

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

DECEMBER 1966 TEN CENTS

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

FILE COPY
1/1/67



Wishing you joy at Christmas



NOCHE

THE BALMY NIGHT was typical for December. Now that the rainy season had passed and "summer" had come to Central America, the air was clear and the stars seemed to be within reach.

A normal night, except for one thing—this was Christmas Eve. And Manuel was restless. Looking over the joyful congregation which had gathered for the Church's Christmas program, the young pastor managed a smile; but inwardly he was worried about Carlos who had only recently become a Christian. Were the temptations of the Christmas fiestas too much? Had the taunts of the former companions finally broken him?

Poor María, thought Manuel as he glanced toward Carlos' wife. The light from the kerosene lantern played tricks as it danced across her face. Although she was trying to follow the strains of the carols the group was singing, she kept looking back toward the unpainted door of the tiny church. Manuel could see the question written on her face: *Why doesn't Carlos come?*

Manuel knew she was thinking of days gone by. Especially during festive days she had never expected Carlos to come home until late at night. After the tavern doors were finally closed and the loud music silenced for another day, Carlos would at last stagger home. With a stinging conscience he would then stand by his children as they lay sleeping on straw mats and gaze upon them. María had seen him silently weep as he struggled for a way out. But all of this was before!

Occasionally the shouts of the crowd at the town plaza could be heard over the songs of the believers. Without being there, Manuel knew confetti filled the air as people marched around the block again and again. He knew the sight of the bright decorations and the ring of the laughter. He also knew the sight of those so intoxicated they would never remember this Holy Day. *But was Carlos with them?*

Manuel visualized the day he had arrived in San Tomas as a new worker, not knowing what to expect in a town hostile to the *evangélicos*. And when it seemed he would never find a way to break through, he had been called to the home of Carlos and María. He had found María diseased and despondent. Carlos had been stubborn and silent as the pastor had offered prayer and had only consented to the pastor's visit because of simple necessity. Hardened though he was from days of drunken brawls, he did not want María to die. Yet he knew her disease was incurable.

When the miracle took place and María began to recover, Carlos admitted that God must have done it. Yet he struggled on in rebellion.

Manuel tried to listen to the youth as they gave their Christmas presentation, but his thoughts kept running to Carlos whom he could picture as one of Christ's lambs—a lamb possibly in deep trouble at this very moment.

He hardly saw the woman in a gaily colored dress who arose and walked toward the door. He knew subconsciously she would be going to prepare for the traditional midnight dinner. But even the thought of hot, fresh *tamales* wrapped in smooth banana leaves failed to relieve his worry.

Carlos had seemed so sincere when he knelt on this

By DAVID E. GODWIN
Missionary to Panama

same rough floor just 10 days ago. María's wonderful testimony had finally won him over. The young pastor brushed at a tear as he remembered.

True, the former drinking companions had boasted, "Carlos is an *evangélico* until Christmas. After the holidays he'll never go to church again!" But Carlos had testified with such assurance!

A deacon slapped his hands and hissed at a dog that had wandered up to the platform for a better view of the Christmas presentation. The program went on uninterrupted. Pretty little brown-skinned "angels" clothed in sheets and *serapes* were acting out the story of Jesus' birth.

María looked at the pastor. Worry etched a line across her usually smiling face. Her eyes searched for an answer: *Where is Carlos?*

Unable to sit still another moment, the pastor rose, making every effort to remain unnoticed, and slipped toward the door. Once outside he ran toward the plaza. What would his congregation think of his leaving the Christmas program like this?

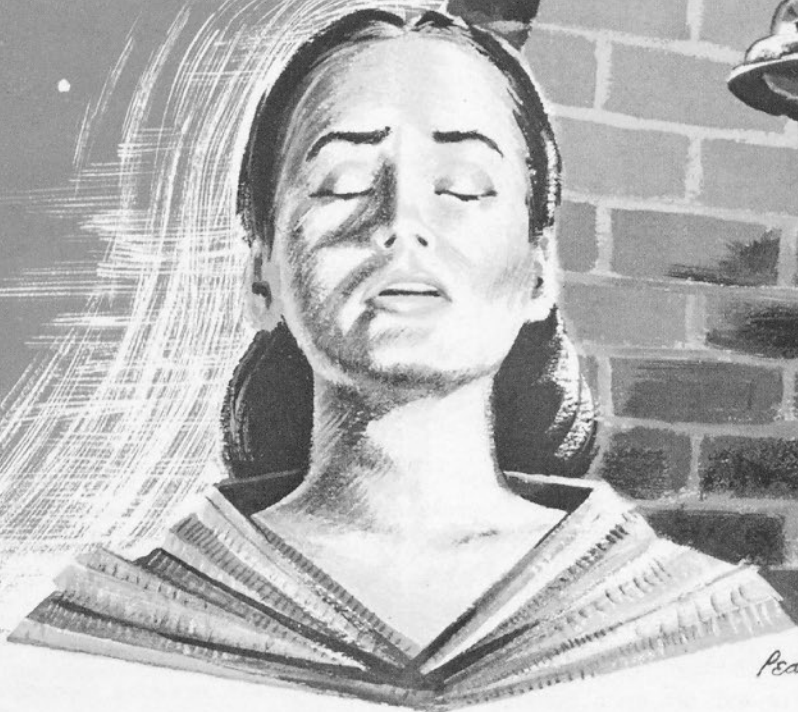
As he approached the town square, he hardly saw a group of youngsters who called to him with teasing words. Manuel made his way toward the noisy tavern where Carlos had spent most of his life before becoming converted. "What will I do if he is here?" Manuel asked himself.

After what seemed to be an hour, the pastor finally reached the entrance. He peered over the heads of those who leaned against the doorway. When he at last could see, Manuel wanted to forget what he had seen.

There Carlos sat with two obviously drunken friends beside him. Oblivious to the remarks of those around

DE PAZ

(NIGHT OF PEACE)



Pearsall


him who now recognized him as the pastor, Manuel put his hands to his head, stunned that Carlos should so quickly lose his faith.

His thoughts were shattered as he realized someone was calling his name. "Pastor!" shouted Carlos, as he came helping the two men along toward the door. "You are here just in time, Pastor." Not caring that the entire crowd was listening, Carlos continued, "Yes, Pastor, I have been giving my testimony to Jorge and Pedro all evening, and finally they are ready to accept Jesus too!"

Noting the pastor's bewildered expression, Carlos suddenly realized what he must have been thinking. "Pastor,

did you think I had...had lost the faith? Ah, and María, poor thing, she must be worried too! Shall we go comfort her with this good news?"

As the four of them pushed through the crowd and out onto the cobblestone road, the young pastor could only think of how happy the people would be.

They would stand and sing *Noche de Paz* (the Spanish title of *Silent Night*) again just for Carlos and his converts. The congregation would be thrilled. And he could already imagine a radiant María standing beside her husband, overjoyed that once again Jesus had brought peace on earth. 

Mission to Bethlehem

THE APPROACH OF ANOTHER CHRISTMAS finds world peace as elusive as ever. The bloody fighting continues in Vietnam. The situation between Israel and neighboring Arab lands remains tense. War preparations proceed at an alarming pace in East and West. "Peace on earth" seems but an empty promise, a vain hope, a futile dream.

Why do men notice only a small part of the angels' message and overlook the rest? The angel told the shepherds of "a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord." If men reject the Saviour, ignore His Messiahship, and deny His Lordship, how can they expect to enjoy His gift of peace?

When Christ came to Bethlehem His mission was not merely to bring peace. In fact, during His teaching ministry He plainly said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). His sword separates good from evil, truth from error, and sets holiness at war with sin.

