attended our first Sunday School session. Since then we have had a steady growth and are now averaging about sixty.

Construction of a new church at 28th Street and Avenue "H" was started in October, 1956. The building is 45 by 70 feet and has a full basement. It is a frame structure, veneered with "rose velour" split tile.

We have \$15,000 invested in the property which has been appraised at \$40,000. Only \$1,500 was paid out for labor. We owe at present approximately \$7,000. We are grateful to the WMC's of the district who gave a total of \$3,000 toward our property and building program.

Dedication services were held May 6, 1958, with 250 people in attendance. Speakers of the day were Clyde King, district secretary-treasurer, Roscoe Leach, district C. A. president, and L. W. Dickinson, district superintendent.

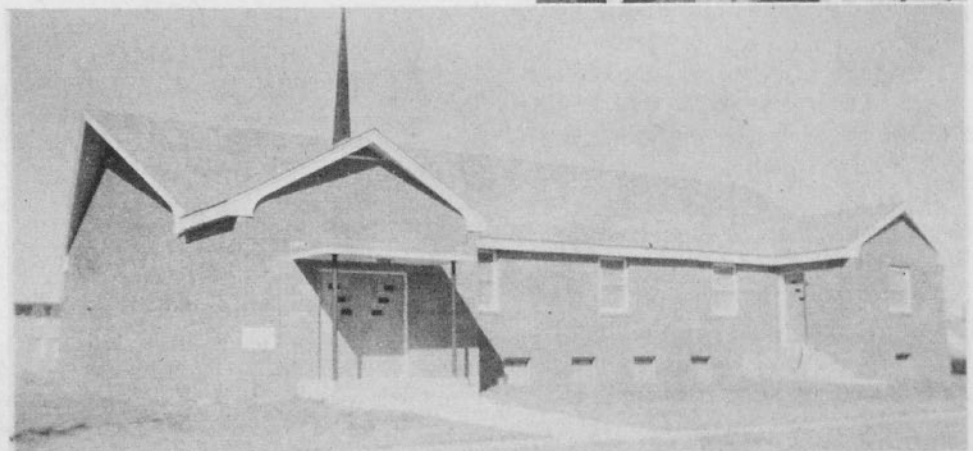
We are very grateful to the Lord for the wonderful group of people He has given us here. Also we appreciate the way in which the district stood by us in this new field venture.

\* \* \*

The National Home Missions Department has established a fund to help needy districts in their church extension endeavors. Some of the districts have been expanding quite rapidly and are in need of financial assistance. Your offerings for this important work of church extension and evangelization are welcomed. Clearly designate your contribution for *Needy District Fund* and send it to—

HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

434 West Pacific Street  
Springfield 1, Missouri



New Assembly of God in Kearney, Nebraska. Pastor and Mrs. L. E. Wilkins (above)



BY DOROTHY C. HASKIN

THE MULLENS FAMILY HAD GATHERED around the Christmas tree. Dad was sitting in his easy chair drinking his breakfast coffee, a fresh supply of ties and house slippers on the floor beside him. Mom was already wearing her new pale pink nylon duster. Seventeen-year-old Denise was admiring her watch. Ken had been out to try his new bike and now he was stacking his books, sweaters, and assorted "loot." Mary Ann was playing with her new doll and doll house.

Mr. Mullens put down his empty coffee cup and leaned back, "Kids, of all the Christmas gifts, which one do you think is the most costly?"

"My bike," Ken spoke up.

"My watch," Denise said dreamily.

"My doll house," Mary Ann said proudly.

"No. Think a little! There's something for Christmas that costs more than any bike or watch or doll house."

"You mean something we ain't got?" Ken asked.

"We haven't," his mother murmured automatically.

"No, it's something that I hope every member of this family has received."

"But, Dad, we don't receive many real *expensive* presents," Denise said. "What is it?"

"I think I know," Mary Ann said, putting down her doll and facing her father with a quiet smile.

"What is it, Cherub?"

"The Lord Jesus."

"That's right."

Mary Ann ran to him and crawled onto his lap. Mr. Mullens held her tightly and said, "I don't want any of you to forget that Christians started this celebration because of the great Gift, the gift of God's Son.

"Remember, the Lord knew what He was getting into before He came to

earth. Can you figure what it must have been like for the divine Son of God to take upon Himself the form of a man? C. S. Lewis, professor at Oxford, put it this way, 'If you want to get the hang of the incarnation, imagine what you would feel like if you had to become a cockroach or a garden slug.'

"It wasn't merely that the Lord became a human being. He became *sin* for us. Think of Him hanging on the cross, with the sins of the world upon Him, so awful that God the Father could not be with Him. That's why He cried out, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?'"

Mary Ann stirred uneasily and Denise stared at her new watch. After all, it *was* Christmas morning. But Mr. Mullens went on. "I know what we usually think of around Christmas time, but we should also remember what it cost the Lord for us to have Christmas. Sometimes I wonder if the greatest cost of all is the fact that to so many He is still a stranger."

"What do you mean, Dad?" Ken asked.

"Well, we celebrate His birthday, we call upon His name, we build churches in His honor, but I wonder how many of us really spend *time* with Him?"

No one spoke for a minute. Ken stacked his books a little neater. Denise tapped her foot impatiently. Mrs. Mullens picked up the Bible and gave it to her husband. "But we can know Him," she said, "and we can begin now. Suppose you read us the Christmas story."

Mr. Mullens grinned, balanced Mary Ann, and began reading the Christmas story to the family. ◀◀

## CRADLE HYMN

BY ISAAC WATTS

Sleep, my babe! All food and raiment,  
House and home we will provide;  
All with neither care nor payment,  
Every want is well supplied.

Soft and fluffy is your cradle:  
Coarse and hard the Saviour lay,  
When His birthplace was a stable  
And His softest bed was hay.

How much better you're attended  
Than the Son of God at birth,  
When from heaven He descended,  
And became a child on earth.

'Twas to save us, child, from dying,  
Save our souls from burning flame,  
Bitter groans and endless crying,  
That the blest Redeemer came.

May you live to know and fear Him  
Trust and love Him all your days,  
Then go dwell forever near Him:  
See His face and sing His praise!

# A Christmas Quiz



# Family Altar

DAILY BIBLE READINGS BY R. G. CHAMPION

How well can you do on this quiz about the first Christmas? All questions should be answered either "true" or "false." Circle the statements that are true. Correct the statements that are false.

1. Jesus was the firstborn son of Mary.
2. He was born in a stable in Jerusalem.
3. The Bible specifically mentions that three wise men came to visit Jesus.
4. After the shepherds visited the stable and saw the baby Jesus, they went back to their sheep and told no one what had happened.
5. Herod asked the wise men to bring him word of where the infant Jesus was because he really wanted to worship him.
6. A court adviser secretly told the wise men that Herod didn't mean that—he really wanted to kill Jesus.
7. Jesus never went to Egypt while here on earth.
8. Joseph was Jesus' true father.
9. Jesus was born during the reign of Julius Caesar.
10. Mary and Joseph had left Nazareth just before Jesus was born because of a taxation decree from Caesar.
11. The shepherds were very happy when they first saw the angel.
12. Only one angel appeared to the shepherds.
13. The sign the angel told the shepherds they would find was that there would be wise men at the stable—a very unusual thing.
14. Jesus was born in a stable because Mary and Joseph couldn't afford to pay the rent for a room in the inn.
15. An angel told Joseph that the child's name should be "Jesus."

## ANSWERS

1. true (Matthew 1:25); 2. false—in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1); 3. false—only tradition tells us there were three; the Bible merely mentions "wise men from the east" (Matthew 2:1); 4. false—they told others about it (Luke 2:17); 5. false—(Matthew 2:7, 8, 13); 6. false—God warned them in a dream (Matthew 2:12); 7. false—Mary and Joseph took him to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15); 8. false—Jesus was the Son of God (Luke 1:35); 9. false—it was during the reign of Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1); 10. true (Luke 2:1-5); 11. false—they were frightened at first (Luke 2:9); 12. false—a multitude of the heavenly host appeared to them (Luke 2:13); 13. false—they were told how they would find the infant Christ (Luke 2:12); 14. false—there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7); 15. true (Matthew 1:20, 21).

## Monday, December 22

**Read:** Matthew 25:14-28

**Learn:** "He shall reward every man according to his works" (Matthew 16:27).

**For the Parent:** (Additional material on "Rewards of Christian Service" will be found on Sunday's Lesson page.) From this parable, remind the group that the Lord rewards all who serve Him—and rewards can be either good or bad. Emphasize the idea of using all the talents God has given us. Discuss various types of talents besides the ones usually considered, such as faithfulness, love, gratitude, etc.

**Question Time:** How does this parable illustrate both good and bad rewards? (vv. 21-28) What are some talents God has entrusted to us? (See above)

## Tuesday, December 23

**Read:** Luke 1:26-38

**Learn:** "And of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:33).

**For the Parent:** This passage deals with events prior to the birth of Christ. It tells: (1) how the angel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus; (2) how the angel called her "highly favored" and "blessed"—it was a great honor and responsibility which was entrusted to her; (3) that with God nothing is impossible; (4) of Mary's surrender to the will of God.

**Question Time:** How did Mary find out she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus? (vv. 26-32) What was her reaction to this news? (vv. 34, 38)

## Wednesday, December 24

**Read:** Luke 1:39-56

**Learn:** "Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord" (Luke 1:45).

**For the Parent:** Review yesterday's material. Discuss Mary's visit to Elizabeth. (More details are also found in Luke 1:5-25 and 57-80.) Also point out Mary's faith in the Word of God, as strongly emphasized in v. 45. Vv. 46-55 compose a beautiful song of Mary's known as the "Magnificat." It expresses her joy in the Lord and her faith in His promises.

**Question Time:** What promise was given Mary because of her faith in God's Word? (v. 45) What is the theme of vv. 46-55?

## Thursday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

**Read:** Luke 2:1-20

**Learn:** "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

**For the parent:** (If time permits, it would also be fitting to read Matthew 1:18-2:12.) Have various members of the group review the Christmas story, each one pointing out some part of it and its significance to him. Stress especially God's love, mercy, and kindness, and the willingness of Christ to leave all to save us. Stress also giving ourselves completely to Him.

**Question Time:** What was the message of the angels to the shepherds? (vv. 9-14) Then what did the shepherds do?

## Friday, December 26

**Read:** Luke 14:26-33; 17:26-30 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

**Learn:** "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

**For the Parent:** Probably one of the least popular doctrines of the Scripture is the idea of self-denial. Yet it was one of the qualifications Christ gave for being one of His disciples. Stress this from Luke 14:26-33. Show how Luke 17:26-30 illustrates the opposite—the materialistic viewpoint of this age. Read Luke 21:34 as a warning to Christians.

**Question Time:** What qualification did Jesus give for discipleship? (Matthew 16:24) What do you think this means?

## Saturday, December 27

**Read:** Matthew 14:13-23 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

**Learn:** "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38).

**For the Parent:** Review the story of the feeding of the 5,000, stressing: (1) Jesus' concern for the physical needs of those who listened to Him, v. 16; (2) it was necessary for a lad to give up his lunch before Jesus could perform this great miracle, John 6:9; (3) the great power of Christ in performing such a miracle; (4) He asked God's blessing upon the food—a good practice for us to follow.

**Question Time:** How did a lad play a part in this great miracle? (See above) What lesson does this point out to you?

# Have We Lost the Star?

GOD'S LOVE STILL SHINES BRIGHTER THAN THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM—  
BUT WE NEED TO RAISE THE SHADES TO SEE IT.

