

FILE COPY

The PRECOSTAL Evangel

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT

SHINE

Holy Night

Lecher (1826)
George Shackley

can be - hold,
can - ger bed,
rude and bare,
nar - row way.

ing bright,
a - dore,
al - loy,
at last.

by Thee
by seal
by King,
by hid-

1. Si - lent night, Ho - ly night, All is calm, All is bright
2. Si - lent night, Ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, Ho - ly night, Son of God, lowly here lie

Rouse you Vir - gin ma - thers and child, Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - rious stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - las,
Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawns of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
Christ the Sa - viour is born, Christ the Sa - viour is born,
Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth.

DECEMBER 14, 1946
NUMBER 1701



The King Who Was Born in Bethlehem

THE angel Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth, to a virgin, with this message: "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son and shall call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:30-33.

At the birth of this Babe there came wise men from the East, men who must have been taught and led by the Spirit of God, to inquire: "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?"—the King that the Word declares shall have the nations for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. Psalm 2:8.

When Herod heard this question he was disturbed; he sent for the scribes and demanded of them where Christ should be born. The scribes had it all down pat and told king Herod the declaration of the prophet Micah: "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda; for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule My people Israel."

But none of the scribes went down to Bethlehem to worship the Babe who was born to be King. And the very information they gave to Herod caused him to destroy all the babes in that place.

There are many men today who boldly declare certain facts about the second coming of Christ. They say He is coming again in such and such a manner; that Paul said this and Peter said that, in their writings. They are very certain about everything that is going to take place. The prophets were of a humbler spirit. The Spirit of God was in them, but they were

puzzled and perplexed as they told of the sufferings of Christ and the glory which should follow. They could not fully comprehend nor balance the seeming contradiction, and they left the matter until the Spirit illuminated it to those who came after. We today have their writings concerning the glory that was to come after Christ's suffering—His crucifixion, His cross—but *we need the Holy Spirit to unfold the writings of the Old and New Testament concerning His coming glory.*

In Peter we have a good illustration of the mixing of the human understanding with the divine revelation. Peter had a revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. It was a unique revelation from God Himself. Christ acknowledged it and said: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." But when Christ began to give an illumination of His coming crucifixion, Peter's response to the divine revelation was: "Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee." Peter had had no illumination by the Spirit on the fact that Christ must needs suffer before the setting up of His glorious kingdom upon the earth.

Peter had argued with the other disciples as to who should be the greatest in the kingdom, and he was not going to take the second place—not even to John! And then to be told that the Son of God was to be crucified

and buried—why, all his plans would be thwarted! No, this could not be! Never! The apostolic response to the Saviour's revelation, "Be it far from Thee, Lord," was Satanic! Satan was right behind Peter seeking to instigate opposition to God's plan.

The greatest event in the world, next to Calvary and the resurrection, is the appearing of the Son of God from heaven. Satan knows this, and today is hiding behind some of the professed followers of Jesus Christ, trying to becloud the issue and saying, "This shall not be." The revelation of the Son of God from heaven means the final winding up of Satan's rulership in this world. Therefore he is endeavoring in every possible way to becloud the issue, dividing the camp of God's people into postmillennialists and premillennialists; causing some to say: "The Lord has already come"; others, "Death is His coming"; and others, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

On top of all this, he is inspiring some to seek to bring about a millennium—a millennium without Christ. We see the greatest activity in the world's history to bring in an artificial world peace, a United Nations Council to end all conflict! Some are talking about disarmament on land and sea. But failure is written on all these human efforts.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, God had His Simeon and His Anna. Who was Simeon? An obscure one! Ancestry not known! No official position! He wrote no books! He never lectured on the Lord's coming! But he had a receptive mind and heart, not for the news of earth but for the news of heaven, and it was revealed to him that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Anointed.

And then Anna! Poor old widow! But she had a revelation that eclipsed all the knowledge of the scribes. She spoke of Him to all that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

These two godly ones, two holy people, represented the great mass of those who preceded them; who, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise, but laid hold of it in faith. Simeon and Anna were a direct link with all those who had looked for the coming of the Messiah, and who had gone before. Therefore Simeon could

THE KINGS of the earth
are men of might,
And cities are burned for their
delight,
And skies rain death in the
silent night,
And the hills belch death all
day!

But the King of heaven, who
made them all,
Is fair and gentle, and very
small;
He lies in the straw, by the
oxen's stall—
Let us think of Him today!

—J. K.

(Cont'd on page 7)

Joseph and Mary



Alexander Whyte

MATTHEW and Luke, the first and the third evangelists, tell us all that we are told of Mary. They tell us that she was the espoused wife of Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and that the divine call came to her after her espousal to Joseph and before her marriage. What a call it was, and what a prospect it opened up! No sooner was Mary left alone of the angel than she began to realize something of what had been appointed her, and what she must now prepare herself to pass through. The sharp sword that the aged Simeon afterwards spoke of with such passion was already whetted, and was fast approaching her devoted and exposed heart.

On a thousand sacred canvases throughout Christendom we are shown the angel of the annunciation presenting Mary with a branch of lily as an emblem of her beauty and as a seal of her purity. But why has no spiritual artist stained the whiteness of the lily with the red blood of a broken heart? For no sooner had the transfiguring light of the angel's presence faded from her sight than a deep and awful darkness began to fall upon Jo-

seph's espoused wife. Surely, if ever suffering soul had to seek all its righteousness and all its strength in God alone, it was the soul of the virgin Mary in those terrible days that followed the annunciation. Blessed among women as all the time she was; unblemished in soul and in body like the paschal lamb as she was; like the paschal lamb also she was set apart for sacrifice, and to have a sword thrust through her heart.