What, then, was His mission to earth? According to the Scriptures His purpose in coming to Bethlehem in human form was fourfold:

1. *To Reveal the Father.* It seemed that a vast chasm separated God from man. God was so mighty, so holy, how could a frail mortal approach Deity and have fellowship with his Maker? Jesus came as the living embodiment of God the Father so that men could understand how love can be mingled with law, and how mercy can mix with justice. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father," Jesus said (John 14:9).

2. *To Take Away Sin.* Through the Incarnation, the sinless Son of God became a Sacrifice to atone for the sin of every penitent who will accept Him as personal Saviour. Jesus came to be "the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

3. *To Destroy the Works of the Devil.* Mankind had an enemy too strong for it. The Devil was robbing men of their character, their happiness, their health, so Jesus came to the rescue. As Lord over every enemy force He can set us free from all the tyranny of Satan. "To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

4. *To Prepare for a Second Advent.* At His first advent in Bethlehem He came "to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Hebrews 9:26) but at His second advent He will come as a Lion, not a Lamb. He will come as the Victor, not the Victim. He will set up a government over all the earth, in which world peace will be enforced by divine power. This government will assure justice and prosperity for all men everywhere. It will fulfill the hopes of humanity from time immemorial. What a Christmas this will be if the second coming of our Lord should occur while we are celebrating His first coming! May God grant we shall be ready when He comes.

* * *

SPECIAL GREETINGS TO THE MILITARY

May heaven's peace be in your heart at Christmas. Though it may find you far from home, you will always be near us in thoughts and prayers. We thank God for you and pray He will give you special blessings this sacred season.

(NOTE TO REGULAR READERS: the Servicemen's Division is mailing this Christmas issue of the *Evangel* to 10,451 youths who are scattered throughout the earth in the service of their country. If you would like to share some of this expense, kindly send a Christmas offering to: Servicemen's Division, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802.)

Official Voice of the Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. WE BELIEVE in the Blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming. WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers, who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved, and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

CHRISTMAS CAN EITHER MEAN Scrooge, or it can mean Santa Claus, or it can mean Saviour.

To some in the Scrooge image this season is painful. Everything about it makes them groan and wince. They resent spending and sharing. They complain about decorating and cooking. They remember cards sent which brought no response and presents given without equal value received.

To such people, Christmas is a waste of time and money. *There is no gladness in their souls.* The shouts and excitement of little children make them cross and cantankerous. The carols and lights mean commercialism. The good will and charity are marks of hypocrisy.

This is one side of Christmas. Thank God, such people are in the minority.

To others, Christmas is Santa Claus. *It is the annual frolic.* It is a chance to go out on the town. It is an excuse for parties every night. It is credit buying to the limit. It is myth and legend and tradition.

To these people Christmas is an intoxicating time of the year. Saint Nick decrees fun for everyone.

The foot-sore clerk behind the counter must never show a sign of weariness. The police must ignore overtime parking. The postman is expected to struggle with heaps of mail with a smile. Everybody is expected to urge the customer to sign the will-pay-later form. Package wrappers are meanies if they do not add the extra bow.

Hopes are raised. Wives become more considerate than usual. Children do chores without being told. Husbands open car doors again for their wives. Santa Claus has come to town. *Things are different as long as he stays.*

But that is not the real Christmas. *A real Christmas centers in the Saviour.*

Jesus does not arrive by parade on Fifth Avenue. He is not sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He is not escorted to a throne of tinsel by stars of Hollywood and television. No mantles with stockings pinned to them become His silent rendezvous. No cash registers, rollicking with sales, pour out their profits to Him. No knees are bowed to Him in liquor stores, ballrooms, or corporation offices. No place is set for Him at the table.

But there can be no real Christmas without Jesus. *Without Him all you have is either a Scrooge or a Santa Claus.* You face either disillusionment or fantasy.

Christmas is more than a calendar date. At its holiest it is *an experience.* It means opening your life to Jesus Christ. Then *He* decorates your soul. He sets up anthems of praise within. He brings new viewpoint and urge. He fills the life with gifts so that you learn it is more blessed to give than receive.

So much that spurs the frenzy of this season has been drawn from legends and practices of other cultures. We have blitzed Christmas with strange and faraway customs. We wander among trees and wreaths—plum puddings and candles—packages and parades—looking for the King.

We will have to look elsewhere than behind a red fur-trimmed coat, high black-patent boots and white whiskers. They have still put Him in a corner, sort of out of the way.



SCROOGE



SANTA CLAUS



SAVIOUR

You will have to go to the Bible section of the department store. You will find Him in the Book!

Open the Bible. Read God's account of your Saviour! Christmas will flood your soul. You will find a mystery there that is missing in traffic jams and crowded escalators. You will discover a meaning that cannot be found in troubadours' songs and the jingle and jangle of ornaments.

This Gift cannot be wrapped and tagged and laid *under* a tree. God's Gift was nailed *to* a tree. The Gift of God to you comes like the air you breathe and the sleep you enjoy. Make room in your heart for Him!



THE BABY WAS BORN EARLY CHRISTMAS MORNING. That afternoon he gave a little cry and was gone. It turned out he had no diaphragm; it was a wonder he lived even 12 hours.

In two days we were to move out of town. We hadn't expected the baby to be born this soon. The living room was a strange conglomeration of Christmas tree, presents, half-packed trunks—and a bassinet, no longer needed.

In the midst of this turmoil and strain, my soul cried out to a remote God whom I did not know, "God, where are You? O God, do You know what I'm going through? Can You help me?"

And God heard my soul's cry, turning my anguish into one of the most blessed experiences of my life.

I had heard how people opened the Bible at random and read a verse that just fitted their need. I had wondered if such a thing could really happen. But now it did indeed happen to me.

Two friends came the next day to help me pack. One of them said to me, "You'd better rest for a while, Edith, and here," taking a Bible from a box of books she was packing, "read us something from this." She was not a Christian, and neither was I. The Bible was just one among many religious books we read.

Lying down on the sofa, I opened the Bible at random and my eye fell on Isaiah 25:8. Could it be? In wondering amazement and almost with awe I read aloud, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces...for the Lord hath spoken it."

God understood what I was going through! Not only that; He cared! Peace replaced the anguish in my soul. God *cared!*

And yet another thing troubled me greatly. Where

**THE NEWBORN BABE ENTERED
HEAVEN AT CHRISTMAS WITHOUT
BAPTISM, WITHOUT GOOD WORKS!**

THROUGH HEAVEN'S GATE

was my baby? He had not been baptized. Did that mean he was in hell? Oh, surely not! But you couldn't go to heaven unless you were baptized, could you? Was heaven a real place? Was there any other place where unbaptized babies went?

Since I didn't know how to pray, but only to recite prayerbook prayers, I couldn't take these questions to God. I could only long, with a silent inner cry, to know where my baby was. As I was walking across the room to pack something, I suddenly stood on the edge of a vast, empty darkness. Before me loomed a massive gate. Very slowly the gate swung open about two feet, enough to let me glimpse what was on the inside.

I was unsaved at the time and therefore unfit to go through the gate into heaven, but God was gracious and let me look in. I saw neither form nor objects, only a shining white atmosphere aglow with an intense brilliance that seemed to pulsate. As I gazed, my whole being was filled with a peaceful ecstasy such as I had never experienced before and never have since. It was pure, holy, heavenly bliss, beyond words to describe. God spoke to my soul, "This is where your baby is." And then the huge gate slowly swung shut. I was in outer darkness again, a cavernous, unending darkness of despair, forever shut out of heaven's glorious atmosphere. How could I bear it?