BY MAUDE C. JOHNSON

**T**HE WISE MEN FOLLOWED THE STAR to the "place where the young child was." Their diligent search was not in vain and when they found the Saviour they worshiped Him.

Today, millions of artificial lights and stars twinkle on trees and in the windows of our homes in honor of the Saviour. But for each of us there must be a new, personal revelation of the real meaning of Christmas.

Will the Christmas season pass before we even catch a glimpse of the Star this year? Will it be just another season of giving and receiving gifts? Or will we be enriched in our experience? After spending Christmas in Korea a young soldier wrote home, "I think I've felt the true meaning of Christmas more today than any other year of my life. There were no presents, decorations, festivities, or unnecessary food to cover up the real meaning."

Perhaps we also would discover the true meaning of Christmas this year if we would take away some things which darken the windows of our souls.

We need to take away first the spiritual and temporal indifference which is one of the heaviest cobwebs between us and the Christmas Star. As Christians we should be primarily concerned with spiritual things. But are we? Or are we often quite indifferent toward the things which will bring us closer to God? There isn't one of us who has not felt at times out of fellowship with God. David felt this many times. Once he cried, "Why standest thou afar off, O Lord? Why hidest thou thyself in the time of trouble?" (Psalm 10:1) And again, "How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?" (Psalm 13:1)

Are we indifferent when through the

rush of our busy lives we lose that vital communion with our Lord? Or do we seek Him with our whole heart as the woman who diligently sought the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10)?

It's easy to be indifferent; but when this cobweb is swept away we see God's shining purpose for our lives more clearly.

We are often blind to our own blessings and privileges. Christmas is a good time to replace this unthankful spirit with praise and thanksgiving. We have so many blessings and too often we must lose them before we recognize their true worth.

It is strange but true that those who have the *most* often act as though they had the *least* for which to be grateful. On the other hand, the folk who have had severe testings are the ones who realize that "it could have been worse." They are not blind to their blessings. Let us ask God to help us

remove the veil of unthankfulness from our eyes this Christmas season.

What bad dispositions some of us display! We call them by various names—frustration, nervousness, lack of rest. But whatever we name ours, it is not merely a cobweb or blind in the window of our souls toward God—it is a heavy drape through which no light can enter.

No one needs to be convinced that crime costs our nation a great deal. We are aware of the tremendous expense of keeping up our vast network of penal institutions. But if statistics could only reveal the harm done by our bad tempers it would startle us all! Perhaps more genuine unhappiness is caused by sins of the disposition than by sins of the flesh. Let's appropriate the grace of God and remove this dark drape from the window of our lives.

Finally, we need to take away self-



justification. In this we are often like children. A child will explain his misdeeds by saying, "Johnny did it first," or, "Mary did it too," as though this minimizes his own actions. The grown-up version is not much different.

A young woman was talking with a friend about her relationship to God and her need of the Saviour. The only answer she received was, "But look at Betty. I have a much better disposition than she has. Therefore I think I'm just as much a Christian."

But it is not wise to compare our lives with those of other people. Our only justification can be in Christ, who came not to excuse us but to redeem us from our sins.

If the nation had known that the baby who was to be born in the stable that night was the long-awaited King, a palace would not have been good enough for Him. But Jesus was crowded out of the inn on that first Christmas day simply because people—even religious people—did not recognize Him.

And He is shut out of the hearts of many today because we have neglected to keep the windows of our souls open to Him. If we are not careful, we shall go through another Christmas season buried under a heap of bundles, caught up in a swirl of activities, never once glimpsing the true meaning of Christmas.

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Deuteronomy 4:29). ◀◀

## Song of the Magi

*It shines again in the evening gloom—  
The ever-leading Star,  
The haunting spark on the purple night  
We've followed so long and far!*

*We seek no trail in the reaching sand  
As under the night we ride.  
The lantern-light from another world  
Is our unfaltering guide.*

*Beyond the night with its urging dreams  
We'll find the face of God!  
And so we sing as our camels swing  
As ever they westward plod.*

*Our faith is strong though the nights are  
long;  
And though we follow far,  
Somewhere we'll worship a new-born King  
Whose name is the Morning-Star!*

—Lon Woodrum



# Your Questions

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

**Was Jesus the only begotten Son from eternity, or did He become the only begotten Son when born of Mary?**

The Bible indicates rather clearly that Jesus was the Son of God from eternity. "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman" (Galatians 4:4). "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). "God... gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

\* \* \*

**Is Christmas scriptural?**

We do not know the exact time of the birth of Christ, yet it seems fitting that a day should be set apart to remember that great event. I see nothing wrong in observing Christmas, although there might be wrong in the way a person observes it. Christ must not be forgotten on the day commemorating His birth.

\* \* \*

**Did the star guide the wise men all the way to Jerusalem?**

The Bible says that they had "seen his star in the east." One commentary says this means that they had seen the star in the eastern part of the sky, rather than that they had seen it while yet in the eastern country from which they had come. Apparently they did not have the star constantly before them. When they saw the star they were convinced a king had been born to Judah, and started out to find him. Later the star appeared again, this time to lead them to the house where Jesus was.

\* \* \*

**Jesus was "the first begotten," God's firstborn, according to Hebrews 1:6. Does this not prove that He had a beginning, and that He is not the eternal Son?**

In speaking of Christ as the firstborn, the Bible emphasizes His pre-eminence. He is "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature" (Colossians 1:15). The Worrell translation uses the phrase, "Primal Source of all creation," in this verse. He is also "the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence" (Colossians 1:

18). We know that He was not the first one to be raised from the dead, but the term *firstborn* is given to set forth His pre-eminence in all things. Believers are come to the "church of the firstborn" (Hebrews 12:23). Thus the New Testament Church, of which Christ is the Head, is united to the One who is pre-eminent. He is the "firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

\* \* \*

**Did Jesus lay aside His deity when He became man, or was it the use of His deity that He laid aside?**

Jesus did not lay aside His deity. Had He done so He would have been no more than other men. He might have been the second Adam, but would have had only human qualities.

There are those who believe He laid aside all use of His deity, and they have scriptures for their belief. They believe He lived entirely on the human plane, doing all that He did and teaching all that He taught through the power and direction of the Holy Spirit.

It seems to me that the safest and most satisfactory explanation is that given by Dr. Augustus Strong—that He made use of His personal deity, but only as guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. He had come not to do His own will but the will of the Father who sent Him. Therefore He did not act upon His own initiative, independent of the will of the Father, but as the will of the Father was made known to Him by the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Paul never tried to solve the mystery of the incarnation. He was content to declare, "Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..." (1 Timothy 3:16). The fact of the incarnation is given in the Scriptures for us to believe and not for us to understand.

*If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Missouri. Brother Williams will answer either in this column or by a personal letter (if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope).*



# THIS PRESENT WORLD

## Prayer

### EVANGELICALS TO OBSERVE NATIONAL AND WORLD PRAYER OBSERVANCES

A nationwide observance of the Universal Week of Prayer is being planned by the National Association of Evangelicals for its constituent churches January 4-11, 1959. Sponsored by the association's Spiritual Life Commission, the week of prayer is being promoted for the third consecutive year among evangelical churches.

A World Day of Prayer, also sponsored by the N. A. E., is scheduled for February 13, 1959. For the thirteenth consecutive year the association is providing worship booklets and advertising posters for churches desiring to co-operate.

Literature on either of these projects may be had without charge by writing to the N. A. E. office, 108 North Main Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

### TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES' DEVOTIONAL STARTS DAY OFF RIGHT

Some subscribers in Charlotte, North Carolina, say that local telephone service has improved since the founding a year ago of an Employee Devotional Period in the offices of Southern Bell Telephone Company.

The devotional period is held each Wednesday morning in the lobby of the accounting department. Attendance averages about 75, mostly from that department, although personnel from other departments are invited. Various pastors, laymen, and other visitors have addressed the group but often the devotions are led by speakers and musicians from their own ranks. "It seems to start the day off right," the employees say.

## Denominations

### MENNONITES MICROFILM 400-YEAR-OLD BOOK OF ANABAPTIST WRITINGS

A 400-year-old book of Anabaptist writings formerly unavailable to scholars has been found among the Hutterian Brethren of Western Canada and has

been brought to Goshen, Indiana, where it is being microfilmed by the Mennonite Historical Library. It contains about 1,250 pages of letters and writings of some 40 early Anabaptist and Hutterian leaders. After being microfilmed the hand-written 1566 volume will be returned to its owners in Manitoba.

The book will be extremely valuable for Anabaptist research. The term "Anabaptists" means "re-baptizers." It was given as a nickname to various Protestant groups in Europe in the 16th century who refused to recognize infant baptism as valid; they baptized only believers. One of the Anabaptist leaders was Jacob Hutter, who lived in Moravia and died in 1536. His followers, known as Hutterites, are still following a form of Christian communal living which he developed four centuries ago. They now have about 100 colonies in the United States and Canada, with a total membership of nearly 10,000 persons.

### DISCIPLES WOULD END SELECTIVE SERVICE

A plea that this country end its selective service program was made by

the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in a resolution adopted at its annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Some 6,000 clergy and lay delegates urged that the draft be discontinued in July, 1959, when the Universal Military Training Service Act expires.

A spokesman explained that the draft issue "was not a question of pacifism but of halting the deliberate indoctrination of each succeeding generation from the military point of view."

Dr. John Paul Pack, 54-year-old minister of University Christian Church in Seattle, Washington, was elected president of the denomination.

## Contributions

### CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS SHOW INCREASE

Members of 52 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches in the United States increased their giving in 1957 by 165 million dollars over the previous year. Contributions totaled \$2,206,593,817 which includes over 20 per cent or \$443,575,766 for benevolences outside the local church. This amount was given for such projects as home and

## WAR, DEFENSE GET 73 PER CENT OF FEDERAL TAXES

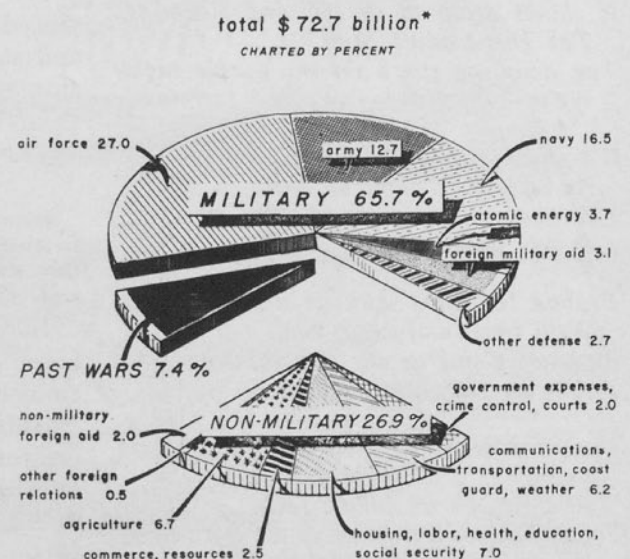
This chart showing appropriations totaling more than \$80 billion which were voted by Congress in 1958 reveals that more than 73 cents out of every dollar Americans pay in Federal taxes are spent for national defense or for past wars.

According to the analysis, prepared by the Friends (Quakers) Committee on National legislation, only 26.9 cents of the tax dollar go for peaceful purposes, including 2 cents for non-military foreign aid.

Less than 25 cents of every tax dollar support all remaining non-military activities of the Federal government.

### MONEY VOTED BY CONGRESS IN 1958

Fiscal year ending June 30, 1959 & supplemental appr. fiscal '58



\* This figure excludes \$8 billion permanent appropriations on which itemization is not readily available.

foreign missions and relief abroad.