Mary must have passed through many dark and dreadful days when all she had given her to lean upon would seem like a broken reed. "Hail, thou that art highly favored of the Lord," the angel had said to her. But all that would seem but so many mocking words to her as she saw nothing before her but an open shame, and, it might well be, an outcast's death. And, so fearfully and wonderfully are we made, and so fearful and wonderful was the way in which the Word was made flesh, that who can tell how all this may have borne on Him who was bone of her bone, and flesh of her flesh; to whom Mary was in all things a mother, as He was in all things to her a son. For "hers was the face that unto Christ had most resemblance." Great is the mystery of godliness; God manifest in the flesh. A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. These are the beginnings of sorrows.

Joseph's part in all this is told us by Matthew alone. And as we read that evangelist's particular account of that time, we see how sharp that sword was which pierced Joseph's soul also. His heart was broken with this terrible trial, but there was only one course left open to him. Conclude the marriage he could not, but neither could he consent to make Mary

a public example, and there was only left to him the sad step of revoking the contract and putting her away privately. Joseph's heart must have been torn in two: for Mary had been the woman of all women to him. She had been in his eyes the lily among thorns: and now to have to treat her like a poisonous weed—the thought of it drove him mad. Oh, why is it that whoever comes at all near Jesus Christ has always to drink such a cup of sorrow? Truly they who are brother or sister or mother to Him must take up their cross daily. These are they who go up through great tribulation.

What a journey that must have been of Mary from Nazareth to Hebron, and occupied with what thoughts! Mary's way would lead her through Jerusalem. She may have crossed Olivet as the sun was setting. She may have knelt at even in Gethsemane. She may have turned aside to look on the city from Calvary. What a heavy heart she must have carried through all these scenes as she went into the hill

country with haste! Only two, out of God, knew the truth about Mary: an angel in heaven, and her own heart on earth. And thus it was that she fled to the mountains of Judah, hoping to find there an aged kinswoman of hers who would receive her word and would somewhat understand her case. As she stumbled on, drunk with sorrow, Mary must have recalled and repeated many blessed scriptures, well known to her indeed, but till then little understood. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass; and He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Thou shalt keep them in the secret of Thy presence from the pride of men; Thou shalt keep them in a pavilion from the strife of tongues." Such a pavilion Mary sought and for a season found in the remote and retired household of Zacharias and Elisabeth.

It is to the meeting of Mary and Elisabeth that we owe the Magnificat, the last Old Testament psalm and the first New Testament hymn: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." We cannot enter into all Mary's thoughts as she sang that spiritual song any more than she could in her day enter into all our thoughts as we sing it. For, noble melody as her Magnificat is, it draws its deepest tones from a time that was still to come. The spirit of Christian prophecy moved her to utter it, but the noblest and fullest prophecy concerning Christ fell far short of the evangelical

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The Christmas Tree Thief

"I could not go back to God with stolen goods," explained the man who found unexpected wealth in a purloined pocketbook.

THE Christmas tree thief was nicknamed "Santa Claus" at the local jail. They did not call him Santa Claus because he was in the habit of going to the jail to distribute gifts. He went there frequently enough, but usually on a charge of vagrancy, drunkenness or some other infraction of the law. The group at the jail called him Santa Claus when, on a snowy December day, he was arrested in the attempt to sell a stolen Christmas tree.

But finally, he came to jail on a different errand. This time he was not under arrest. To the surprise of every one, he was sober, and the desk sergeant thought him unbalanced; for he walked into headquarters, laid down a lady's handbag containing money and jewelry, and said: "Here is what I stole out of an automobile a week ago."

Police records of the contents of the handbag showed nothing missing. The officers of the law were amazed. "Santa Claus," through fear of being detected, might have hesitated to try to dispose of the jewelry, but he certainly could have used the cash without incriminating himself. There had been no clues to the theft, and yet of his own accord this man brought back the bag, openly confessed his guilt, and surrendered himself to the law. The owner of the handbag stated that only one article was missing. She said she had not listed it as it had cost only one penny; it was a copy of the Gospel according to Luke. Asking permission to talk to the prisoner, she inquired of him how it happened that he had returned the stolen property.

"Santa Claus' " confession in brief was this: "When I got to my room and saw what was in that bag, I thought I had made a good haul. I put the money in my jeans and took the jewelry to a friend to sell it, but, as he did not offer me what I thought it was worth, I took it back to my room. Then I looked at that little book and began to read it. I read it nearly through, but when I tried to go to sleep I kept thinking of the bozo who got all he

could out of his father and then beat it to a foreign country.

"I got up out of bed and tried to find that story, and had read most of the book before I got to the place. Well, when I read it again, I began to think that I was that fellow; and so I began to pray and, mind you, it was the first time I had prayed since I was a little dodger at home. So you see, lady, how it all came about. I could not go back to God with stolen goods. It took me nearly a week to fight it out. Last night I prayed again and the first thing I knew I was telling the Lord I would give back what I had stolen, and do my stretch for stealing if He would only forgive me. And here I am!"—From the *Bible Society Record*.