And then I was back in my own living room, walking over to a trunk to pack something, scarcely able to comprehend what had just happened, feeling both elated and forlorn at the same time. I had found out something else about God. He knew how to answer our questions. If those unspoken questions of mine could be called prayer, then maybe this was what people meant when they said that God answers prayer.

I am glad the story does not end there. Only five months later I found Jesus Christ as my own Saviour, and heaven's atmosphere touched my soul again, banishing all the forlornness. How wonderful to be free from sin's guilt! How wonderful to know God directly and personally! And oh, how wonderful to know that the next time I stand before heaven's gate and watch it open, I shall be able to enter in!"

Possibly you are as confused about the way to heaven as I was that Christmas 17 years ago. I learned that church rituals cannot save anyone. I, who had been baptized as an infant, should have been allowed into heaven and my unbaptized baby excluded; but it was the other way around.

Good works couldn't earn my way to heaven. For years I had sincerely struggled to be good, but my baby had done neither good nor evil (Romans 9:11).

Only Jesus Christ can make a person fit for heaven. He will bring you directly into the presence of God. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). You will be amazed to find that God, instead of being remote and unapproachable, is your own Heavenly Father, and prayer is just simple conversation with Him.

Come to Jesus Christ in childlike faith, and this Christmas will be the turning point in your life. 

Each Christmas eve, people gather in the courtyard of the Church of the Nativity to sing Christmas carols. At midnight the bells of Bethlehem ring out to remind the world that "Jesus is born." There are no strangers at Christmas in Bethlehem. Each worshiper greets his neighbor as a friend, sharing songsheets and candlelight to sing the Christmas carols.



JORDAN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

HE CAME AT NIGHT

By JOYCE WELLS BOOZE

WHEN JESUS CAME TO THE WORLD, He came at night. All was enshrouded in darkness.

It was night for Mary and Joseph. They had journeyed far over hilly roads at an unpleasant time of the year to fulfill an unhappy duty. Of the little living they had, the Romans were now demanding more, and they had come to pay it.

As the night drew on, they sought rest and refreshment but found only disappointment. Joseph, unable to provide for Mary as he felt he ought, was troubled. Mary knew her time was near, but she knew not what to expect. In the stable where they found shelter from the damp and cold, it was night.

It was night for the Jews. Everywhere were signs of bitterness, unhappiness, and despair. Their Roman conquerors sent tax collectors and soldiers who rankled their Jewish pride. The soldiers could demand their strength whenever they wished, and the tax collectors their money. And there was no recourse.

But the Romans were not the only blight of the Jews. Disease was rampant. Leprosy, palsy, insanity, blindness—to the thousands these had brought down the curtains of night. Over the hillsides, among the tombs, along the roadways an army of sick and afflicted roamed and begged. Some screamed their defiance and sought release from this living death. All hated the diseases that kept them from home and family and usefulness. They longed for help, but none was available. It was night in Jewry.

It was night for the Romans too. Their empire, once so great, was crumbling within though still controlling the world. Their government, founded by honorable and courageous men, had descended to those who were self-seeking and licentious. Civil strife was spreading. There was self-indulgence and unmentionable immorality. Roman rulers played fast and loose with the power and money entrusted to them. Rome had plunged into darkness.

It was night in the religious world. For 400 years the voices of the Hebrew prophets had been silent. Jewish sects had added to the Law until it was burdensome

beyond bearing. The pious Jews were following man-made rules, trying to save themselves. The Romans, fearful of overlooking some god, worshiped a whole collection and were still not satisfied. The Greeks in their search made an altar to "The Unknown God." Everywhere there were gods, but none offered peace and satisfaction. Religion had not found the way. It was night.

But into this night *Jesus came*. He brought light to the shepherds on the nearby hills. To the Wise Men, learned in the science of this world and struggling to find the true way, He brought the light from a world above.

To the Jews He opened again their dialogue with God—a God of love and healing—by teaching them the way of love and restoring them to wholeness in soul, mind, and body.

To the Romans and Greeks He opened the door that they, too, might end their search for truth.

No one was left out. He did not come to a certain political party or nationality or religious sect. He came to everyone! Everywhere He went, He brought healing and hope.

To the leper He said, "I will: be thou clean"; to the sinner, "Thy sins are forgiven thee"; to the immoral, "Go, and sin no more."

To the blind, "Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee." To the palsied one, "Take up thy bed and walk." He left the insane restored and the demon-possessed delivered. Truly the people who sat in darkness saw a great light!

Is it night for you? Have sin or sickness or the difficulties of living enclosed you in darkness? Are you being pushed and pursued until you are on the brink of suicide or insanity?

You need not be. Jesus has come. Just as He came in the night long ago, He will come into your night. Nothing is too hard for Him. He will bring you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Open your heart and let Him in.

How well do we know Jesus?

By MARGIE J. SHIELDS

ELISABETH WAS WITH CHILD. A miraculous thing. for she was old—"well stricken in years." Her young cousin Mary was pregnant also, and this was a greater miracle, for Mary was a virgin.

Their unusual circumstances drew them together. Mary went to visit Elisabeth in Judea, and even as she greeted her cousin the Holy Spirit came upon Elisabeth so that she recognized Mary as the "mother of my Lord."

Each knew by revelation that she would bear a son, and both knew the relationship their sons would bear to each other.

We may safely assume that both John and Jesus were told these things by their mothers. They both knew the circumstances of their births and the prophecies concerning them. No doubt they visited each other as boys.

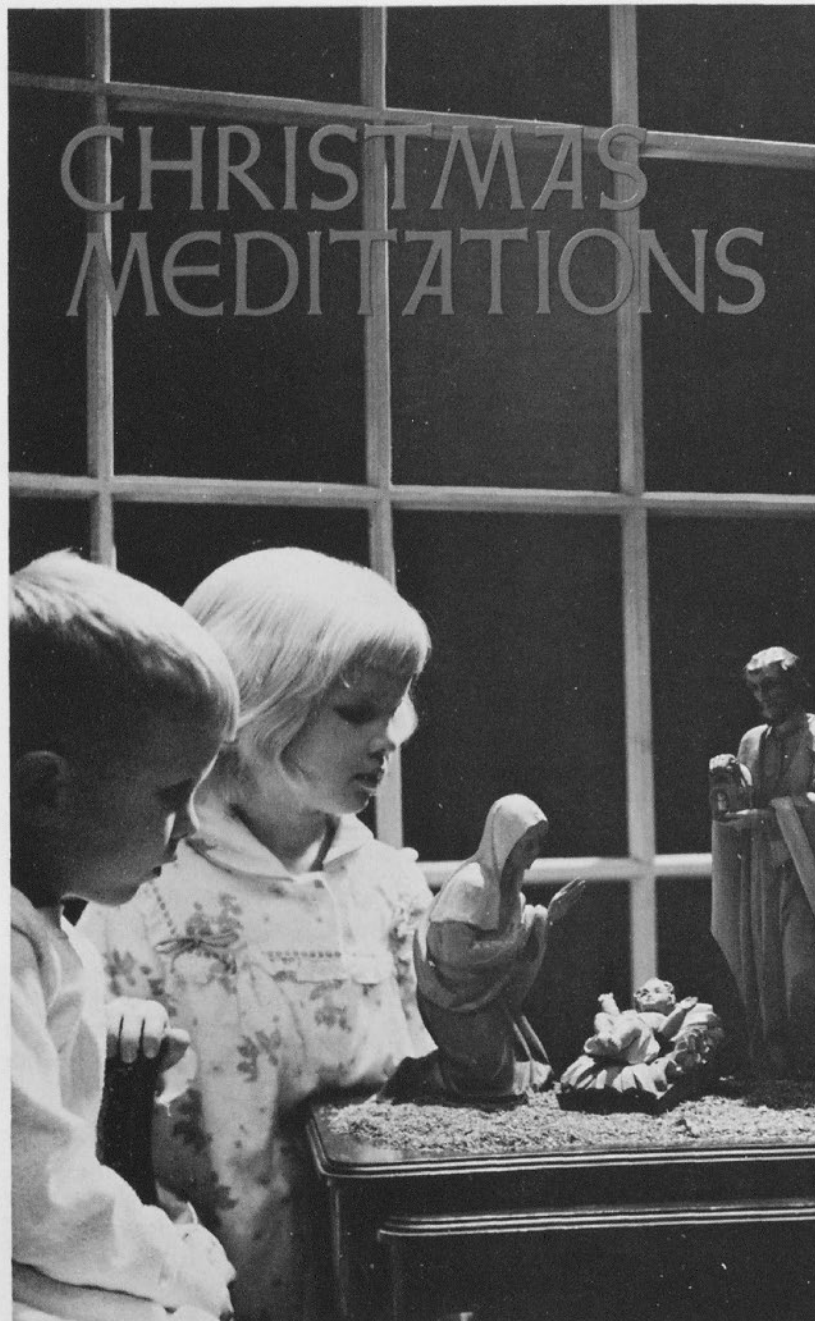
But how well did John know Jesus? It took persecution for him to find out. When he was about 30 years old, John began preaching repentance and baptizing those who came to him. Things were going well for him. Crowds were increasing. The publicans called him master, and the Roman soldiers were asking him, "What shall we do?"