Three church bodies reported that their total offerings amounted to an average of more than \$200 per member for the year. Pilgrim Holiness, Wesleyan Methodists, and Seventh-day Adventists topped the list in per capita giving.

## Foreign

### ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES SECT'S IMMIGRATION

Members of the Russian Christian sect known as Subbotniki, now living in Texas, will be permitted to enter the State of Israel. The Jerusalem government said other religious groups wishing to immigrate to Israel may do so also provided they pay their own passage.

The Subbotniki sect, which observes Saturday as sabbath, left Russia in 1917 as the Communist revolution was getting under way and many settled in Texas.

### INCREASE IN SOUTH AFRICAN RELIGIOUS SECTS BRINGS ALARM

European churches doing mission work among the Bantu people in the Union of South Africa are perturbed by the increasing number of "unofficial religions" in the townships. The government has already recognized one hundred religious groups in these townships, but a recent survey shows that there are at least sixteen hundred different sects operating. Some of these sects have such startling names as "Christian Catholic Apostolic Holy Church in Zion," and "General Faith Assembly Zion Church of the Innumerable Company of God in South Africa," and (catch your breath) "The Bethlehem Holy Catholic Christ Church in Zion of South Africa."

### RUSSIANS TO STUDY AFRICAN LANGUAGES

The study of African languages will soon be introduced in Russia's universities, according to the Soviet Ministry of Higher Education.

Text books on Zulu, Swahili, and Amheric will be issued at Leningrad University towards the end of the year. Moscow University will be next. As a result, Russia expects to increase its influence throughout the Dark Continent.

Students of the African department of Leningrad University must learn two allied African languages. To improve conversational speech, specialists from Africa will be invited to the University.

# EVANGEL DEADLINE

LATE NEWS AT PRESS TIME

## Evangelicals Protest Red China Recognition

WHEATON, ILL. -- The National Association of Evangelicals has officially protested the vote taken by the World Order Study Conference (sponsored by the National Council of Churches in the USA) in favor of United States recognition of Communist China and its admission to the United Nations. Under dateline, "Cleveland, Ohio, November 21," a special release to the "New York Times" said that the vote was taken at the end of the four-day World Order Study Conference by "leaders of American Protestantism" who "voted unanimously" in favor of American recognition of Red China.

In an emergency session of the NAE Executive Committee here, reports Dr. George L. Ford, executive director, an official statement was issued by Dr. Herbert S. Mekeel, president of the Association. The statement said in part: "The National Association of Evangelicals in Executive Committee notes with grave concern a statement of the World Order Study Conference of the National Council of Christian Churches in the United States of America, advocating recognition of Red China by the United States of America. We are convinced that such a statement does not represent the true sentiment of masses of members of American churches, either in the National Council of Churches of Christ or in the larger segments of Protestantism not affiliated with the National Council. Nor does it speak at all for members of the churches affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals. Further we are baffled to observe left-wing cliches, and the typical Communistic 'soft approach' urging pressure on our government, falsely in the name of Christian fellowship." Continuing, the statement pointed out the dangers of such a move as proposed by the Study Conference and concluded with the challenge: "As Christians, we dare not compromise! As Americans, Red China must not be recognized!"

The NAE Committee in executive session recalled that the Association had passed a resolution on this vital problem at its annual convention, April 1-4, 1957, in Buffalo, New York. The resolution pointed out that "the Government of Red China is controlled by an anti-Christian ideology, has promulgated a false church, loyal to the Communist ideology and in opposition to the true church of our Lord Jesus Christ, has betrayed humanity by the murder of more than twenty million of their own people and liquidated other millions in slave labor camps," and closed with the resolution that "the NAE express its unalterable opposition to our Government's recognition in any way for such a regime, as it would be unquestionably immoral and unchristian so to do."

Dr. Ford, in reporting the sentiment of the executive committee, said that the members were unanimously in favor of reiterating the position taken in the Buffalo resolution and that they wished to go on record as strongly opposing the action of the World Order Study Conference at its Cleveland meeting. NAE's executive director further stated that "NAE leaders are convinced that millions of American Protestants will repudiate the position taken by the WOSC." He urged that ministers, church leaders and all loyal American Christians voice their own protests by writing to the U. S. State Department to make their position on this important question unmistakably clear.



## THE REWARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Sunday School Lesson for December 28, 1958

MATTHEW 25:14-28

The parable of the talents is the story of a certain man who went on a journey, leaving to each of his servants a sum of money to invest while he was away. Upon his return he rewarded each servant according to his faithfulness. The meaning of the parable is simple. Christ has given to each of us certain abilities for which we will one day give account. The teaching of this parable should encourage us to spiritual diligence.

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TALENTS

(1) *To what do the talents refer?* The truths of the gospel—1 Timothy 6:20; 1 Corinthians 9:16, 17. (b) Spiritual power—Acts 1:8. (c) Spiritual gifts and endowments—1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6. They may also be said to refer to natural talents, wealth, intellectual ability, education, musical or other special abilities.

(2) *Talents were given to all.* All did not receive the same number of talents; but all *did* receive! No Christian can truthfully say, "I have no talent, no ability, no power." By virtue of the new birth, and by the Baptism in the Spirit, those who have these experiences receive power for usefulness to God in service and witnessing.

(3) *Talents were given to each man "according to his ability."* One cannot put five gallons of water in a one-gallon jug. Neither does God give spiritual power and gifts indiscriminately to those who have no capacity to receive and use them. However, God does give each of us sufficient power to accomplish the ministries for which we are responsible.

### THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE TALENTS

Two of the three servants faithfully used their talents and brought returns in proportion to that which had been given them. Though one gained more than the other, both were equally faithful. While God will not require the same amount of *fruitfulness* from all men, He will require the same amount of *faithfulness* from all and will reward men according to their faithfulness. The third servant's sin was simply that of doing nothing!

### THE REWARD OF THE FAITHFUL

The faithful servants were first to approach their master. Why? They had what John tells us all to strive for—"boldness in the day of judgment" (1 John 4:17). What was Paul's attitude in view of the coming day of accounting? (2 Timothy 4:6-8; Philippians 1:20)

The fact that both faithful men were rewarded with the same words should encourage those of us who feel our talents are few. Rather than worry over what we do not have, let us simply be faithful in using what we do have, knowing that we too shall be rewarded not for the amount of our service but for the degree of faithfulness.

## THE FATE OF THE UNFAITHFUL

Consider the mistakes of the one-talent man. And since most of us are in that class, let us be very careful not to make the same mistakes!

(1) *He had a wrong estimate of his master's character.* "I knew thee that thou art a hard man," etc. In other words, he accused his master of being unreasonable, unjust, of requiring that which he could not perform. Is it possible for a Christian to have such an attitude? Quite possible! Every time we say we can't live the Christian life, or we can't keep victory in this or that place, or we can't do anything for the Lord, are we not slandering God just as this servant did his master? The one thing needful is that we bank on the character of God who gives abundant grace for every need.

(2) *He was fearful.* "I was afraid." How many of us are victims of fears which render us incapable of doing service for the Lord. But the basic cause of most fear is pride. We are unwilling to risk failure and humiliation and therefore we do nothing. Yet it is by doing that we learn. Whether it be in speaking to the unconverted, giving a testimony in church, taking public part in any church activity, exercising a spiritual gift, we shall learn to excel only by practice, by exercising faith and doing the thing we may fear.

(3) *He was condemned for "slothfulness."* In other words, he was lazy! In a soft, ease-loving age we need to guard against the sin of taking the way of least resistance in the line of spiritual things!

(4) *His talent was taken from him.* What we do not use we lose. This is a law of nature and a law of the spiritual realm as well.

—J. Bashford Bishop

## HOW DO YOU BEAR THE CROSS?



REJOICE, INASMUCH AS YE ARE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS. 1 PETER 4:13



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now faces

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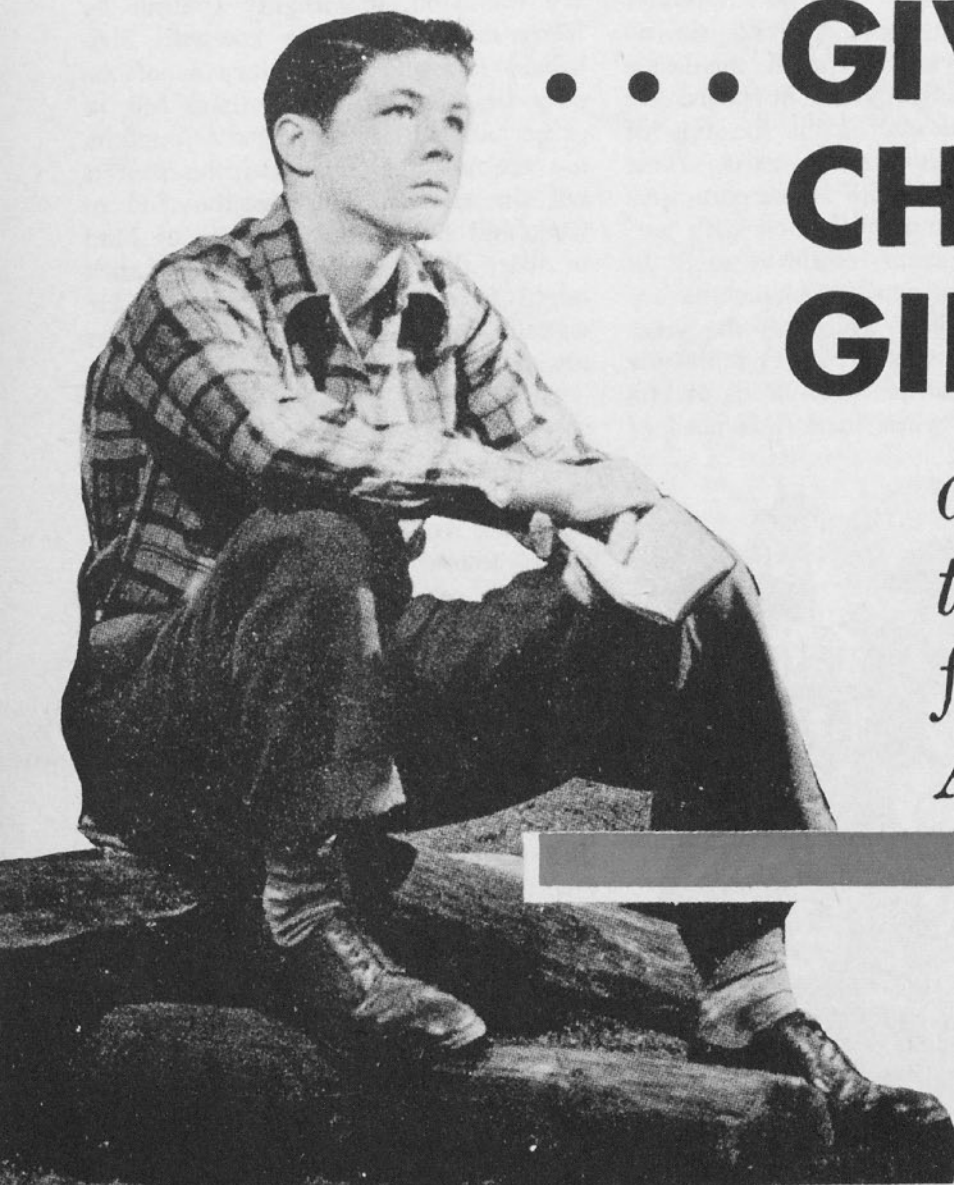
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# Christmas

## BENEVOLENCES



IF WE ARE PARTAKERS OF THE BENEVOLENCE  
OF GOD, HOW CAN WE BE INDIFFERENT  
TO THE NEEDS OF OUR BRETHREN?