It is a rare piece of Christian wisdom to turn those passions of the soul which most predominate into spiritual channels, to turn natural anger into spiritual zeal, natural mirth into holy cheerfulness, and natural fear into a holy dread and awe of God.—*John Flavel*.



Seeing Stars

MRS. F. HELEN JARVIS

WHEN I was small, we lived on a farm—or, as it was called in that part of California, a ranch. To obtain water, it was necessary for my father to dig a well. This well was over one hundred feet deep; and it was not just a pipe driven into the ground, but was a pit several feet square. To keep the earth from falling into it, it was walled by heavy boards and timbers. Fastened to these on one side was a ladder leading to the water level where was set the pump.

Sometimes it was necessary for my father to climb down the ladder and inspect the pump. Of course, we children watched with great interest, but what stands out in my memory was hearing him tell what to us was a curious fact. He told us that as he would climb down lower and lower, the light of day would be shut out until at last it would be almost dark. Then, looking up to the top, he could clearly see the stars shining in their places. The sunlight had been shut out and the focus of vision so directed upward that it was possible in the daytime to see the heavenly bodies which ordinarily were invisible.

This little incident suggests some lessons on how to have a glimpse of the shining spiritual things of heaven. First, there must be a *going down*. It is to the humble and lowly that God gives the revelation of unseen things above. Second, there must be a *shutting out*. The gleam of this vain world must disappear; the alluring rays of the temporal must not attract us. Third, there must be the *right focus*. Our gaze must be directed to things above, and to them alone.

It is not easy to achieve such goals as these, but God will reward those who persevere. It took many days of laborious effort to dig the well. Even so, let patience have her perfect work. After all, who does not want to see the glories of Christ? We all do, so let us do some persistent digging. We shall see the "stars" if we dig deep enough.

A saint on his knees can see farther than a philosopher on tip toes.—Northcote Deck.

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The Meaning of Christmas

LAWRENCE W. OLSON

TO so many the Christmastide means only the exchange of gifts, buying and selling, Santa Claus, gaily lighted Christmas trees, a vacation, and a general time of fun and pleasure; but to the Christian it has a far greater significance. To him it means the celebration of Messiah's birth—Christ the anointed of God, and the Saviour of men. This is the real message of Christmas—the message wafted on angel wings from the heart of God to the heart of man—Unto you is born a Saviour! Oh, let us once more hear that wonderful story!

For four long centuries the voice of God through His prophets had been silent. Men's hearts had grown despondent of ever seeing the long-promised Messiah. A new power had appeared on the political stage; imperial Rome was now the mistress of the world, and her iron legions ruled everywhere, including Palestine. Nationally proud, Israel had to bend its neck to wear the galling Roman yoke. The proud pagan eagles flew triumphantly over Zion's sacred towers. Had God forsaken His people? Would the promised Messiah never come? Would the night never be o'er, and the day break?

But now things begin to happen: the angel's announcement to Mary that she, a virgin, was to be with child—then to Joseph, not to fear taking Mary as his wife—the shepherds on Judea's hills hear the angelic company peal forth the glad story of Christ's birth—and the Wise Men from the East follow the star to Bethlehem. What does it all mean? At last God has begun to remove the thick shroud of mystery surrounding His plan and purpose. A Son is born!

Paul, in Gal. 4:4, says, "When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman." God's hour had struck. Things were now ready. Daniel's prophecy of the sixty-nine weeks (of years) was fulfilled. Our God is never late—always on time!

Even proud Caesar Augustus obeyed the decree of God, but without knowing it. The God who made the wrath of men

to praise Him put in his heart to decree that all the world would be enrolled. Little did he know that this would compel a little mother up in Nazareth to undertake the dangerous journey to her native city of Bethlehem, the city of David. See the hand of God in it all! And so was fulfilled the word of Micah, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel."

We see also that the birth of this Child was a supernatural birth.

First, He was born of a virgin, without a human father. And so had Isaiah predicted long years before. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive."

Second, He was born the incarnate Son of God, the God-man, God clothed in human flesh. Emmanuel—"God with us." Oh, the wonder and the mystery of it all! What mind can comprehend it? Yet it is for the heart to believe. Well had the prophet said, "For unto us a child is born (His humanity), unto us a son is given" (His deity). This is truly the miracle of the ages!

Everything surrounding His advent breathes the supernatural. An angel appears to Mary and to Joseph; a star guides the Wise Men to Bethlehem; angels herald the glad tidings to Judean shepherds who were to look for three signs: a babe, swaddling clothes, and a lowly manger.

As to the purpose of His birth God clearly tells us in the words of Gabriel that this child was to be a Saviour, saving His people from their sins. His name was to be "Jesus," which in Hebrew means, "The Lord will save," "the Lord Salvation," or "the Lord, the Saviour." This is the very center of the glad story of Christmas—"He shall save."

As to how He was to save us from our sins we have it clearly intimated in the fact that He took upon Himself human flesh in order that He might die; He was wrapped at birth in the swaddling grave garment—a token of His death. He came



to die as our Redeemer, paying with His own blood sin's ransom price.

The Jews as a whole failed to see that their Messiah first was to suffer and die for their sins, as spoken in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. All they could see was His future glory leading Israel into a glorious millennial reign.

In our day, too, we have the modernist who scoffs at the thought of Christ as a Saviour. To him, Christ was a good man, a great thinker, a great founder of a religion called Christianity, a good teacher, the great example as the product of evolution. But my Bible declares, "He shall save!" He has saved! He does save! And He will save!