Secretly men even thought that John was the Messiah. Of course, John was quick to deny this and to identify himself as only a way-maker, a witness. "Christ is coming, though. Watch for Him."

The crowds continued to grow, and then one day Jesus came to be baptized. There was no doubt in John's mind that this was "the Lamb of God," and there was no hesitancy in his voice as he urged his followers to "behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

Soon afterward John began to see his own prophecy fulfilled: "He must increase, but I must decrease." He saw the crowds that followed him diminish, and Jesus' ministry eclipse his own. Eventually he was cast into prison. Here he would find out how well he knew Jesus.

John, who had been mentioned in the angel's announcement to Mary, and whose own birth was a miracle,



JUST AN OLD PICTURE?

DURING WORLD WAR II, a chaplain visited a small antique shop in Palermo, Sicily. Browsing around the back room he found a dusty painting. It showed a group of people looking at Mary and the Christchild.

The chaplain had a hunch this was not an ordinary painting. He bought it for \$2 and for some time it hung in his home. One day an expert from the Cleveland Museum of Art visited his home, admired the painting, and declared it was a masterpiece! Experts examined it and agreed it is the work of the 16th-century Venetian painter, Lorenzo Lotto. The \$2 painting is probably worth more than \$10,000!

To millions of people Christmas is just a holiday season—a time to give and receive gifts, to relax and eat good food. The Nativity is simply a pretty picture on a 10c greeting card. But the true value of that Nativity scene is priceless. For it speaks to us of God veiling His glory in flesh and coming to reveal His love for men. It says to us that Christ loved us so much that He "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant."

Don't look upon this Christmas only as a time of festivity, a 10c greeting, a \$2 picture. Make it a priceless season in your life. Ask the One who died for you on the Cross to forgive your sins. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

—JAMES E. ADAMS

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

Jesus Christ is not merely the best human being; He is a being who cannot be accounted for by the human race at all. He is not man becoming God, but God in-

began to doubt. John, whose life had been a fulfillment of prophecy, sat in a prison discouraged and wondering.

Before we condemn John, let us probe our own hearts. There was a time in my life when I came to understand a little better how John felt, and it caused me to realize that sometimes we do not know our Lord as well as we think we do.

I had served the Lord for many years and had experienced very few of the troubles I saw in the lives of others. I remember thinking that I lived a "charmed life." I felt it really did pay to be a Christian.

Those who suffered or who had problems were probably reaping for some past misdeeds, I thought, or the Lord was putting pressure on them to yield to His will. Then suddenly, like Job, I experienced catastrophe. Loved ones became ill and died. I had heartaches—things that had always come to the other person, never to me.

I questioned and prayed and cried for an answer. Had the Lord I thought I knew let all this come to me?

One night as I lay prostrate on the floor in prayer, He seemed to speak to me. "Get up and stop wallowing in self-pity."

Was this the voice of the kind gentle Lord—the One

I thought would spare me from all harm because I served Him? Like a child who has been ordered to stop crying, I was startled into obedience at this rebuke. I got up and I stopped feeling sorry for myself.

Perhaps if I had studied carefully this story of Christ's dealing with John, I would have known my Lord a little better. After all, He had a miraculous virgin birth, yet He died on a cross. "The servant is not greater than his Lord."

Out of that miserable dungeon John sent a message to Jesus which revealed his agonizing doubt: "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?"

Jesus did not answer John with an outright declaration. He merely sent the messengers back to tell the prophet what they had seen and heard. The words and works of Jesus were the fulfillment of prophecy. Later Jesus showed kindness to John by declaring to the crowds that there was no greater prophet than that man in prison.

Jesus' answer to John is the answer He gives us today. It is not our circumstances which show us what our Lord is like. It is His living Word and its fulfillment. The better we know His Word, the better we will know our Lord.

carnate, God coming into human flesh, coming into it from outside. His life is the highest and holiest, entering in at the lowliest door.

Just as our Lord came into human history from outside, so He must come into me from outside. Have I allowed my personal human life to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God? The characteristic of the New Birth is that I yield myself so completely to God that Christ is formed in me. Immediately Christ is formed in me, His nature begins to work through me. Indeed this is "good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10).

—Oswald Chambers

WHAT DO WE SEE IN THE MANGER?

The shepherds found the Babe lying in a manger and worshiped Him. Something about the manger fascinates us. It is easy for us to think of Christ as an infant at Christmastime, but many never get beyond the once-a-year thought of Christ wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

What have we seen in the manger? Have we seen enough deity and glory to send us forth declaring Him to be God's Son? Have we seen enough of human failure and condemnation to recognize a kinsman Redeemer there—the Son of Man!

Have we seen in the manger God's greatest attribute, His love to man manifested in the flesh? "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The Emmanuel, God with us, began to be revealed in the Babe the shepherds worshiped that day. Having beheld His glory in the incarnation, let us go forth to proclaim Him to the world He came to save!

—STANLEY H. CLARKE, in *Minnesota Fellowship Tidings*

BORN TO DIE

MATTHEW INTRODUCED his Gospel, and the New Testament, with a tedious genealogy of the male ancestors of Jesus Christ. Thirty-nine "begats" later he completely abandoned the verb when he came to the relationship between Joseph and Jesus. He said, "And Jacob begat Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was *born* Jesus."

Jesus was born king—another departure. Other men are born into a kingly family with the prospect of reigning. First a prince, then a vice-regent, then a king. Jesus was *born* king.

He was born to die. Twenty-nine chapters of the New Testament relate His death. If you do not believe that Christ was born miraculously in a human body to offer Himself for your sins, then you have missed the whole meaning of Christmas.