BY CHARLES W. H. SCOTT  
*Assistant General Superintendent, Assemblies of God*

A PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR WAS GIVING his class a word-suggestion test. Since the holidays were drawing near he asked the students to write the first thought that flashed through their minds at the mention of Christmas. Some of the answers given were: "tree," "holly," "mistletoe," "turkey," "holiday," "carols," and "Santa Claus." Not one of the forty students in that class mentioned the birthday of Christ.

The same attitude is shown by many businessmen. They think of Christmas as an opportunity to increase their sales. Other people think of a beautiful star, a virgin mother, a babe in a manger, a pile of Christmas cards, but never catch a real significance of the day.

Christmas is a time to emphasize the benevolences of God who, "so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..." This gift from God to a world in darkness was first made known to a group of shepherds as they watched their flocks by night on the Judean hills near the town of Bethlehem. "The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them... 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 suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Here was Christmas—benevolence toward men—in its greatest fullness and highest meaning.

When the shepherds entered Bethle-

hem they found not merely a babe lying in a manger but "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." This was the same Saviour whom Zacchaeus later found when he heard the Master say, "Zacchaeus, come down, for today I must abide at thy house." It was the same Saviour whom the sinful woman found when He said to her, "Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more." A dying thief met this same Saviour on Golgotha as he heard the gracious words fall from the lips of the Man on the middle cross, "This day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

This was "Immanuel, God with us." He was God come down to earth to deliver the oppressed, such as the demoniac of Gadara. He was the great Provider who fed the hungry multitude and supplied the personal needs of His disciple Peter when there was need of

tax money. He manifested His sovereignty over nature when He quieted the storm on the sea of Galilee. He demonstrated the munificence of God to a needy world when He healed the sick and even raised the dead to life.

His ministry was not that of a mere man endowed with the power of God. He was God, the mighty Creator by whom all things were created. Men beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. He was the fountain, not the channel. He was the source, not the stream. He was the Son of God, and He became the Son of Man in order that we who are sons of men might become the sons of God. He was the epitome of God's benevolence toward a poor lost world.

As another Christmastime approaches we need to hear again the Saviour's admonition, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In view of God's gift of His Son, would it not be fitting if we would bestow gifts on friends and loved ones this year not with the thought of receiving something in return but rather to express our gratitude for God's gift to us. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

And in all our giving, let us not overlook Him. Let us give a gift to Him whose birthday we celebrate at this joyous season. We can give to Him by feeding the hungry... by giving drink to the thirsty... by showing kindness to strangers... by clothing the poor... by visiting the sick... by ministering to the prisoners. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren," Christ will say, "ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:34-41).





Architect's sketch of the new Retirement Home which will be built at Lakeland, Florida, by the Assemblies of God, for aged ministers and missionaries.

It is fitting that we minister to the needs of our own church, of course. Let us not forget to give a love offering to our church this Christmas, to help supply the many needs which are constantly arising. But there are other worthy causes too. The Saviour spoke of clothing the naked. Could it be that He was referring to the great mission fields of the world where multitudes still sit in darkness and superstition, lacking the robe of His righteousness which alone can cover the sin of fallen man? Let our benevolences reach out to our missionary program at this blessed Advent season.

Let us remember also the ministries offered by our Department of Benevolences. Think of the seventy-one homeless children that are being sheltered by the Assemblies of God at the National Children's Home at Hot Springs. Remember the other institutions of child care that have been provided by our denomination in Alaska and elsewhere.

At present there are 226 retired ministers and missionaries who are dependent upon the financial assistance which the Department of Benevolences can give them each month. Approximately one third of the churches in our fellowship are contributing toward this need, either by including the Aged Ministers' Fund in their budgets or by taking a special offering once or twice a year for this cause. Others should get under this burden.

A number of our aged ministers and missionaries are living in the Retirement Home which the Assemblies of God is now operating at Pinellas Park, Florida. The building at Pinellas Park

has outlived its usefulness. It is to be sold and the Retirement Home will move to Lakeland, Florida. New facilities will be erected at Lakeland adjacent to South-Eastern Bible College and the South Florida District campgrounds. One hundred thousand dollars above the sale price will be needed to complete this project.

Fifteen dollars from each of our more than 8,000 churches would pay for this new Retirement Home. We are depending on personal offerings as well as church offerings to complete this project. It is the responsibility of all of us, both churches and individuals, to supply the needs of our aged ministers. If you are willing to send a Christmas Benevolence Gift you may address it to the Department of Benevolences, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri. Kindly designate it for "The New Lakeland Retirement Home." Inasmuch as you remember our aged ministers with a gift this Christmas you will be giving a birthday gift to Christ. ◀ ◀

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## OUR SERVICEMEN



THERE IS an Assemblies of God military chaplain or pastor at each of these locations (and dozens more) who makes personal contact with young men stationed nearby. Continue to watch the EVANGEL for other installations not listed here.

### We are ministering to Servicemen stationed at—

Connecticut—U.S.C.G. Academy, New London  
U.S.C.G. Training Station, New London  
U.S. Submarine Base, New London  
Delaware—Dover Air Force Base  
Washington D. C.—Andrews Air Force Base  
Bolling Field  
Walter Reed Hospital  
Florida—Cecil Field  
Coral Gables VAH  
Eglin Air Force Base  
Graham Air Force Base  
Homestead Air Force Base  
Hurlburt Air Force Base  
Naval Air Station, Jacksonville  
Naval Air Station, Key West  
Naval Air Station, Pensacola  
Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa  
Whiting Field, Milton  
Georgia—Atlanta VAH  
Chamblee VAH  
Fort Benning  
Fort Gordon, Augusta  
Hunter Air Force Base  
Spence Field, Moultrie  
Warner Robins Air Force Base, Macon  
Germany—Munich  
Hawaii—Barbers Point Navy Base, Oahu  
Camp Catlin, Honolulu  
Fort DeRussy, Honolulu  
Fort Shafter, Honolulu  
Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu  
Kaneohe Naval Station, Oahu  
Pearl Harbor Navy Base, Honolulu  
Schofield Barracks, Oahu  
Tripler Hospital, Honolulu  
Wheeler Air Force Base, Oahu  
Idaho—Boise VAH  
Mountain Home Air Force Base  
Illinois—Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul  
Danville VAH  
Glenview Naval Air Station

SEND US the address of your serviceman assigned to any of these bases. We will inform the chaplain or pastor about him. Or, better yet, send your serviceman's address without delay no matter where he is stationed. We will place him on our mailing list whether or not we have a chaplain or pastor to contact him.

ALL SERVICEMEN on our mailing list regularly receive friendly correspondence, REVEILLE, and other gospel literature and services. There is no charge for this ministry; the Servicemen's Division is supported by freewill offerings. Address all correspondence and offerings to:

**SERVICEMEN'S DIVISION**  
434 West Pacific Street  
Springfield 1, Missouri

Presented by The Assemblies of God National

# ARE YOUTH Profitable



Compiled by

**PAUL A. KIENEL**

**W**HAT CAN COMPARE WITH THE opening day of youth camp! Excited voices reveal the inner anxiety of eager campers as they wonder, "Will I have a good time? Will the other campers like me? Will I enjoy the services?"

Camp leaders rush from one duty to another. But in spite of their activities they too are prodded by persistent questions: "How can I help these young people? Can I give them the spiritual advice and encouragement they need? Will I make good as a counselor?"

Parents also experience feelings of anxiety as the younger ones of the household trek off for the first day at camp. They have questions such as, "Will Johnny remember his manners

at dinner? Will Susie get along with the other campers? Will the adult advisers like my children?"

Almost always these questions of common concern, asked at the camp's beginning, are answered at camp's conclusion with a general expression, "There wasn't anything to worry about after all, and certainly the Lord's blessing was in the camp."

Though these questions and many others are answered satisfactorily for more and more people each year, there are still a number who are skeptical as to the worth and value of our youth camp program. These friends, who may have reason for skepticism because of their observance of past camping programs, would do well to observe the accomplishments and progress enjoyed by the present leadership of youth activity.

The Child Evangelism Division of the National Sunday School Department reports that in 1958 there were approximately 75 Boys and Girls camps conducted under Assemblies of God supervision. This is an increase of almost 200 per cent since 1954 when the national total was only 27. In 1954 the number of campers was 6,081. In 1958 the camp attendance increased to nearly 10,000. Approximately 1,800 were saved in 1958 and 1,500 were filled with the Holy Spirit while many others rededicated their lives to more faithful service for the Lord.

The National Christ's Ambassador Department states that 80 C. A. camps were held in the various districts across the nation in 1958. In 1954, a total of 7,274 C. A.'s attended our C.A.

camps as compared to the nearly 13,000 who attended in 1958. There were 1,458 conversions and 1,810 filled with the Holy Spirit.

The combined total of Boys and Girls and C. A.'s attending our youth camps during 1958 was 23,000. This represents a 96 per cent increase in our Assemblies of God camping program since 1954.

Youth camps have consistently made a contribution toward the spiritual, physical, social and mental needs of our young people.

## SPIRITUAL

Spiritual needs have been met through the systematic study of Bible-centered courses, through times of seeking the Lord for personal needs, through directed worship where the young people are taught how to respond to God, and through close association with Christian teachers and counselors. Counselors' hour, in many camps, provides a time when personal spiritual problems may be considered. The evening evangelistic service affords opportunities for young people to make decisions for Christ, to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, or to make a whole-hearted consecration to the Lord. It provides, too, a time for boys and girls to seek the Lord without interruption from outside influences.

## PHYSICAL

Camp directors have recognized the need of a well-rounded program; therefore provision has been made to meet the physical needs of our youth. A full-scale program of outdoor activity is provided in most youth camps.

# CAMPS able?



MONKMEYER PRESS PHOTO SERVICE

### SOCIAL

Being social creatures by nature, the members of our younger generation need an opportunity to meet other Christian young people. They must learn to live, work, and play with others. Consideration for other campers is stressed by camp leaders, and simple duties provide ample occasion to teach the importance of co-operation in work.

### MENTAL

We must ever be conscious of the fact that youth today are yearning to *be* and to *do*—to attempt and to achieve. Young people are mentally alert. They need to be challenged to think and act upon spiritual truths. The camp Bible lessons provide a background of knowledge in the Word of God and in the practical application of Bible teachings.

Many young people who receive very little spiritual influence in their homes have found a week at camp to be most beneficial. There are no outside influences to disturb. There are no periods of going back into the conflicting influence of an un-Christian home. Instead, for approximately 144 hours the young people are completely immersed in a spiritual atmosphere. Only eternity will reveal the wealth of spiritual accomplishment wrought in the lives of the many who have attended our Assemblies of God youth camps.

### YOUTH CAMP STANDARD

Along with the growth of our youth camp program has come the need for a co-ordination of objectives and policy. The National Christ's Ambassadors Department and the National Sunday

School Department, with the help of various district leaders, have consolidated their efforts in establishing the National Youth Camp Standard. This standard calls for the basic necessities of good camping procedure to be used as far as possible in all of our Assemblies of God youth camps.

Several contributing factors have made possible the present level of success in our camping program:

1. The growing number of full-time district Sunday School directors and C.A. presidents who have a vision for spiritual growth among our youth has contributed much toward the rise of youth camp ministry.

2. The national conventions and workshops for these district leaders, such as the annual district C.A. presidents' conference, the annual Advanced Christian Training School (A.C.T.S.), and the various Sunday School conventions have given opportunity for a merging of ideas toward better camping efficiency.

3. Another helpful factor in the promotion of youth camp programs has been the increasing amount of printed material available to assist the camp director. Our National Sunday School Department and C. A. Department have jointly prepared an excellent *Camp Director's Manual* and many other necessary printed materials.