As Saviour He faced the problem of sin, which was far greater than His social, economic, or political problems. And thanks be unto God, by His death on Calvary's cross, where His blood obtained our redemption and where He became sin for us, He has forever settled the sin question. His death avails for us all. The only requirement is that we believe on Him. This victory is three-fold: First—He delivers from the guilt and condemnation of sin. "He that believeth not is condemned already, because He hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18. By His blood we are cleansed from all sin. We are justified or cleared from all guilt. Our innocence is restored. Who has not stood by a baby's crib and reflected on the pureness and innocence with which we are born? And His blood again makes us just that pure and white, even as the driven snow.

With the removal of guilt comes a sweet sense of peace with God. And it was a message of peace on earth the angels brought. Some time ago I heard a

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A Prayer for Guidance

ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

on National Assemblies of God Radio Hour

IN Psalm 27:11 David prayed, "Lead me in a plain path because of mine enemies." It seems strange that those who seek to live honest, upright, and pure lives should have enemies, but the Psalms are expressions of human experience rather than of abstract truths, and they reveal that there are those who dislike purity and integrity and feel condemned when in its presence. The carnal mind, the mind of the flesh, is enmity against God and recoils from qualities that please God. Who could be more honest, self-sacrificing, and righteous than were the disciples at Pentecost, who devoted themselves to the worship of God, distributing in behalf of others, healing the sick, and rejoicing in eternal truth? Nevertheless they were persecuted and thrown into prison by a sin-loving, self-centered (although religious) world.

Daniel lived with such carefulness that those who hated him said, "We shall not find an occasion against this man Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." Then, in hope of getting him out of the way, they had the king to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree that whoever should ask a petition of any God or man other than the king should be cast into the den of lions. His fidelity to God led him to the lions' den, but God was with him there.

The Psalmist prayed, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Psalm 61:2. He knew that it was not in man to direct his ways aright. He wanted fellowship with God, knowing that the Lord was a Rock, a solid security, able to keep him from falling and able to see him safely through life. His feet had well nigh slipped; discouragement had come as he had seen the wicked prosper while he, who loved righteousness, was oppressed. Then he fled to God for refuge and help. His eyes were unto God, and heaven was his goal. This led him to pray still further, "Lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:24. Not for just a moment, but for all the journey of life, he would be led of God.

Without God's guidance we will be guided by another. Satan is the god of this world. To depend on self is to be led by passion, fashion, or fancy. How empty are the lives of many. In all their way there is vacancy. If such is your lot in life we point you to the God of the Psalmist. We were created for God; we will never be satisfied apart from Him.

To be led of God brings hope, faith, peace and blessing. "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart."

God leads through His inspired Word. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." In no other place will you find guidance and help equal to that provided in the Bible. But you need God's Spirit to interpret the Word and apply it to your need. The Bible tells us what to do; the Spirit gives the power to do it. God leads into purity, honesty, love for God and for man, into growth in Christian character, and He leads finally into paradise where sickness, sin, disappointment and death never come.

Pray to the Lord to lead you in a plain path, to the Rock of ages which is Christ, and into the way everlasting. God bless you.

WISE MEN STILL FOLLOW THE STAR



"This Shall Be a Sign

PAUL RADER

THE angels were broadcasting the news of Jesus' birth nineteen hundred years ago. To shepherds "listening in" a very peculiar and simple announcement was made. This announcement came in order that they might be sure they were "listening in" to heaven and not to some earth phenomena. They must have a way of knowing that they were hearing from Glory and were not being deceived by some dream or trance or delusion.

A sign upon which they could check up what they were hearing was given to them. This sign was to be the proof that heaven itself was announcing a great material, provable reality—the Son of God come in the flesh. "This shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

They went and found the Babe. They checked up on the angel-transmitted news. It was all true: "a Babe," "swaddling clothes," "in a manger"—these three things were heaven's sign. "When they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the child."

You are seeing and hearing much which is phenomenal, almost miraculous, these days. It will appear more miraculous as the days draw nearer to our Lord's return.

Test what you hear with the heavenly sign. Make these three

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The King Who Was Born in Bethlehem

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say as he saw the Babe: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation." Simeon and Anna saw by natural vision what others before had seen in the Spirit. And those who now in the Spirit behold the King in His beauty, will see with their eyes what Simeon saw both in the Spirit and with *his* eyes.

God still has His Simeons and Annas, unknown ones, who have had a revelation concerning the consummation. You may not know them. They do not advertise. Were they to advertise what God had shown them in the Spirit they would betray a confidence and bring ridicule on the revelation. These people are the real spiritual barometers, the real forecasters. And what they have had in the Spirit, God can give also to others who love Him and love His appearing.

There is a beclouding of the minds of many people concerning the Lord's coming. Peter had the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God, but at the revelation of the crucifixion Peter stumbled. And there is stumbling today. Many stumble today on the whole matter of His coming and on the Word which tells us what is essential and necessary preparation for all His disciples: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23.

Many have consulted books and think themselves wonderful scribes. But men who know only the letter and receive only with their natural minds are blind leaders of the blind.