—MARY TREGENZA

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

*Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and bright;
Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and gray;
Christmas where peace, like a dove in his flight,
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;
No palace too great, no cottage too small.*

—PHILLIPS BROOKS

By R. G. CHAMPION

BORN OF A VIRGIN

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED why so much space in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 is taken up with names that are so hard to pronounce? We know that "all Scripture is given by inspiration," and these passages have a most important purpose for they establish Christ's right to be the Messiah.

Matthew traces the line of Jesus from Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus, to Solomon and David, thus putting Him in direct line of succession to the throne of David. But if Christ had been the actual son of Joseph, He would have no right to the throne because of a curse of God upon Jeconiah (Jeremiah 22:24-30), in which God stated that none of his seed should ever reign as king over Israel.

Now compare the genealogy in Luke with the one in Matthew and notice that some of the names recorded compare with those recorded in Matthew. But notice that Nathan appears as the son of David in Luke (instead of Solomon, as in Matthew). Further investigation reveals that Luke calls Joseph the son of Heli, while Matthew plainly says that Joseph was begotten of Jacob.

Is this a contradiction in the Bible? No, for the explanation lies in the difference between the words *begat* and *the son of*. The first actually means "born of," while the second merely indicates a relationship. Sons-in-law in Hebrew records of genealogy are mentioned as sons.

Therefore, the obvious conclusion is that Heli was the father-in-law of Joseph and the father of Mary.

Through His mother, Christ's line is traced back to David through Nathan. Through this God protected the right of the Messiah to the throne of David; for by being the actual son of Mary, Christ avoided the curse upon the line of Jeconiah. By the marriage of Mary and Joseph He became the legal son of Joseph and thus inherited the rights and succession to the throne of David. The ways of the Lord are wonderful, past finding out!

The method that God used to protect Messiah from the curse upon Jeconiah has been, within the past few years, one of the chief points of attack by modernists upon fundamental Christianity. The idea of the Virgin Birth is scoffed at as an impossible thing. To the casual observer this may not seem to matter too much. However, closer observation of this charge will reveal its far-reaching aspects.

If Christ were not the son of a virgin, then He would be the illegitimate child of Mary. That accusation in itself is sinful enough, but there is something else at stake. If Christ were not the son of a virgin, but rather a natural child of Joseph and Mary, or of Mary and some other man, then the Scripture would be untrue.

Notice in the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 that Messiah was to be the son of a *virgin*. The Hebrew word here is *almah*, meaning a maiden. It is never used to refer to a married woman. Certainly this prophecy could be fulfilled in no other but Christ. Matthew quotes this passage from Isaiah as referring to the birth of Christ (Matthew 1:23). So if the doctrine of the Virgin Birth is untrue, the Bible is in error in this matter. If the Bible is in error here, how can we be sure it is accurate in any other place—including the plan of salvation? The denial of the Virgin Birth is a most serious charge.

But there are several arguments which help prove the Virgin Birth.

Naturally speaking, personality begins with fatherhood.



JORDAN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

A human father cannot become the father of one already in existence—because no individual can have two fathers. Thus if a human were the father of Christ, His personality began there, and He is not the Eternal Son of God. Deity cannot come from the natural. If Christ is the Eternal Son of God, He could not have had an earthly father. Thus establishing the fact that Christ is the Son of God will help us prove the Virgin Birth. Consider the claim of the Gospels.

Matthew and Luke are the only Gospels that mention the Virgin Birth. That is because they are the only Gospels that deal with the early years of Christ's life. Luke carries an account of the annunciation to Mary and her genealogy, and God's acknowledgment of Christ as His Son on the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew records God's statement that "out of Egypt have I called my Son" (Matthew 2:15). Mark, while not speaking of the virgin birth of Christ, records God's testimony to Him as, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). The same testimony to the Sonship of Jesus is given in John's Gospel, where Christ is seen as the Eternal Word (John 1:1).

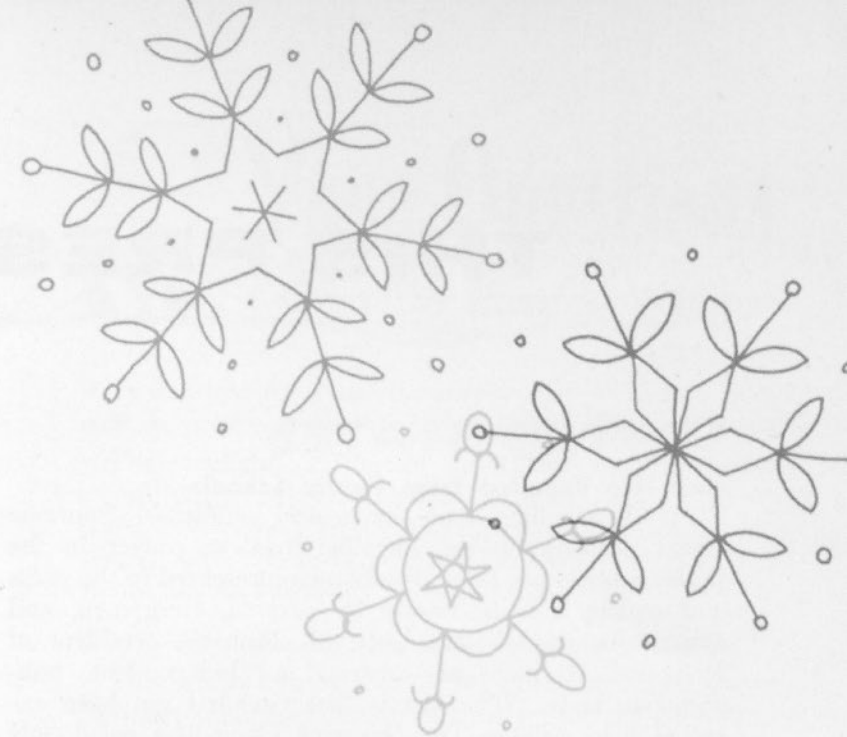
Further striking proof of the Virgin Birth is found in the law of inheritance. All a person's characteristics come through his parents. He cannot inherit something that was not there in the first place. So if Christ had merely been the natural son of Joseph, He would have inherited the characteristics of Joseph. It would thus have been impossible for Him to have divine attributes such as sinlessness, omnipotence, omniscience—for the natural can never beget the supernatural. The only answer is that in Christ, through the Virgin Birth, there was a uniting of the human and the divine. It was only thus that He could fulfill the position of Emmanuel—"God with us." The New Testament is full of proofs of His divine attributes.

What a wonderful revelation this is—"God with us." Through the Virgin Birth we come to a fuller understanding of the divine economy. Christ laid aside the glories of heaven and became a man—human, yet divine. As man, He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin, and now He is able to help us in our testings and temptations. As God He went to the cross and offered Himself for our sins that we might be saved and enjoy fellowship with God. Through Christ, God's plan for the world became intelligible.

At one time a critic stood before one of Turner's pictures in the artist's studio. The picture was hazy and formless—like a mist. The critic was about to turn away perplexed when the artist himself stepped forward and with his brush added just a touch of scarlet to the picture. Immediately the critic saw the proper relationship of the various parts of the picture and the proper point of view. One stroke of the master's brush made the whole picture meaningful.

It was Christ who made history meaningful. By His birth and death He revealed God to us and made the way by which we could come into fellowship with the Father. The son of the virgin was also the Son of God!

Bethlehem silhouetted against the sky, as seen from the lower slopes of the Shepherds' Fields. The Church of the Nativity, beneath which lies the Grotto of the Nativity, stands on the crest of the hill to the left.