4. There has been a phenomenal development of Assemblies of God campground facilities which has made it easier to have youth camps in the various districts.

5. The last and perhaps the most important factor of all is the growing

necessity for the type of spiritual help that youth camps offer. In spite of many time-saving devices in our homes and the shorter length of the workday, it seems that parents have less time to give the godly training that is so needed among our younger generation. To add to this problem, an increasing number of mothers are accepting employment in order to increase the family income. Consequently, the youth of today need added spiritual assistance from outside sources. Youth camps have become one of these important aids to help maintain the spiritual integrity of our church of tomorrow. ◀◀

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### THE NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP COMMISSION

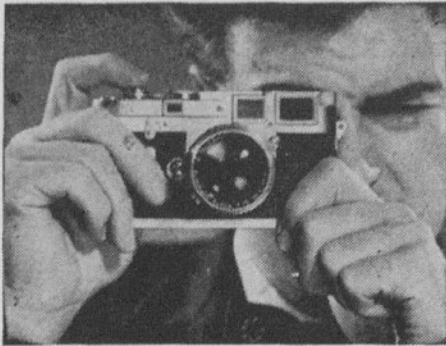
The Executive Presbytery has announced the appointment of personnel on the Assemblies of God National Youth Camp Commission. The formation of such a commission was considered essential because of the rapid growth of the Assemblies of God youth camp programs.

Bert Webb, assistant general superintendent, was appointed commission chairman. Members include: Charles Denton, national Sunday School secretary; Dick Fulmer, national C. A. secretary; Warren McPherson, C. A. promotions co-ordinator; Billy Reeves, Child Evangelism supervisor; Derald Musgrove, Kansas District C. A. president and Sunday School director; and Gene Putnam, Southern Missouri District C. A. president and Sunday School director.

The commission will correlate activities in the various realms of youth camping, including both boys and girls camps and C. A. camps.

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Pastor Charles Scrimale attaches Revivaltime sign to his church in Mt. Holly, N. J.

## Pioneer Pastors Display Revivaltime Sign

By STANLEY MICHAEL

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 2,500 Assemblies of God churches now displaying the attractive REVIVALTIME sponsorship sign. A great many of these are pioneer churches which are having financial struggles of their own. But pioneer pastors have discovered that REVIVALTIME is reaching people in their communities and a mention of the REVIVALTIME broadcast in their visitation programs opens many doors.

The beautiful gold-black-and-white sign displayed on the front of the church is a silent testimony to those passing by that this is a REVIVALTIME church. Many people have been attracted to Assemblies of God services by the REVIVALTIME sign. Perhaps the pastors can best speak for themselves: Picture 1

Kenneth Gustafson, pastor of Calvary Assembly of God, a pioneer work

in Manchester, Connecticut, states: "REVIVALTIME has many listeners in this fast-growing community, and it has created a common meeting-ground when making new contacts. We know of many shut-ins and hospital patients who listen regularly. Also a number of denominational friends tune in to REVIVALTIME and we are expecting a harvest in the days ahead. We consider REVIVALTIME to be our front line of attack in speeding the gospel in this area."

From Mt. Holly, New Jersey, Charles Scrimale reports: "Our congregation is just a little over three years old. A year and a half ago, even though our monthly income was small, we began supporting REVIVALTIME on a monthly basis. We have been doing so ever since, and every time our people hear the broadcast their hearts are thrilled to know we have had a share. God has been blessing us in a wonderful

IS YOUR CHURCH NOW DISPLA



K. Gustafson, pastor in Manchester, Conn. with G. Flower, So. New England Dist. Supt.



Pastor Gardner Altman, Angier, N. C. with Andrew Stirling, District Superintendent.



Pastor Wilbur Schuessler of Pierce City, Mo. displays Revivaltime sign.

way for taking this step of faith and supporting this phase of God's work. We moved into our new church building in July and are so glad we can display the REVIVALTIME sign."

Wilbur Schuessler, pastor of the Assembly of God in Pierce City, Missouri, comments: "Pastoring a pioneer church, directing a building program, and working full time in secular employment leaves very little time for house-to-house visitation. REVIVALTIME gives the pioneer pastor a real boost by bringing a full-gospel service into many of the homes of his community. The narrator's warm invitation to the local Assemblies of God church makes the stranger feel that he will be a welcome guest."

Pastor Gardner Altman of Angier, North Carolina, says, "In our endeavor

to establish an Assemblies of God church at Angier, we sought ways and means to promote our message in this community. I consider REVIVALTIME as one of the best available methods of introducing our message to the area. The cost of airing REVIVALTIME on WFVG at Fuquay was a strain on the church income. Nevertheless, I considered REVIVALTIME a necessity. The broadcast has been a real blessing to the community and to our church. I wish REVIVALTIME could accompany every pioneer effort."

A new assembly in Amory, Mississippi, is benefiting from the outreach of REVIVALTIME in that community. Students at Central Bible Institute underwrote the broadcast on this station. Pastor L. C. Clark recently told J. C. Burks, radio representative and district superintendent, that one of the staff announcers at station WAMY asked a certain man if he listened to REVIVALTIME. When the man replied that he did not, the announcer said, "You ought to listen; it is the best program we have on the air." Pastor Clark stated further that the program has proved to be a great blessing to their work in Amory.

\* \* \*

Does your church display a REVIVALTIME sign? Is your church a regular contributor to the ministry of the Assemblies of God broadcast which now reaches 12,000,000 every week?. This means that every dollar given to this ministry reaches 1,200 souls. Can we afford not to give when so little can do so much?

If your church does not display a REVIVALTIME sign you can now get one for 1959. All that is necessary is that you pledge to send an offering each

### RADIO NEWS FLASH!

The following stations have been added to the REVIVALTIME radio log:

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Sundays, 4 p.m.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C. (WGAI)  
560 kc.—1,000 watts

LORAIN, OHIO (WWIZ)  
500 watts  
Sundays, 8:30 a.m.

CAMDEN, ARKANSAS (KAMD)  
910 kc.—1,000 watts  
Sundays, 9:30 p.m.

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS (KOSF)  
1230 kc.—250 watts

PITTSBURGH, PA. (KOV)  
1410 kc.—5,000 watts  
Sundays, 10:30 p.m.

month. Perhaps you will want to place REVIVALTIME in your missionary budget for the coming year. Fill out the coupon below and return it to us immediately and your REVIVALTIME sign will be on its way. Perhaps there is someone in your congregation who would like to send something for this ministry through the church. This is an opportunity for you to reach men and women through radio who are not being reached by any other means.

### TOP DISTRICTS IN REVIVALTIME GIVING

January 1 to October 31, 1958

#### TOTAL GIVING

1. Eastern .....\$13,715.66
2. S. California ..... 12,748.65

#### AVERAGE GIVING PER CHURCH

1. New York .....\$ 75.48
2. S. New England ..... 71.81

#### INCREASE IN TOTAL GIVING

1. Appalachian .....\$ 808.46
2. Ohio ..... 697.93

#### INCREASE IN AVERAGE GIVING

1. South Dakota .....\$ 12.47
2. Appalachian ..... 12.18

#### GREATEST GAIN IN NUMBER OF CHURCHES GIVING

1. New Jersey ..... 15
2. West Central ..... 11

#### PERCENTAGE OF GAIN IN NUMBER OF CHURCHES GIVING

1. Montana ..... 17%
2. Appalachian ..... 13%

### REVIVALTIME

Box 70, Springfield, Mo.

Our church wants to join the many which now display the REVIVALTIME sign. Our faith promise each month during 1959 for this ministry will be \$..... Send the REVIVALTIME sign for display.

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CHURCH .....

CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS .....

CITY .....

STATE .....

**WANTING THE REVIVALTIME SIGN?**

# GERMANY IN THE NEWS

By RICHARD S. W. RUFF



Tent master putting up poster of tent meetings

**I**N THIS HOUR OF MORE OR LESS global confusion it is our wonderful privilege to preach the gospel at the very doors of Communism. Wherever the people accept the liberating truth of God's Word their bonds and shackles break asunder as they answer the call of "the faith once delivered to the saints."

For the past eight summers we have pitched large gospel tents along the 600 miles of Iron Curtain in the center of Europe. This year we were in Frankfurt, Hamburg, and Bremen.

The Christian Democratic Union permitted us to use its propaganda poster stands which have been placed all over Frankfurt by Adenauer's Catholic Party before an election. A crew of young men worked all night to paste posters to those stands advertising our meetings. The meetings received tremendous publicity free of charge through this means and the crowds were excellent.

## FIRST PENTECOSTAL YOUTH RALLY IN FRANKFURT

It was a thrill to meet with hundreds of young people who gathered

in our tent for the first Pentecostal youth rally in Frankfurt. In a special tarrying service more than twenty of these fine young people received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Boys and girls attended the special services conducted by the tent master and his able staff. Brother Wessler, who is pastor of the local assembly at Frankfurt, reports most encouraging contacts in his follow-up work with the new converts. His regular services are now visited by newcomers and the Lord is blessing in every way.

## REVIVAL FIRES IN HAMBURG

At Hamburg the tent meetings were sponsored by the largest Pentecostal church in Germany and its capable leader, Paul Rabe. Our platform had to be enlarged to accommodate the more than 100 singers who participated in the choir. Sister Ruff ministered to the believers who attended the afternoon services especially designed for Bible study and prayer, and many unsaved friends responded to the altar calls?

When we looked through the de-

cision cards we discovered that many more men than women had made a first-time decision for Christ. Those who were healed returned to give testimonies. This proved an untold blessing, greatly inspiring the faith of others coming to be healed. At the conclusion of the evening meetings many came to the prayer room at the church, and from the very first meeting believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit. No exact count was kept of those receiving the Holy Spirit but there were over thirty.

## SUCCESSFUL MERGER AT BREMEN

At Bremen two small assemblies merged to form a Pentecostal church, which under the capable leadership of its young minister Gerhard Klemm helped to sponsor our crusade. We were stationed at the fairground adjoining the central railroad station. Just as in Frankfurt, it was an act of faith for a small church of less than 200 people to fill a large tent with 900 chairs. But we expected great things and we were not disappointed. People came from many denominations.

Preparing ground for tent at Hamburg. Tower is an air-raid shelter.



People leaving tent in Frankfurt after the meeting.





We started the first meeting with a full tent and in every service many came forward to receive forgiveness of sins and the laying on of hands for healing. A secretary of the Borgward automobile factory who was saved brought a personal friend, a noted ship designer, who also asked for prayer to be saved. A rope dancer from a nearby circus and a famous state church organist were also among those who were saved.

#### TEEN-AGERS SAVED AND FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

A great host of enthusiastic teenagers came up front to make a first-time decision for Christ. Our four children joined us at Bremen and all of them received their Pentecostal experience during the prayer meetings conducted at the close of the evening services between 10 p.m. and midnight.

To encourage the new converts to continue with the church we conducted

a few follow-up services in the chapel. The house was filled and many new people attend services there regularly. The tent is now stored in a bomb-proof air raid shelter at Bremen awaiting the 1959 tent season.

#### THE CHALLENGE OF OPEN DOORS IN EUROPE

We are presently conducting special meetings in Switzerland where the French-speaking brethren are preparing for great soul-winning crusades at Neuchatel, Lausanne, and Geneva.