The Lord had Simeon and Anna ready at the birth of Christ; and in due season He raised up John the Baptist, the mighty herald. He had the hidden Simeon and Anna, and later the publicity man, John the Baptist—the "wilderness rant-er" whom even the scribes and Pharisees felt impelled to go out and hear! Oh, how those phylacteries of theirs gathered dirt as they trudged down into the wilderness! If those scribes and Pharisees had said, "John, come and tell us all about this man you are heralding," he would have ignored them. He would have said, "Come out to me." When they did come, he cried, "O generation of vipers, who hath

warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

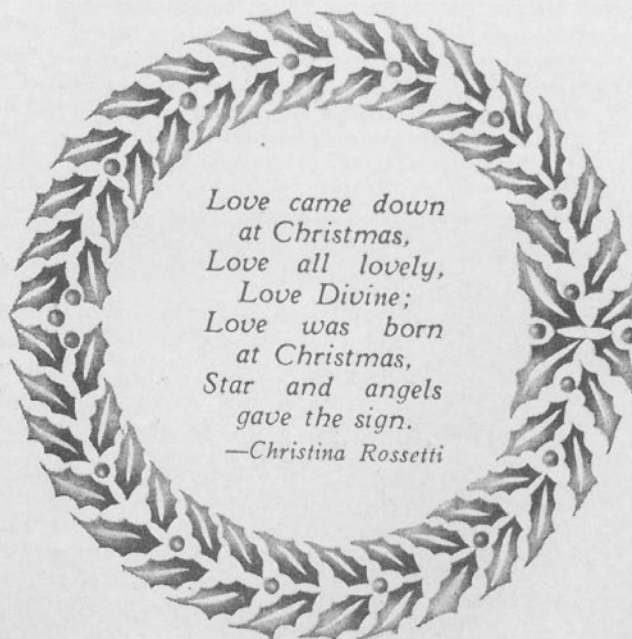
Rats flee from a sinking ship. The disturbed Pharisees fled from their comfortable quarters, but when they saw what kind of man God had sent for a fore-runner, and heard the message he brought, they went back to their comfortable quarters in Jerusalem, and later planned the destruction of the One who had been heralded. But Christ said to them, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate!" Matt. 23:38. And they were led captive to all nations.

In Simeon and Anna God had hidden ones especially prepared to welcome the Babe who was born in Bethlehem. And today, in view of the near coming of the One who is to rule all nations. He wants hidden ones whose lives are characterized by holy conversation and godliness, and who are diligent that they may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless—lowly saints who know what it is to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! 2 Peter 3:11, 14, 18.

SOUL-WINNING

On one occasion John Vassar approached a society woman, in a large hotel, dressed for the ballroom, with the question, "Do you love the Lord Jesus?" The woman went to her husband in deep concern. "Why didn't you tell him it was none of his business?" he asked. "But, husband," said the woman, "if you had seen the expression of his face, and heard the earnestness with which he spoke, you would have thought it was his business." Soul-winning is the Christian's business. *Are you attending to your business?*

Give the EVANGEL this Christmas.
Only one dollar for 52 weekly issues.



The Cradled Christ

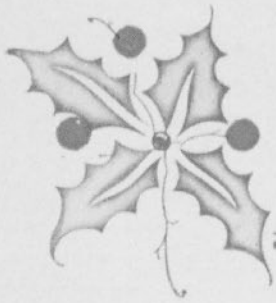
J. HUDSON TAYLOR

REFLECT on what our Lord Jesus Christ gave up who left heaven's throne to be cradled in a manger; who, having filled all things and wielded omnipotence, became a feeble infant and was wrapped in swaddling clothes; who, being the Loved One of the Father, never unappreciated, never misunderstood, and receiving the ceaseless adoration of the hierarchies of heaven, became a despised Nazarene, misunderstood by His most faithful followers, suspected by those whom He came to bless, neglected and rejected by those who owed to Him their very being and whose salvation He had come to seek, and, finally, mocked and spit upon, crucified and slain, with thieves, bandits, and outlaws.

The heavenly hosts had sung with wondering gladness when chaos was clothed with beauty, and the work of creation was completed. But now they see with greater wonder the Creator Himself veiled in human form and self-emptied, lying in a manger. They knew the grace of our Lord, as never before, when they saw Him as Jesus Christ, who "though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor." The Wisdom of God, and the Power of God, has undertaken our deliverance, and in order to accomplish it seeks no alliance with the wisdom, the wealth, the nobility of earth, but *intelligently takes* the lowest place as that *best adapted* for carrying out His purpose of love and grace.

Have we learned this lesson? Are we willing to learn it? "As the Father hath sent Me into the world, even so send I you." Or, are we going to repeat the oft-made experiment—which has always failed and always must fail—of trying to improve upon God's plan? The poverty and weakness of apostolic missions necessitated reliance upon God alone, and issued in wonderful success; and in modern missions it will invariably be found that in proportion to the non-reliance on wealth, or education, or political power, and in proportion to the self-emptying with which they are carried on, the issues are encouraging.

Can those who at home or abroad are ambitious for the highest success as fishers of men find a wiser or safer example than that of Him who called His first disciples to leave all and follow Him, and who Himself, "though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor"? "Let this mind be in you."



Christmas As Our

Preparations for Christmas at Sharannagar

Esther B. Harvey

WOULD you like to hear about our Christmas? On a mission station the size of this, Christmas means weeks of hard work and preparation. In the summer we started to hunt cloth for dresses, suits, and coats. In fact, Miss Beuckmen visited shops about every day during her two months' holiday, trying to get cloth, a few yards at a time.