SPREADING GOOD TIDINGS



WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN, angels proclaimed the message and shepherds carried the good news into the little town of Bethlehem. But the spread of Christianity did not depend entirely on the spoken word. The written word also has played a vital part in propagating the gospel. Christ's statement about Moses, "He wrote of me," indicates that literature was one of the earliest methods of holding forth the Word of Life.

Christ's apostles not only preached the gospel but used their pens. Paul's epistles were missionary "tracts" which revolutionized the Roman Empire.

The growth of Christendom may be symbolized by the writer with the inkhorn by his side (Ezekiel 9:2). Barnabas, Clement, Justin, Tertullian, Cyprian, Calvin, and Luther accomplished more by their pens than in any other way.

The printing press of today is a powerful weapon which the Church must use to the greatest possible extent in giving the gospel to the world. God has raised up the Gospel Publishing House for this purpose. Millions of pieces of gospel literature, written for persons of all ages and printed in English or Spanish, are coming from its presses every month.

Will you pray for its work and its workers, and help circulate its various publications? By handing the *Evangel* to your friends and urging them to subscribe, you can have an important part in spreading good tidings. ✍



THIS PRESENT WORLD

UNITED STATES

God Not Expelled from Public Schools

"It is appalling that the widely publicized Supreme Court decision on the so-called 'ban' of prayer in the public schools has been grossly misrepresented to the press and equally misunderstood by parents, clergymen, and church members," said Lisle M. Ramsey, president of Religious Heritage of America, an independent, non-sectarian body. "The fact is that God has not been expelled from school. The Supreme Court has ruled only that the state has no constitutional rights to tell a public school student how to pray or what to say in prayer.

"It is imperative to clear up the misunderstanding that now exists concerning this decision on religion in the public schools to prevent irrevocable harm to the nation," Mr. Ramsey said.

The executive committee of RHA, in a recent meeting at the organization's national headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, voted to:

1. Contact leaders of 86 major religious groups in the U.S. asking them to inform their constituents that teaching *about* religion in the schools has not been banned and that the Court has not infringed upon anyone's freedom to pray.
2. Seek the cooperation of writers on religion in re-emphasizing the facts about the Supreme Court ruling.
3. Urge presidents of the three major television networks to produce documentaries on the public school and religion.

"In this space age we cannot deny our youth exposure to religious influence or our religious heritage," said Mr. Ramsey.

Clergymen to Participate in High School Course

Clergymen have been enlisted in San Bruno, Calif., to participate in a new public high school course on American civilization and culture. Designed by social studies and English teachers at the Crestmoor High School, it will combine U. S. history and American literature.

A priest, minister, and rabbi will discuss the heritage of their religion as they relate to the development of the United States.

Graham and Poling Head Prayer Amendment Drive

Evangelist Billy Graham and Dr. Daniel Poling, former

editor of *Christian Herald* magazine, have been named to head a "National Committee on Prayer." Objective of the committee is to rally enough support to secure passage of the Dirksen prayer amendment next year.

Senator Everett Dirksen, sponsor of the amendment which recently fell nine votes short of the two-thirds majority needed for passage, immediately vowed the crusade would continue, this time on a better-organized basis.

The proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution would affirm the right to offer voluntary prayers in public schools.

Over One Million Children Reached

Twenty thousand Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) workers reached over one million children with the gospel in the U.S. last year. Another 250,000 outside the U.S. were reached, according to a report given at the annual CEF conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Gideons Provide Bibles for India

Gideons International and its women's auxiliary closed their 67th annual convention in St. Louis, Mo., recently by raising a special fund of \$26,007 for "Bibles for India." The money will provide 60,000 New Testaments for school children in India.

Between July 1965 and June 1966 Gideons International distributed 4.5 million Bibles and New Testaments throughout the world. Clarence H. Gilkey, president, said, "All indications now are that 1966-1967 will be our first 'five million year.'"

EUROPE

Meatless Fridays Abolished in Italy

Italian members of the Roman Catholic Church started serving meat on Fridays recently after abolition of the 1,100-year-old church rule. From now on, Catholics in Italy are expected to abstain from meat only on Fridays in Lent.

Italy's bishops decided last June to change the rule because they believed few Italians observed it anyway.

Graham to Hold Nationwide Crusade in England

Evangelist Billy Graham has accepted an invitation to return to Great Britain in 1967 for a nationwide crusade.

The crusade at Earls Court, expected to be held June 23 to July 1, will reach the entire nation through closed-circuit television in approximately 25 major centers. The television hookup will be the largest in the nation's history and the first time Graham has attempted to reach an entire nation by one crusade.

God-Is-Dead Theology Blamed for Drop in Ministerial Students

Scottish theologian Dr. N. H. Robinson blames the God-Is-Dead theology for recent declines in the number of young men entering the ministry. The Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) churchman said: "God-Is-Dead the-

WEEK OF PRAYER

To Be Observed Jointly
by Assemblies of God on Two Continents

JANUARY 1-8, 1967

Call to Prayer Made by the Executive Officers of
Assemblies of God of the U.S.A.
Assemblies of God in Great Britain and Ireland
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

ology has caused a great deal of soul-searching among churchmen of all denominations. . . . These are difficult times for anyone who seeks a faith to live by, and the clergy are no exception."

It is interesting to note, however, that older men are now joining the ministry more readily than young men. "Increasing numbers of older men are giving up lucrative careers to enter divinity schools," he said.

WORLDWIDE

Russians Top Christians in Literature Distribution

An American Bible Society official has warned that Russia is spending annually about 100 times more on atheistic literature than the world's Christians spend on Bibles.

Dr. John H. McCombe Jr., A.B.S. secretary for church relations, told a foreign missions conference that very little is being done to put Scriptures in the hands of 20,000,000 people around the world who become literate each year. While it is estimated the Soviet Union spends about \$1,500,000,000 annually for literature, Christian churches spend only about \$15,000,000 on Bibles.

Japanese Brewery Insures Victims of Its Products

A brewery in Japan recently advertised it will present life-insurance certificates to all who buy its products. Any citizen who dies in an accident under the influence of the company's special-class *Sake* will be protected by a 500,000-yen policy. Drinkers of the company's first-class drink are covered by a 300,000-yen policy; those who die in accidents while under the influence of second-class *Sake* benefit from a 100,000-yen policy. (No doubt the insurance premium is high, but the brewery can afford it!)

Foreign Missionaries Decrease in India

Some 4,214 foreign missionaries are registered with the Indian government—a decrease of over 300 in four years. Jaisukh Lal Hathi, minister of state for Home Affairs, said missionaries numbered 4,516 in 1962; 4,314 in 1963; 4,320 in 1964; and 4,111 in 1965. (The figures do not include missionaries from countries of the British Commonwealth, inasmuch as India is a member of the Commonwealth.)

Mr. Hathi also said the government has information that 5,533 persons in India have been converted to Christianity since 1962. He stated, however, that registering conversions is not required by law.

New Jewish Shekels First in 2,000 Years

The first Jewish silver shekels produced in 2,000 years are to be minted in London. Used in the religious ceremony *Pidyon Haben* (redemption of the firstborn son), the silver coins required by Mosaic law for the act have become increasingly scarce in Europe. A British firm will produce the coins which will sell for \$8.40 each.

The new shekel shows the hand of a priest in blessing with the Hebrew legend: "May the Lord bless you and guard you; may His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may He turn His face toward you and give you peace."

The reverse side shows the value in Hebrew, "One silver shekel," and the quotation in Hebrew, "All the first of thy sons thou shalt redeem." The London mint house said it will take five of the new shekels to redeem a firstborn son from the service of God (Numbers 18:16).