The countries of Europe once had the light of the gospel but it has grown dim. They are now endangered by the powerful influences of formalism, Catholicism, and Communism. God is opening new doors to us to preach the gospel and pray with the people. Please pray that we may be God's instruments both in revival meetings and in personal contacts. ◀◀

Although we are now enjoying the greatest measure of liberty in the history of the Pentecostal movement in Italy and rejoicing in the thought that there are over 500 churches, the lack of workers is being felt more keenly than ever. Some ministers supervise five to ten outstations besides the churches they pastor. The solution to this alarming lack of workers is a Bible School with adequate, permanent facilities. This urgent need will soon be met and the greatest progress ever will be realized with the training of adequate workers in Italy.

This has been a work of faith from the very beginning. The Italian Christian Education Foundation of Los Angeles, represented by John McTernan and Vincent Burchieri, and the Italian Branch of the Assemblies of God of the U.S.A. have worked harmoniously with the ultimate goal to construct an adequate Bible School building to meet the needs of the churches in Italy. Through visits to America by Roberto Bracco and Francis Toppi, president and secretary-treasurer respectively, the Lord has provided enough funds to purchase this choice piece of ground only about three miles from the church of Rome. Although about \$10,000 is still needed to complete the building, work has begun in faith, trusting God to provide the necessary funds. Those of you who would like to have a part in this important work may send your offerings to the Foreign Missions Dept., 434 West Pacific St., Springfield 1, Mo., designating them for "Italy Bible School." ◀◀

Be sure to put faith before feeling.

## GROUND BROKEN FOR BIBLE SCHOOL IN ITALY

BY ANTHONY PIRAINO, Field Secretary for Italy

THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 20TH was unprecedented in the history of the Assemblies of God in Italy. The ground-breaking ceremony, led by J. Roswell Flower and Bert Webb, was truly an occasion for great rejoicing.

As the ground was dedicated for the construction of a Bible School we recalled the many years of struggle, persecution, suffering, and even prison terms as well as the many victories that God had granted the brethren of Italy.



Ground-breaking ceremony for the Bible School in Rome. Taking the first shovel full of dirt (photo at left) are J. R. Flower and Bert Webb. The others are: Francis Toppi, Roberto Bracco, John McTernan, Vincent Burchieri, and Anthony Piraino. Some of our missionaries from Europe (photo at right), who had gathered in Rome for a convention, also participated in the ceremony.



# Spotlight on Evangelism

COMPILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM, 434 WEST PACIFIC ST., SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

►CLARINDA, IOWA—Just recently Evangelists Dick and Betty Stevens of Minneapolis, Minnesota, conducted a most successful Kid's Crusade in the church here. Night after night the auditorium was filled with boys, girls, youth, and adults. The Spirit of God anointed and used Brother Stevens in a marked way. A number of new families became acquainted with our church and the entire church was strengthened by the special meetings.

—G. R. McGhghy, Pastor

►INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—The Parkway Assembly has recently experienced a wonderful season of revival and refreshing under the ministry of the Eskelin family. The meetings were scheduled for two weeks only, but went on for a total of four. Door-to-door distribution of literature, newspaper advertising, telecasts on Saturday afternoons, two all-night prayer meetings, and the appeal of this talented family all worked together to bring about record crowds, many first-timers, and a gratifying number of decisions for Christ.

—William L. Thornton, Pastor

►ST. LOUIS, MO.—Evangelist Paul Hild, Minneapolis, Minnesota, ministered in Berea Temple for eight days in a most wonderful crusade, which he called "Youth and All for Christ." On the first Sunday night ten came to the altar for salvation and throughout the services of the week victories were won and souls were saved. A man seventy years of age came to Christ and the meetings climaxed in a blaze of glory on the final Sunday night. One man and his wife were gloriously saved in that service. He had been planning to commit a robbery the next Friday night, but all was changed when he

got saved. Evangelist Hild organized a prayer chain so that there was always somebody praying from 5:30 a.m. until service time. The Sunday School reached an attendance of 403, which was 101 higher than a year ago.

—William Nelson Sachs, Pastor

►NEW ORLEANS, LA.—Evangelist Marvin L. Smith of Coral Gables, Fla., recently conducted a two-week revival here in the Canal Street Assembly of God. The blessing of the Lord was upon both the evangelist and the church. Several were saved, some backsliders received real victory and are present in every service now. The preaching and singing of Brother Smith was a real blessing and an inspiration to everyone attending the services.

—T. Horace Clark, Pastor

►BOKOSHE, OKLA.—The Assembly of God here was greatly blessed in a revival that lasted four full weeks. The evangelist was Ray Rush of Banaza, Ark. Five precious souls were reclaimed and one was filled with the Holy Ghost. Several people testified to physical healing as they stood in the prayer line, and others were healed while standing in the congregation. Revival fires continue to burn.

—Leroy Kilpatrick, Pastor

►NORWALK, CALIF.—Ten adults were saved, several reclaimed, and a number filled or refilled with the Holy Spirit during 30 days of tent revival here with Evangelist Glen Shinn. The revival was climaxed with a sectional C. A. rally with over 800 present. During the meetings money was raised for a Sunday School bus. The effects of the revival are still felt within the church.

—R. L. Jordan, Pastor

►GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLO.—God blessed the anointed ministry of Evangelist Wallace Hickey of Englewood, Colo., as he ministered here in the First Assembly of God for a period of three weeks. A number of souls were saved, and the church was greatly encouraged and blessed in the Lord. Sister Hickey conducted soul-winning classes which were followed by door-to-door witnessing. That program brought many new people to the Lord.

—Harold Hartzler, Pastor

►SPARTANBURG, S. C.—The First Assembly of God here recently enjoyed a mighty moving of the Holy Spirit. Jimmie Mayo, Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia, ministered and from the very first, God began to move. At least thirty or thirty-five were saved and a number were filled with the Holy Spirit. One outstanding conversion was that of a lady who testified that she had been on the verge of committing suicide and even had the gun in her purse at the time the Lord saved her. Her husband was also saved during the meetings. The musical ministry of the evangelist was enjoyed by all. One contributing factor of the success of the meetings was the Kid's Crusade, conducted by Bro. Mayo, with his talking doll, Jerry.

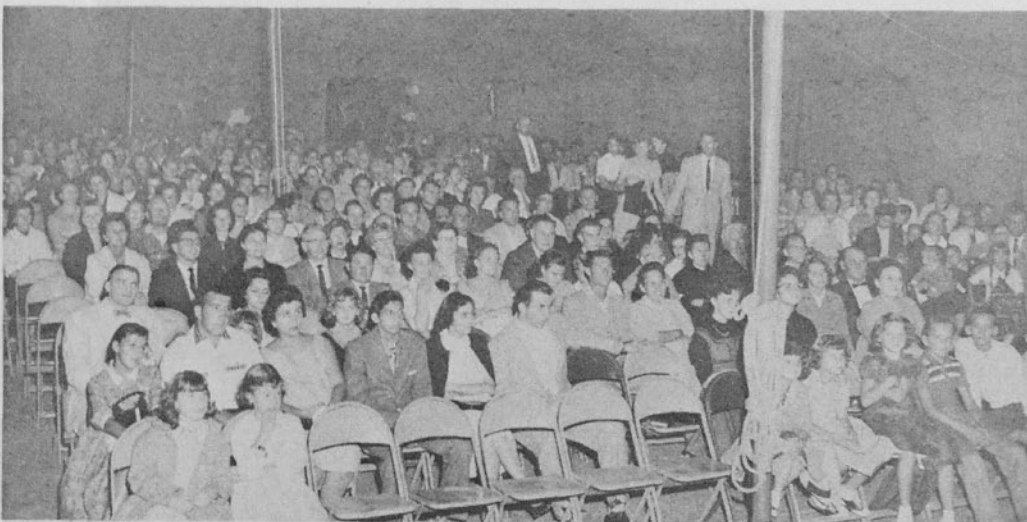
—K. L. Claycomb, Pastor

►GULFPORT, MISS.—During the past year the church here has had three outstanding revivals. Evangelist and Mrs. R. T. Havener of Hialeah, Fla., ministered and the congregation enjoyed a high spiritual tide. Then Evangelist and Mrs. Robert Northrop from Albuquerque, N. Mex., ministered for three weeks. Many were saved and joined the church and some have become Sunday School workers. Nearly all the new converts received the infilling of the Holy Spirit during the revival.

Several were saved and filled during the meeting with Marvin L. Smith of Coral Gables, Fla., and later Brother Smith came back to teach the workers training class. There was 97% attendance during the course. Within the past year 312 souls have surrendered at the altar for salvation and many have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

—Woodrow Oxner, Pastor

►ELDON, IOWA—Evangelist Paul R. Wood and wife of Springfield, Mo., recently conducted one of the most successful revival campaigns in the history of First Assembly. The anointed musical program and the dynamic ministry brought a great response. Each night souls sought the Lord for salvation, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a deeper walk with God. Many visitors attended the meetings from here and neighboring towns. Pastors of

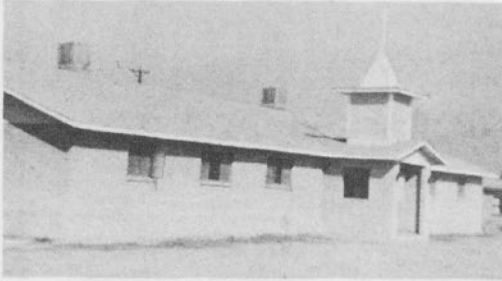


Part of the crowd attending the joint C. A. Rally and evangelistic meeting conducted by Evangelist Glen Shinn in Norwalk, California. R. L. Jordan is pastor.

other churches also came often. Many definite healings took place.

—Clinton Spillman, Pastor

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS



### NEW CHURCH AT TOLLESON, ARIZONA

On September 9, 1958, the new Assemblies of God church in Tolleson, Arizona, was dedicated by District Superintendent J. K. Gressett.

Pastor and Mrs. E. B. Jones have ministered to the congregation since April, 1957. Shortly after they came the building program was launched. Because the congregation co-operated in donating labor, the 45-by-100-foot church was erected at a cost of only \$7,500, but has been appraised at \$30,000.

The auditorium seats 300, and three Sunday School rooms, a nursery, and baptistry are included in the building.

God has blessed this congregation and its pastor, and they attribute the progress of the work to the fact that the Lord has worked with them. "For we are labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

### EDUCATIONAL EVANGELISM

Assemblies of God young people are using their own denomination as a topic for term papers in high school and college work. The suggestion to use the subject as a means of informing teachers and others about the Assemblies was made in a fall issue of the Christ's Ambassadors Herald.

The Public Relations Department at Springfield, Mo., has had numerous requests for booklets and other materials which are available to tell the Assemblies story.

### ORANGEVALE ASSEMBLY SHOWS RAPID GROWTH

Orangevale, California, is located just 18 miles northeast of Sacramento in an area that is growing rapidly due to the large Aerojet defense plant just five miles away. The plant employs over 14,000 persons now and plans call for around 40,000 employees by 1960.

During the past year an average of 136 have attended the Assembly's Sunday School compared to 82 for the previous year. Since October 1 the average attendance has been 150.

In keeping with the challenge to reach the increasing population the Orangevale Assembly has purchased an additional 2½ acres with two houses. Plans are being made to start the first unit of a new building soon.

## EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Ariz.	Yuma	First	Dec. 28-Jan. 11	Donnell-Holler	O. W. Killingsworth
Calif.	Riverbank	First	Dec. 28-Jan. 11	Norman Jones	R. H. Lockwood
	Wilmington	First	Dec. 28-Jan. 11	Watson Argue	Thomas Ming
Kans.	Topeka	Highland Park	Dec. 28-Jan. 4	Jim Collins	A. M. Selness
Miss.	Waynesboro	Mainor Creek	Dec. 28—	Earl Irby	C. L. Pitts
Mo.	Winona	A of G	Dec. 28—	Glenna Byard	Clymena Bowling
N. Y.	Cortland	A of G	Dec. 16-21	Jimmy & Dorothy Adams	Leon Cooke
N. C.	Washington	A of G	Dec. 10—	J. Russell Mayhue	M. L. Saunders
Tex.	Pleasanton	A of G	Dec. 28-Jan. 11	C. W. Gregg	Vernon Grumbles
	Port Arthur	First	Dec. 29-Jan. 15	Jimmy Adams Party	W. A. Wilkerson
Wash.	Winslow	* A of G	Dec. 26-28	H. C. MacDonald & wife	Donald H. Reincke
Antigua	St. Johns (BWI)	Pentecostal	Dec. 28-Feb. 8	McColl-Gerard Team	A. T. Jacobson

\* Union Rally

Announcements should reach the Department of Evangelism 30 days in advance, due to the fact that THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL is made up 24 days before the date which appears upon it.

We attribute the rapid growth of the Orangevale Assembly to the visitation program carried on by members of the church.

—M. L. Woods, Pastor

### RADIO RALLY CLIMAXES ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA—The First Assembly of God had C. M. Ward, Revivaltime evangelist, as guest speaker at its 27th Anniversary services September 9-11. The new sanctuary which was completed only recently was filled nearly to capacity for these services.

The three-day event climaxed with a great Radio Rally. Various Assemblies from the area attended the rally. An offering of nearly eight hundred dollars was received for Revivaltime.

—C. E. Turner, Pastor

### COLLEGE MAGAZINE DOUBLES OUTREACH

Campus Ambassador, the magazine for college youth published by the National C. A. Department, released its first issue for the current school season with a record of 1,000 on the list. This is more than twice the number of a year ago. The magazine is sent without charge to students in non-Assemblies of God colleges to strengthen them in their stand for Christ and Pentecostal principles.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVIVALTIME broadcast direct from Glad Tidings Tabernacle in Everett, Mass., Jan. 4. This is part of the dedication services of this new church.—by H. C. Bither, Pastor.

AREA-WIDE NEW YEAR'S MEETING—Dec. 31 at First Assembly of God, Cheyenne, Wyo. Bert Webb, Assistant General Superintendent, speaker.—by H. J. Keener, Pastor.

DEEPER LIFE CONFERENCE—Jan. 1 and 2 at Faith Tabernacle, Garden City, Kans. Sponsored by Section Four of the Kansas District. Speakers: Glenn Reed, R. R. Morrison, Derald Musgrove. Services 10:30 a.m., 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. For room reservations write Henry Greenwald, Box 124, Garden City, Kans.

SECTIONAL C. A. WATCH NIGHT RALLY—December 31, beginning at 9 p.m., at First Assembly of God, Sioux City, Iowa. Speaker, Gene Putnam, Southern Missouri C. A. President. Program will include special music and singing. Refreshments will be served at 12:30 a.m. by local C. A. group. All C. A. groups in the area are invited to attend.—by K. D. Baker, Pastor, and S. A. Sanders, Sectional C. A. President.

### WITH CHRIST

JOHN W. SITTON, 69, Houston, Texas, passed into eternity October 30, 1958. Brother Sitton was ordained in 1930. Most of his ministry was as an evangelist.

HORACE B. HOLDRIDGE, 84, De Leon, Texas, went to be with Jesus October 31, 1958. Brother Holdridge was ordained in 1936. His name was placed on the superannuated list in 1949. Brother Holdridge ministered both as pastor and evangelist.

GEORGE KING, 62, Chicago, Illinois, passed to his reward October 11, 1958. Brother King was ordained in 1956 and was pastoring a church in Chicago.

ELISHA B. HOSANNA, 70, Joliet, Illinois, passed into eternity October 25, 1958. Brother Hosanna was ordained in 1928. He was pastor at Joliet for many years.

FRANK TURNER, 37, Doty, Washington, went to be with Christ November 1, 1958. Brother Turner, former pastor at Doty, was struck by a falling tree while working as a logger. He was ordained in 1951.

### TRAINED TO SERVE

Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths (Psalms 25:4).

### JANUARY IS TRAINING MONTH



# EVERY PASTOR, EVERY SPEAKER NEEDS

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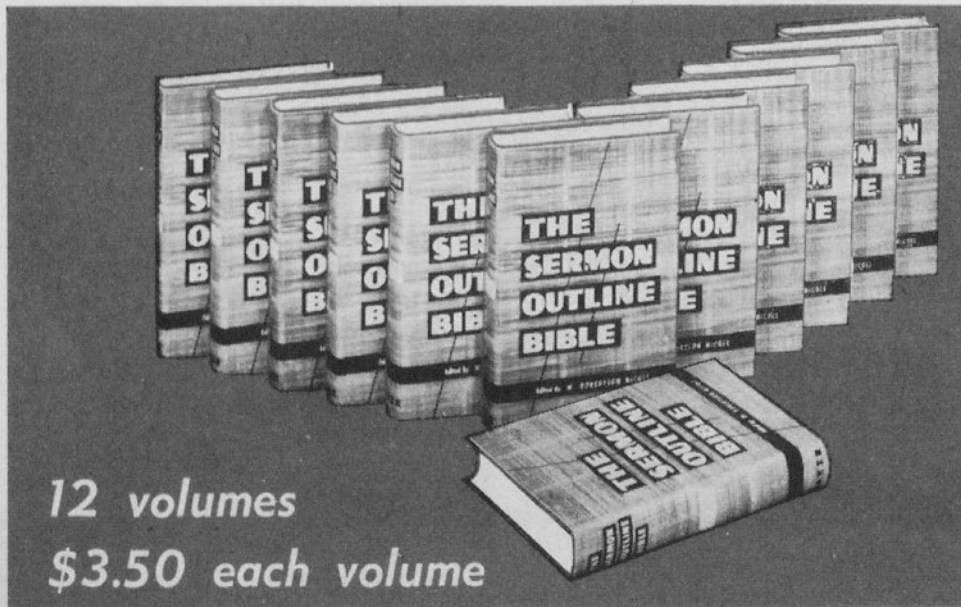
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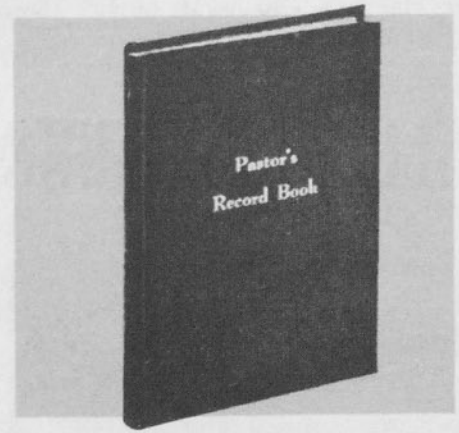
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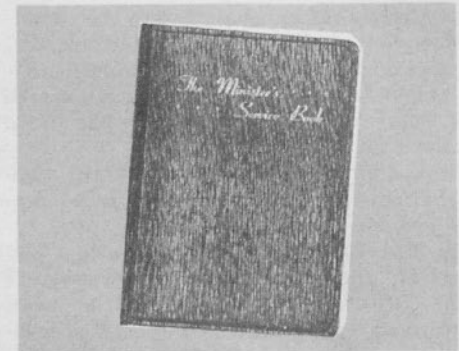
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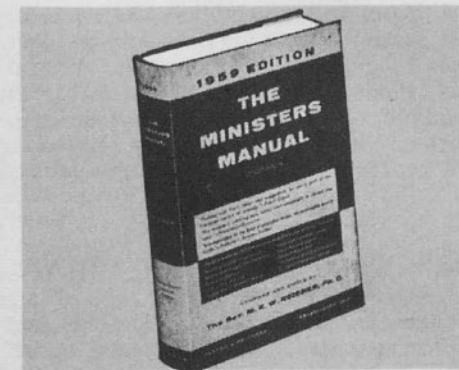
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PHOTO BY A. DEVANEY

# If HE HAD NOT COME

**T**HE MIND SHUDDERS, THE HEART sickens, the sky becomes black as midnight. Down the long avenues of time comes the despairing wail of the ages. If Christ had not come! God in heaven, what do I see? Draw the blinds in the house of life to keep out the sun. Close your eyes that you may not see the vision of a lost humanity; try to forget a race lost to every impulse of decency, purity, honor, kindness, love, and truth, a race that knows only the law of the jungle and the survival of the fittest.

If Christ had not come! Shut your ears, lest they hear the dreadful cry of little children, multitudes and multitudes of them born into a world that knows only the doctrines of hell, little children who can never have a chance,

who will never hear of Christmas, whose lips will never lisp a Christmas hymn, and whose ears will never hear the sweetest story in the world. Will that pitiable procession never stop? On and on it goes. The ghostly children of all ages whose childish lips forever moan, and whose lives are doomed to nothing but woe.

If Christ had not come! I see Moloch crowned king of all the world. Death, ruin, and desolation are everywhere. I see a world filled with hate, a world unrelieved by one gleam of love and kindness, a world of endless warfare in which man preys desperately upon his fellow man until humanity has wiped itself from the face of the earth.

If Christ had not come! O God! I see the baneful vision of a world

where the songs are all songs of hate, a weary, desperate, horrible world of mechanized human beings beating out their lives without hope, rushing on to their doom and an endless night.

If Christ had not come! The grave is dumb; the skies are black with the wrath of God; the horrible, loathsome trail of the serpent is everywhere; the wail of a desperate humanity fills the ears; the devil and all hell rejoice; and the heart is crushed beneath the unutterable woe of mankind.

If Christ had not come! Perish the thought. Shut out the vision, open the shutters, raise the blinds, and let the sunshine in. Christ *has* come! There is light and laughter, joy and peace in the hearts of multitudes of men and women. The music of celestial harmonies fills their souls. They have drunk deep of the river of God that became manifest at Bethlehem and at last, flowing out of an empty tomb, encircles the world.

Christ has come and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Peace and good will was the song that heralded His birth among men: It is true that not yet are all things put under Him, but the day is coming when He shall establish righteousness in the earth and His peace shall extend to the utmost confines of the world.

Come to Bethlehem today, "ye hearts that are harried with care." Come to Bethlehem, ye men and women bowed down beneath a load of sin. See there the Babe who was born to be your Saviour as well as mine, and the hope of all who will trust Him. Come to Bethlehem, ye nations of earth that seek in vain for peace in the councils and pacts of men. Come and behold Him who was born King of kings and Lord of lords, the Desire of all nations and the Prince of Peace.