Then I had two men sewing on the veranda for a month. They had to make a dress for each of the twenty-five girls, suits for five little boys, coats for those who had nothing warm to wear, and sew for the big boys as well. Some pretty pieces of thin cloth left from dresses, were cut into squares the right size for handkerchiefs and sewed into bags for the women. Plain white ones were made for the boys. Then a piece of pretty blue material was cut into strips and hemmed for hair ribbons. So the men worked hard to get it all done before Christmas day.

I also wrote to Kathryn Schmidt, who was planning to come soon from the States, to bring a lot of pencils with erasers, and also big erasers for our older school boys. It is almost impossible to get good pencils here in India. Once I was sharpening a nice looking Indian pencil to give as a prize, and it simply fell apart in my hand, split from top to bottom. I remembered, too, the time when the older boys worked all one holiday, helping to tie mattresses. I had planned to give them eight cents each, but they begged for a lead pencil instead. Yes, lead pencils would most certainly be welcome gifts.

When Miss Schmidt arrived, shortly before Christmas, she brought, besides other gifts, all kinds of toys for the children. She had asked the children in her Sunday School to shop for her and each bring some gift for an Indian child; so they brought just such things as children love.

Christmas eve we had a tree in the hostel, or big hall, and gave the gifts to our people. There were the dresses for the girls, the suits and coats for the boys. Then each woman received a bag containing a spool of thread and a towel. The bags served a dual purpose, for later they were ripped open to be used as handkerchiefs,

The boys received plain white handkerchiefs, and the girls were delighted with their blue hair ribbons. Smaller children received the toys which Miss Schmidt had brought, and each boy and each worker was given two nice American lead pencils! At this time we always have an impromptu program, very informal, calling on different ones to sing or do something. It is great fun, and the folk laugh or clap to their heart's content.

At two o'clock Christmas morning, the boys came to our door and sang carols. They had learned several very nice new songs. Then the young women came before we had time to get to sleep again. There is great competition as to who will be first, the girls or the boys, but the boys won this time. After they left, we took another little nap before breakfast.

One little fellow, about six, wore his new coat to prayers in the early morning, then came to the veranda to thank me. He was glad for the coat, he said, but it did not keep him warm as it had no pockets. He had seen the big boys putting their hands in their pockets, and he wanted pockets too!

Later in the morning we had a very precious church service. The church was packed, and the presence of the Lord was very real to all. For the rest of the day, all day long, people came to greet us and pay their respects on our big day, as they call it.

At one o'clock we all sat down together, about one hundred and fifty of us, not to a table spread with fruit, candy, and such things, but sat on the floor and ate a fine Indian meal. Perhaps you would be interested in knowing what we had for dinner? We cooked sixty-six pounds of rice, fifty pounds of meat, and twenty pounds of potatoes with the meat. We had to borrow a big cooking vessel from the bazaar, and we had a man come and do the cooking so that the women could all be free to go to the church service.

After the dinner we all met on the playground

and had races and games. The non-Christians who work for the mission join us in these. Later we serve the sweets. Then in the evening we have the drama. This acting out of the Christmas message is always interesting and inspiring, and the people listen very reverently.

We had planned to open our own gifts on Christmas eve, but we did not get to it until Christmas night. Kind friends had sent gifts with Miss Schmidt, and my daughter had sent me, together with other nice things, a big box of Hershey bars. During the war we did not see such things, and she knows I have a weakness for chocolates.

Also among Miss Schmidt's things were two boxes of Colman's mustard. For three years we had been longing for some good mustard for salads, but all we could get was Indian mustard, which tasted so awful at times that we could not eat it. Now we had some American mustard! It was a little thing, but the Lord was mindful and saw to it that we had some in time for our own Christmas dinner, which we had the day after Christmas.



The Rupaidiha Nursery Celebrates

Anna Tomaseck

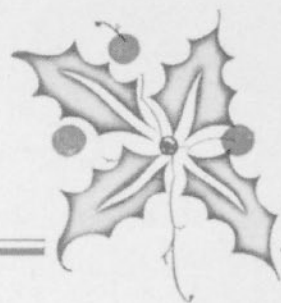
AS Christmas morn dawns with a cold nip in the Indian air, the sound of children's voices is heard greeting the happy day with a carol. Soon all are astir. Little folk are running here and there, being dressed for the morning service at the church in the village. A bullock cart rolls slowly into the compound. Twenty or thirty little tots climb in, and away they go. The older children and grownups follow, but the tiny babies are left sleeping peacefully in their cots.

At the service a note of praise and thanksgiving rings out, far beyond the walls of the building to those who sit in darkness, without Christ and without hope. A number gather around the door and windows to listen while they are told the most glorious news of One who came to earth to be our Savior.

The service over, we return to the compound of the nursery, where preparations for the big feast are resumed. Mats are spread in the shade of the trees, a bell rings and some one hundred folk gather. Besides those in the immediate compound there are the Christians who came three miles distance from the mis-



Missionaries See It



sion farm, the evangelist and their families who live in the village, some friends, and relatives—a great gathering!

After we have thanked the Giver of all good gifts, we begin the feast of delicious curry and rice. Plates are filled and refilled. Later, all gather in another part of the compound where there are piles of the most exciting looking parcels, small bags of fruit, nuts, and sweets—gifts made possible because of the loving generosity of many in the home country. There is a great spirit of expectation.

Again all hear about Christ, the gift which is above every gift. Then the little ones are given beautiful toys, and the older ones receive gifts of cloth, soap, etc. Thus ends the festivities of a very happy day.