Your Questions

Answered by Ernest S. Williams

Why does the Bible say the shepherds found Jesus in the manger, whereas the Wise Men found Him in a house?

The shepherds, caring for their flocks near Bethlehem, probably arrived at Bethlehem the same night Jesus was born. The Wise Men had a long distance to travel; they arrived after Jesus had been taken from the manger in Bethlehem to a house.

Where did the celebration of Christmas originate?

This celebration apparently began in the fourth century in the Roman Church. At that early time the churches at Jerusalem and Alexandria preferred January sixth, which they said commemorated the arrival of the Wise Men at Bethlehem. To this day some of the Eastern churches still observe the January date.

Around the end of November a number of heathen festivals took place. To counteract these, the Christians adopted the celebration of Christmas to commemorate the birth of Jesus.

How can Christians observe the heathen holiday of Christmas as the birthday of our Lord?

It is true that Jesus may have been born on some day other than December 25. But, in spite of its being corrupted by commercialism, I think Christmas is a godsend. You may also object to the observance of Easter, as some do. But have you realized that both Christmas and Easter bring a universal Christ-consciousness wherever they are observed? Everybody identifies Christmas with the birth of Christ and Easter with His glorious resurrection. Had we no such observance, I wonder how long it might be before the unsaved multitudes would lose all realization that a Saviour had been born, had suffered and died, and was risen again?

A recent magazine article stated that a superintendent of schools opposed the celebration of Christmas in the schools. Was this because he thought Christmas a heathen custom? Or was it because he would like to stamp the remembrance of Christ from the minds of the children?

Was there special significance in the kinds of gifts brought by the Wise Men?

It is possible the Wise Men saw no special significance in the choice of their gifts except that these were suitable gifts for a king. God, however, may have seen in their gifts more than the Wise Men saw; for in Scripture gold stands for deity, frankincense stands for worship that is acceptable to God, while myrrh is a symbol of suffering. What we give from our hearts to the Lord may have greater meaning and value than we realize.

If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.



The King's Greatest Commandment

Sunday School Lesson for December 11, 1966

MARK 12:28-34; ROMANS 13:8-10

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

"WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT OF ALL?" asked a scribe who had been present when Christ silenced the Sadducees. Being a lawyer (an expert in the Mosaic Law) he had been prompted by the Pharisees to ask this question. The Pharisees as a group were trying to ensnare Christ by making Him answer a question which, among the Jews, was very controversial. However, there is every evidence that the lawyer himself was genuinely concerned.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt love..." represents and includes all other commandments. It summarizes the Christian life.

Love for God is first. We are to love God *Himself*. This is the aim and occupation of life. It is the very end for which we live, and the motive from which all true service springs.

HOW IT ALL ADDS UP

THE LAWS OF GOD

- I 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- II 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- III 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- IV 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
10 But the seventh day is the

sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
13 Thou shalt not kill.
14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
15 Thou shalt not steal.
16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

LOVE



LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW.
ROMANS 13:10

Ramsey

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." The degree of our love for God is here spelled out. *Heart, soul, mind, and strength* are words which astute minds may differentiate. They simply indicate that God is to be first in one's affections, desires, thoughts, and deeds. They suggest a devotion of the whole man—physical, mental, and moral.

God's claims upon us by virtue of our relationship to Him are implied. He is our God. We are His creation. The realization of His grace toward us and His love for us awakens and kindles a responsive love within us.

THE GREAT DUTY

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor." Love for man is the outgrowth of love for God. Love for others is motivated by—and springs from—love for God. As God loves us, so we ought to love one another.

"Thy neighbor" may be interpreted in the light of the parable of the Good Samaritan. True love seeks no limitations but ever desires to extend the sphere of its operation. "Who is my neighbor?" Everyone and anyone in need!

"As thyself." Here is the pattern of our love for others. It is *right* to love ourselves, and we *do* love ourselves. Paul wrote, "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh" (Ephesians 5:28). Yet Jesus said we are to hate our own lives. These statements are not paradoxical as they seem. It is right that we respect ourselves as individuals, as personalities, and as redeemed children of God. It is right that we take care of ourselves. Yet we should not put bodily comfort or even life itself ahead of our love for God.

To love our neighbor as ourselves is simply to live by the Golden Rule: "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them" (Luke 6:31). This simple command becomes the guide for all human relationships.

THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

The lawyer's comment upon the words of Christ shows how clearly he perceived the superiority of the spiritual to the ceremonial, and how correctly he discerned the all-inclusiveness of the commandment to love. (See Mark 12:32, 33.) The tendency of human nature—and all religions—is to substitute the ritual, the verbal, and the ceremonial for the truly spiritual. Worship and service which do not spring from love for God are unacceptable to God.

Paul, in our text from Romans, stated that "love is the fulfilling of the law" (v. 10). If I truly love others, I do not need to be told not to steal from them, lie about them, injure or abuse them. It is the nature of love to keep the Ten Commandments.

THE GREAT BLESSING AND DANGER

To the lawyer Jesus said, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God" (v. 34). It is a great thing to be near the Kingdom. The lawyer had spiritual perception. He appreciated Christ. He recognized the truth of Christ's teachings. All of this was good, for no one can enter the Kingdom apart from such blessings. Yet, like millions today, the lawyer was not near enough. Mere knowledge is insufficient. Christ must be received as Saviour. To know about a life of love must lead to living a life of love!

I WAS THERE

ONE OF A SERIES OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF EARLY PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL DAYS, WRITTEN BY VARIOUS PIONEER PASTORS, EVANGELISTS, AND MISSIONARIES

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING of our ministry in Peru we recognized the people would only be reached with the gospel as the Lord worked with us, confirming the Word with signs following. So when we moved to the city of Caraz in the heart of the Peruvian Andes in 1927, we began to pray earnestly for a definite visitation from God.

My sister-in-law, Florence Erickson, had a great compassion for the many homeless girls around us and would gladly have filled her home with them. Since that was not possible, she gathered four or five of the most needy. One afternoon in August 1928 the girls were praying in the kitchen of the home. My brother Arthur, who had just arrived from the States, was praying in an adjoining room. Suddenly he had a vision of a great city.

As he looked out over it, he saw a fire start. Firemen came rushing to extinguish the blaze, but other fires started, and soon the whole city was in flames. He asked the Lord what it meant and was made to understand that the Lord was about to visit Peru with the Fire of the Holy Spirit.

He rose from his knees and went out into the kitchen to tell our brother Leif about the vision. There he found a little Peruvian girl prostrate on the floor, speaking in other tongues! The Fire had already fallen! As far as we have been able to determine, this girl was the first to receive the baptism of the Spirit in Peru.

A few weeks later, Misses Ruth Couchman and Olga Pitt (now Mrs. Herbert Felton) arrived in Caraz to do further study in the Spanish language. Afterward they were to relocate. The late H. W. Cragin and his wife and daughter Evangeline came some distance to visit the new missionaries.

Florence wanted to prepare a meal for the guests and sent one of her girls out to bring a bucket of water. When she dipped the bucket into the millstream, the force of the water pulled her in! In the accident she broke or dislocated her wrist. With X-ray service about a week away, we knew we must commit this injury to the Lord, so we all gathered about the girl and began to pray.

After a few minutes she raised her arm, perfectly healed. As we continued to pray, she began speaking in other tongues. Evangeline Cragin was just a tiny girl at that time, but suddenly she too began to speak in a beautiful unknown language.

There was a young Peruvian lady working in our budding publishing house at that time. We knew she was not strong but did not realize until later that she had tuberculosis. However, the Lord healed her instantly that afternoon and also filled her with the Spirit.