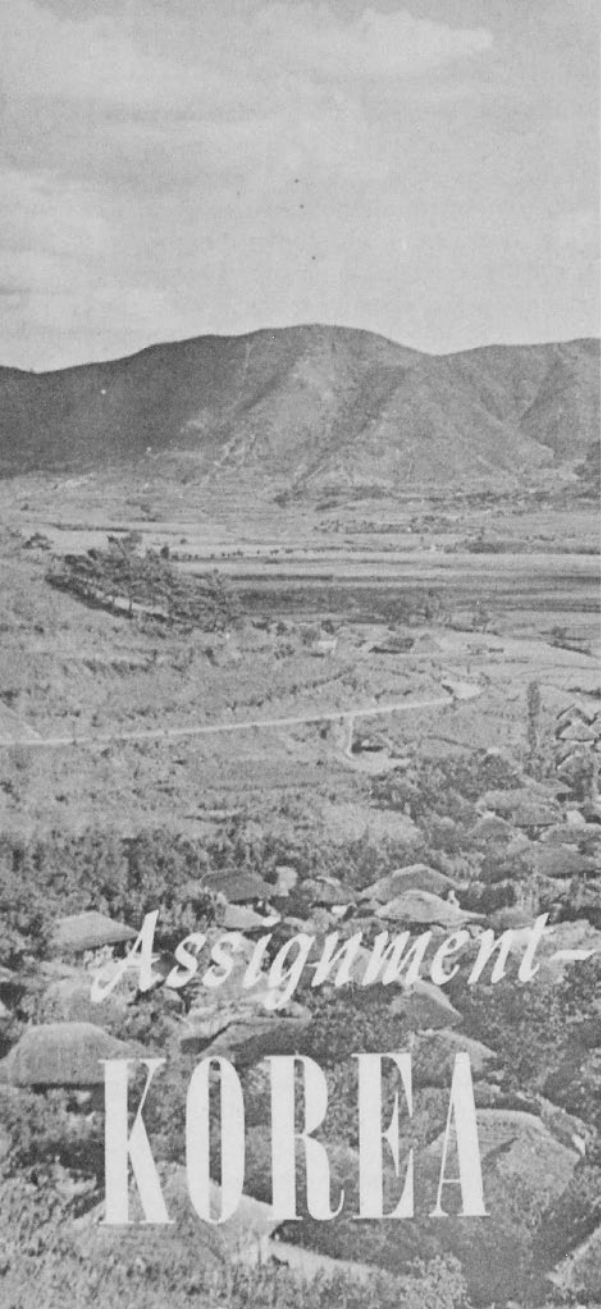
—Author unknown

**TRAINED TO SERVE**

Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge (Proverbs 23:12).

**JANUARY IS TRAINING MONTH**





# Assignment KOREA

EAST-WEST PHOTOGRAPHIC AGENCY

*The personal testimony of  
a young CBI student  
who consecrated her life  
to serve God overseas*

**BY LOIS YARDLEY**  
*Edgemont, South Dakota*

I CAME TO CHRIST AS A YOUNG PERSON in my home church and He wrought a complete transformation in my heart and life. One week after I was saved, the Holy Spirit filled me with His power as I waited before God. It would not be truthful to say there was no battle for supremacy of wills when God first showed me that His plan and primary concern for the Church was that it reach the unreached. But I realized that if I were to be a

disciple of Christ, my will must be in complete accord with His.

As I felt the call of God, His Word brought submissiveness to His will—"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." The choice was not mine; I had accepted the atonement that Christ had so freely offered and now my moral obligation was to share the message with those who had never heard.

Many young people of my home church had attended Central Bible Institute in preparation to answer the call of God. His blessings upon their lives and ministries convinced me that I too should enter CBI and prepare for service in the Far East. How I thank God for the opportunity I had to study the Word of God under the leadership of Spirit-filled men and women.

Three things about CBI left strong impressions upon my life. First, the Word of God became real to me as I saw God faithfully fulfill His promises; second, the prayer services met a great need in my life; and third, the practical experience through gospel work in outstations and street meetings helped prepare me for further service.

The class that stands out most prominently in my memory is Personal Evangelism, taught by Alfred Cawston. As the Spirit of God used each word to bring deeper conviction concerning the need of a dying world, it seemed as though our hearts would break within us.

How well I remember the morning Brother Cawston stood with tears of compassion streaming down his face, and pleaded for a complete dying to self and relinquishment of our own claims upon our lives. At this point we were challenged to seek in any way possible to answer the call of God upon our hearts. No more was my call just a dream that *perhaps* would be realized. Now it became a matter of life or death to fulfill what God had called me to do.

Because of previous work, I was familiar with the program of the Department of the Army for sending civilian workers overseas. I felt certain this was God's way for me to go to the Far East. Immediately I wrote the Overseas Affairs Division at Washington, D. C., and in due time was advised of my acceptance.

My overseas assignment brought me into contact with many needy souls, and soon there were a number of groups asking for someone to teach them about Jesus. It was difficult to work eight hours a day in an office and do gospel work in the evenings, but this seemed to be God's plan for me.

In addition to work among the Koreans, I found myself with another opportunity—that of witnessing to officers in our own army. One colonel broke into tears as he was told of the reality of Jesus. His heart was heavy as he shared his own testimony of how years ago God had called him to be a soul winner but he had not obeyed. He challenged me always to be faithful to my Saviour and to choose God's way.

At present two missionary families have established Assemblies of God works in Korea—the John Stetzes and the Richard Johnstons. When Brother and Sister Stetz were leaving for America, additional missionary help was urgently needed. Realizing that God had called me to full-time service, I felt this was the time for me to act. I asked for recognition from our Foreign Missions Department and suggested that I could come home on regular leave at government expense, raise my support, and return at government expense to complete my term as a civil service employee, then enter full-time missionary service. The idea was accepted and soon plans were under way.

I am now at home preparing to return to Korea as an appointed missionary. God has afforded me the opportunity to serve Him full time, and now as I endeavor to give my life wholly to ministering to spiritual needs I know that it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." ◀◀

**BIBLE VERSE**

**MATTHEW 2:1, 2** Behold,  
there came wise men from the  
east to Jerusalem,  
Saying, Where is he that is  
born King

## The Name Which Is Above Every Name

(Continued from page three)

God has given. It is good news from above.

Christmas is historically true. It is more than cranberry sauce, or stockings hung at a fireplace. Jesus Christ was not a phantom, though men have sought to prove that He was. He was not some legend cleverly created and kept alive by some commercially interested pressure group.

Other names fade. We have had the "Davy Crockett" rage and the "Lone Ranger" fad, and for a moment all manner of articles bear their imprint—and then it's over and another name captures the limelight. But not so with the Name of Jesus. They will speak of Him in more than a thousand tongues this year as they retell the old, old story of His birth in song, in story, in picture, in pantomime, and by the printed page.

He was born at a definite time in a definite place. He lived and grew up among men. He labored, suffered, died, and rose again. These facts are recorded in documents which have been examined more critically than any other documents in the world and found to be reliable. It is an amazing story. No other can compare with it.

Let men who stand aloof in an attitude of condescension or criticism consider what the world would have been like without Christmas. What would they substitute for it? Have they anything better to say than the gospel has to say?

Some people miss Christmas just where others find it. The shepherds found it at the manger in Bethlehem, but the innkeeper who had lived there all the time missed it. He stood near to eternal fame that day had he but known it, but now we think of him simply as a nameless man who sleepily missed his chance to entertain angels unaware. God was knocking at his door but there was no room for Him.

You can miss it the same way. This season brings a divine invitation to a better kind of life. Will you treat lightly the invitation to make a personal decision for God, or will you accept it as your own personal passport to a different and better kind of life? What is your answer to Christmas?

Christmas always reduces the gospel to its simplest forms to me. I am reminded that Christianity is primarily an offer. Too often we make it a demand. The burden of the gospel message must always be what God has done for us rather than what we ought to do for ourselves. Man is not only weak—he is sinful. He cannot do what he knows he ought to do. But God has come to our aid. He has sent His Son as our Saviour. This is God's gift to us. Our one responsibility is to accept His gift, to trust in Jesus, and to love Him, just as a child accepts, trusts, and loves a good parent. That is the gospel! Every year Christmas says to me, "God so loved you that He gave His only begotten Son..." And that's one Gift I've never wanted to exchange!

Now what will you say? Will you rejoice in His birth, or will you crucify Him afresh? Wise men brought a gift

## Christmas Behind Bars

(Continued from page nine)

glow on the face of a man who has spent ten or fifteen years in a prison hospital bed with tuberculosis, as he opens his present on Christmas morning?

Many a prisoner's lonely face lights up as he opens the Scripture to the second chapter of Luke and reads the Christmas story. And the chaplain's heart is warmed as he strolls through the cellblock and sees some men still reading by candlelight long after the lights have gone out for the night.

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*Editor's Note:* Many prisoners have been won to Christ through the great work of our prison chaplains and through the ministry of the Prison Division of the Home Missions Department. Bible study courses written by Arvid Ohnell are supplied free of charge to prisoners. Thousands of letters from prisoners have been received in the Home Missions office telling of their gratefulness for these courses.

The demand for the courses is increasing rapidly and the fund must be built up to meet this need. Six books can be sent for \$5 or one book for \$1.

Please send an offering today for the PRISON FUND to the Home Missions Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Mo. ◀◀

of myrrh to Him at Bethlehem, and mockers brought the same gift at Calvary. Likewise, Christmas can be a huge fiasco to you, or it can be a glorious reality. It depends upon your attitude toward Jesus Christ. If Christ is only the carry over of some ancient myth to you, then this season will weary you like the last dragging round of a Mardi Gras. You'll finally feel as though you can't endure the ceaseless jingle of the cash register another moment. But if Christ is real to you, your joy will last long after the turkey has been reduced to a skeleton and the carefully decorated living room looks like Wall Street after a ticker tape shower.

The Name of Jesus will live on after the coveted names sewn inside mink jackets and stoles, the names of costly perfumes, and the trademarks on expensive sports equipment have all faded and lost their significance. His Name will increase in power and radiance, for God "hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. . . ." ◀◀

## Classified Ads

RATES: 35c a word; minimum charge \$5.00. Before submitting an ad, write for complete information and copy blank. Address: Advertising Manager, THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Missouri.

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ACCORDIONS. Christians buy direct from Importers. Famous Italian make. Lifetime guarantee. To 65% discount. Also good used ones. Easy payment plan. Write: Crown Importers, Box 175, Sioux City, Iowa.

## TRAINED TO SERVE

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not (Proverbs 8:33).

## JANUARY IS TRAINING MONTH



# What Does Christmas Mean to **YOU?**



PHOTO BY GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

**A**S THE EVER-WONDERFUL STORY OF THE CHRIST CHILD is told again this Christmas season, you will be wise to ask and answer the question, "*What does it mean to me?*"

Should you attend a Christmas program you will hear glad carols proclaiming the Saviour's birth. You will hear again the angelic announcement to the shepherds: "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" (Luke 2:10, 11).

You will probably see a portrayal of the virgin Mary, the crude manger, and the infant Jesus. Wondering shepherds will stand in the background and adoring wise men present their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

You will find your heart warmed again by the simplicity and sincerity of the sacred drama. But do not be content with merely taking part in a religious festival. Do not stop short of asking yourself, "Is this thing true? Did God actually send His Son into the world to be our Saviour? And if so, what does it mean to *me* now?"

Prophecy, history, and Christian experience combine to answer, "Yes, this thing is true. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...'"

The prophet Isaiah tells us, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." The humanity of Christ was *born* of the virgin; as the eternal Son of God He was *given*, "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." He was "God manifest in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16).

He grew to manhood, died on the cross for our sins,

was raised from the dead, and is alive forevermore. Today the Christ is not a child but a living Saviour who can meet all our needs.

Our greatest need, whether we realize it or not, is for divine forgiveness for our sins and reconciliation to God. And God is able and willing to forgive because Christ died for our sins. In Christ there is "redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7). Christmas means there is forgiveness for you. Have you received God's pardon for sin by trusting Christ as your Saviour?

In addition to forgiveness we need deliverance from fear, sin, and death. We need a power greater than our own to subdue evil desires and to break sinful habits. We need a "friend that sticketh closer than a brother" to take away loneliness and to give courage and comfort. Christmas means you may have such a great Deliverer and Friend. Christ said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18).

At this Christmas season, it is not Christ in the manger but Christ in the heart you need. He will come into your heart if you will open it to Him.

And finally, Christmas means there is hope for the life to come. The apostle Paul wrote of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). The Christ who was born to be your Saviour, and whose indwelling presence can be your daily strength, is your only hope of eternal life, heaven and glory.

This is the Christ to believe and to receive into your heart at this Christmas season. —*Doorstep Evangel*