With the sunset, tired but happy little folk go to bed. We move among the cots, each containing a precious little life. This one never knew a mother's love, that one was forsaken by all and left to die, unwanted. Here is one, only twelve days old, whose mother passed on to the great eternity, leaving no one to care for the little babe. They are cared for here because the Prince of peace, whose birthday we have just celebrated, said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."



He Gave His All

IT was Christmas and the Liberian villagers I had been asked this year, instead of receiving gifts, to give that the gospel might be carried to others. As in many mission fields, they brought not money, but produce. Presently the great plates were piled high with offerings of rice, cocoa, bananas, palm nuts, pineapple, and cassava. There was a moment's pause. Slowly a 12-year-old boy walked forward and solemnly placed his feet in one of the plates.

Afterward, when the missionary questioned him the boy said, "We are very poor. I did not have anything else to give. So I gave myself."

—Selected



Christmas in the Gold Coast

Harold S. Lehmann

WHEN the big evening came for the Tamale church Christmas program, our African children were as excited as American children. And I was "on pins and needles," just as I used to be until the last exercise was over and the oranges were passed around. When the director of the program started the choir on two songs in different keys at the same time, I think Naomi and I "died a thousand deaths."

For the last number on the program, "He is King of kings, He is Lord of lords," sung by the entire group, the director decided to have the "heavenly host" stand in a semicircle before the platform while the chorus sang. There was an embarrassing pause of six or seven minutes while glistening white wings were adjusted with difficulty on our black angels. But the song melted our hearts. We wept a little, felt a wave of joy, and spontaneously broke into the "Hallelujah Chorus"! It was a wonderful end for the evening. Surely they had magnified the Christ Child.

On Christmas eve, we hired a lorry and went about Tamale caroling. It was the first activity of this nature for many of our people. During the course of the evening, we chanced by a large gathering of English folk in evening dress, gathered about a huge fire. To our surprise they were also singing carols! We sang a response as we drove up, and they came to the roadside asking us to lead in singing "The First Noel." We had a lovely time and felt that the evening had been worth the effort.

Christmas morning at nine o'clock we had a time of worship at the church. It was one of

the sweetest meetings I've ever attended. One woman, who had prayed many years for a child, had been asked by the doctor to take a baby whose mother had died at the time of birth. As she held the baby and stood there weeping and praising God for answering her prayer, she quoted, "Unto us a child is born." Her words made it easier to understand the deep emotions that are beneath Mary's songs of adoration and praise as given to us in Luke's account. I had chosen those songs as my theme.

Following the service, we drove to Wale Wale to spend Christmas with Brother and Sister Thomas. Brother and Sister Simmons and their two children, en route to Ivory Coast, were there. Brother and Sister Wiles and their son, and Brother and Sister Weidman with their two children were also there. Almost a convention! We had a wonderful Christmas dinner, too. Sister Thomas had planned everything a la American, even to homemade mincemeat pie for dessert.

We returned home after three or four days in order to prepare for our watch night service. That was a unique service, also. When we arrived at the church, we found the seats had been turned to form a circle. At least seventy-five per cent of our people attended the meeting. At the midnight hour, the sexton began to ring the bell (this is the first church I ever pastored that had a bell), and the people began to praise the Lord as we knelt about the altar. We ended by singing: "Revive Thy work, O Lord, Thy gracious arm make bare, Speak with a voice that wakes the dead, And make Thy people hear."



BLESSINGS in abundance, STRENGTH for every way, COURAGE for each trial, GLADNESS for each day, FAITH in heaven's guidance, HOPE that's firm and true, may the Lord our Savior give these gifts to you."

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8:32.



Though our task is not to bring the world to Christ, our task is unquestionably to bring Christ to all the world.—A. J. Gordon,

The Meaning of Christmas

(Continued from page five)

minister tell the story of two brothers, James and John, who had a quarrel that would have led to murder but for the intervention of their wives. They vowed they would never again speak to one another. For a whole year the hatred lasted—never a word was exchanged. In the meantime James' wife became the mother of a beautiful baby. John's wife visited there often and would tell her husband all about this dear child. But he showed no interest whatever in it. What did he care about James' baby? But it so happened that one day an errand took him past the house of his brother. As he passed it he noticed a baby buggy in the front yard. He wished he could at least have a look at that baby. No one was looking, because the two ladies and James were in the back yard talking, their backs turned in his direction. He would at least take a look at the child. No sooner did he get to the buggy than two little hands reached up as much as to say, "Take me in your arms." He couldn't resist the temptation, but picked the baby up tenderly; and the baby, overjoyed, put its one hand in a lock of his hair and the other in his beard. He tried to get loose but it was not to be done. Baby clung, first with one hand and then the other, and began to laugh heartily. This attracted the attention of the ladies and James. They came over to John, and the scene so touched the brothers that they asked each other's forgiveness and embraced. What that baby did for two brothers is what Bethlehem's Babe did for the whole world—brought peace between God and man.

Second,—Christ has brought us deliverance from the power of sin. How seductive sin is! Men think it harmless and begin to play with it. Soon it plays with them. As a cruel taskmaster it whips its poor victim into hell. Sin is a snare that looks very inviting. The ancients used various snares to trap birds. Satan is a fowler and sin is his snare. Oh, how many have been caught and found themselves helpless against vile passions and vicious habits!