As our national brethren heard the good news, they began to come. Once as Sister Couchman prayed in an unknown tongue, the national brethren were amazed to hear her speaking in their own Quechua Indian language,

Walter E. Erickson has been a missionary to Peru since May 1927. Following a period of furlough in the U.S. he and Mrs. Erickson are now getting ready to return to the Peruvian field.

THE FIRST PENTECOSTAL OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT IN PERU

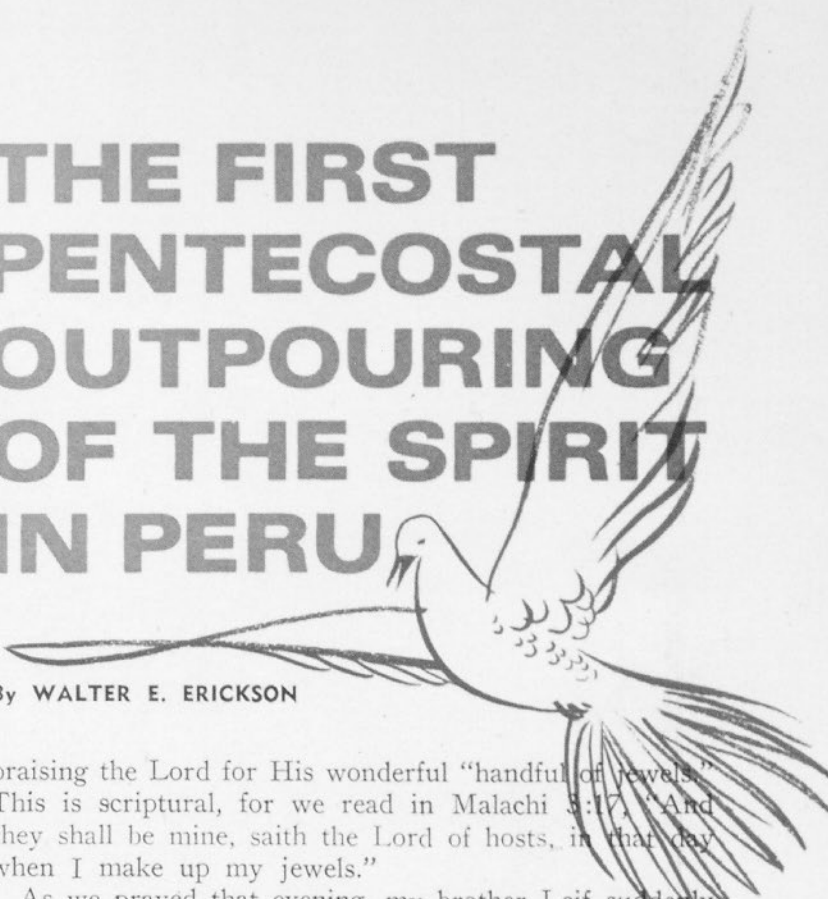
By WALTER E. ERICKSON

praising the Lord for His wonderful "handful of jewels." This is scriptural, for we read in Malachi 3:17, "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels."

As we prayed that evening, my brother Leif suddenly sprang to his feet. He laid his hands on the head of a young man and cried, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Instantly that young man burst out speaking in other tongues. It was the first time I ever saw anyone receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands, as described in Acts 19:6.

Throughout that day and into the early hours of the next morning the prayer meeting continued, and six or eight received the promised Holy Spirit in the first outpouring Peru had ever experienced. From there the fire spread to many other points, until today hundreds have received.

The impact of the Holy Spirit has made the Assemblies of God by far the fastest growing evangelical movement in Peru. It all started when we sought the Lord and asked Him to work with us, confirming His Word with signs following.



Hear of the Bible


GREAT CHAPTERS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-11

Sunday	James 5
Monday	1 Peter 1
Tuesday	1 Peter 2
Wednesday	1 Peter 3
Thursday	1 Peter 4
Friday	1 Peter 5
Saturday	2 Peter 1
Sunday	2 Peter 2

PROMISE OF THE WEEK

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

GREAT CHAPTERS DAILY READING PROGRAM



Japan Declares War On U. S.; Attacks Four Bases In Pacific

British Expected To Move At Once

Land Forces Clash North

War Bulletins

President

Japanese Blast at Manila; 1,500 Killed in Hawaii Raid Congress Quickly Votes a Declaration of War

WHAT DOES A MAN THINK WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMS TO BE BLOWING UP AROUND HIM?

PEACE AT PEARL HARBOR

By KENNETH H. GAMERDINGER

IT HAPPENED 25 YEARS AGO, but to Jim Handy the memory is still vivid. For Jim was at the American naval base at Pearl Harbor when Japanese bombers flew over and dropped their bombs early the morning of December 7, 1941.

The 30-year-old aviation machinist had been assigned to the *U.S.S. Tangier*. Hearing the drone of approaching planes, he looked out his second-floor barracks window just in time to see a low-flying Japanese torpedo plane pass overhead streaking toward the harbor.

Jim had been transferred to Hawaii from a California naval base just two weeks before. His family was still in the U.S. awaiting transportation. The prospect of spending Christmas without them—on a tropical island full of strangers—had made Jim rather blue; but when the bombs began to burst around him, he was glad Iva and the children were faraway.

What does a man think when the whole world seems to be blowing up around him?

Among the thousands of U. S. military personnel stationed at the base, reactions were varied. Some cursed. Some prayed. Many were heroic. Others who had showed plenty of bravado when all was peaceful were the first to head for shelter when the alarm sounded.

Some men panicked. Jim saw one man crazed with fear and anger lugging a huge machinegun around—one so large it was normally mounted inside a plane. Desperately he tried to shoot down enemy planes. All he succeeded in doing was burning his hands on the friction-heated gun.

Jim's first thoughts were to pray for his family; and he knew that as soon as they heard the news, they would be praying for him. For he and Iva knew the Lord. They had received Christ as Saviour over a year ago at a Pentecostal mission in Point Loma, California, and had placed their lives—and their children's—in God's care.

"Bless my family, Lord," he prayed, "and please protect me for their sake." After his brief prayer, he felt a strange peace come over him. "It occurred to me that I might be killed, but I felt only excitement—no fear," he says. "In fact, I was never afraid after that, even though

I wasn't able to communicate with my family for six weeks. I knew God was taking care of all of us."

The furious pounding noises of battle made it impossible to know where the next explosion would occur. Bombs rained on the harbor, sinking or shattering the huge battleships. Flash fires broke out everywhere, increasing the danger as unused ammunition exploded.

After the Japanese fliers had dropped all their bombs in the harbor and on the airstrip, they strafed the barracks where survivors were taking refuge. With bullets bursting through the roof and walls, there seemed to be no place of safety. But Jim was among the survivors.

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor left more than 3,000 dead—and hundreds of thousands more lost their lives in the months and years of war that followed—but God protected Jim. Often he was in peril—in New Caledonia, Midway, Wake Island—but he never suffered a serious injury. For this he is thankful.

After 20 years active duty Jim retired from the navy to become a commercial artist at the Gospel Publishing House in Springfield, Missouri. He pasted up the pages of this issue of the *Evangel*, getting the artboards ready for platemaking.

Today hundreds of thousands of young men are engaged in another conflict—and faith is again being tested. Can God take care of a loved one who is far from home? Can God keep young men safe in battle zones? Yes, He can.

Can God give inner peace to people in places of danger? Yes, the One who gave that inner peace to Jim Handy can do it for anyone who will accept Christ as Saviour and put full trust in Him.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee," the prophet said, "because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).