One day the Lord gave me a simple illustration of this truth. I was in a vacant summer cottage out by a lake getting some gasoline lamps that I had obtained permission to use in a country church where there was no electricity. I found the lamps but I couldn't find the pressure pump though I searched for a long time. In that search I passed by a heating stove several times and heard a peculiar sound,

as the rustling of paper or the scurry of a mouse. Paying little attention to it, I continued my search for the pump. At last there was another stir. What could it be? It seemed to come from within the stove, and so I opened the door. I discovered, to my surprise, a live woodpecker that had come down the chimney and stove pipe. It was already very weak from hunger, and covered with dust. It fluttered several times before it could get out of the stove door to fly to a nearby window. What a thrill I got out of setting that bird free! It stopped at the nearest tree to chirp me a note of thanks and then hunt up some lunch. And the God who watches over the poor woodpecker and sent a preacher to that vacant cottage to release it, is the God who sent Jesus to Bethlehem's manger and Cal-

vary's cross to set my dust-covered, weakened, sin-whipped soul free!

*"Guilty, vile and helpless, we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He.
Full atonement! Can it be?
Hallelujah—what a Saviour!"*

Not only has He delivered us from sin's guilt and power, but the promise is that we shall have deliverance from the presence of sin, though we still have to bear with wickedness, sin and ungodliness on every hand. Some day He's coming for His own to receive us unto Himself. Is it any wonder the angels said, "Glory to God in the highest"?

*"When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!"*

My Christmas Dollar

IDA M. JOHNSON

THROUGH financial difficulties and misunderstanding, I found myself without money at the Christmas season. I went out to see my son, and he, not knowing about my troubles, gave me a dollar, saying, "Get yourself a treat."

You may be sure I was glad to get that dollar, and began planning and scheming to use it to the best advantage in buying material to make Christmas gifts for my six grandchildren—two girls and four boys. They would be expecting gifts from me, and the thought of the disappointment on those sweet little faces at not getting anything from Grandma, was disturbing to say the least.

I went to a fellowship meeting, and when the plea for home missionaries came, that dollar began to bother me. I argued with myself that I wanted that dollar, and I really needed it. Besides, it was only a dollar and wouldn't do as much good for them as it would for me. My hopes were built on that dollar. Thus I reasoned and argued with myself, but when the offering basket passed I put the dollar in it, knowing it would be my last dollar that year. I decided I would whittle out presents for my grandchildren.

The next day the Lord opened the windows of heaven and showed me a field He had purchased with my dollar, and He gave me these lines of verse:

INVESTMENT

I own a little piece of heaven;
I put a treasure there.
I gave some money to my Lord
I thought I couldn't spare.
And straightway He invested it
In the Gloryland above—
A spot right in the fields of heaven—
My little gift of love.
I held to it for quite a while.
The gift from my dear boy

From out his scanty, hard-earned wage
Was meant to give me joy.

But when I saw the need of those
Sore toiling in the field,
I gave my little gift to them—
Not thinking of the yield.
Imagine my surprise and joy
When shown the field so fair—
My spot of heaven's glory bright,
The place it bought up there!
The joy I thought I gave away
Increased a million fold!
Not the worth of money given,
But of the sacrifice, I hold.

(Offerings for our home missionaries may be sent to the Home Missions Department, 336 West Pacific Street, Springfield, Missouri.)

LAST-MINUTE GIFT SUGGESTION

The following comes from Broken Bow, Nebraska: "As superintendent of our Sunday school and in behalf of our members, I want to express my appreciation and thanks for the helps in the Sunday School COUNSELLOR"—signed by Stella Emerson.

This is just one of many Sunday school groups who appreciate our Sunday School COUNSELLOR. It is a sixteen-page monthly publication. Every officer and teacher in every school, regardless of denomination, would profit by receiving this paper. If you are thinking of a last-minute Christmas gift suggestion, then let your gift be a year's subscription to the Sunday School COUNSELLOR—price for one year, 75c. (Four or more copies to one address, only 60c each per year.)—Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri.

The EVANGEL is a Christ-honoring Christmas gift which your friends will appreciate.

The Passing and the Permanent



GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS

It is estimated that American parents will spend \$232,000,000 for toys alone this Christmas. The holiday is meant to celebrate the birth of Christ, but on His birthday it seems that everyone receives gifts except Him!

A BIBLE LIBRARY

A unique library is to be found at the headquarters of the American Bible Society in New York City. It contains 16,000 volumes, but every one of them is a Bible, and every volume is different. Altogether 864 different languages and dialects are represented.

A NEW CYCLOTRON

The new cyclotron of the University of California—ten times more powerful than any other in use—has been completed. According to *Alliance Weekly*, the machine weighs four thousand tons, and will shortly be employed in the task of further exploring the atom in an endeavor to harness the immense powers of atomic energy for beneficial uses.

A CHALLENGE TO MEN

Alma Siewart, a 24-year-old girl of Toccoa, Ga., has just completed a flight course preparatory to missionary work in French West Africa. When interviewed she said: "I realize that flying in Africa is a man's job. It will take strong nerves. I am humble about it all, and I just hope that what I do will be an inspiration to men. We need more men on the mission field."

MISSIONS IN REVERSE

Centuries ago Spain forced the Roman Catholic faith upon Mexico at the point of the sword, and Portugal forced the same faith upon Brazil; but today the situation is partially reversed. The Protestant Church in Mexico is sending missionaries to Spain, and the Protestant Church in Brazil is sending missionaries to Portugal, to point the people of the old country to the Light of Life which has dawned upon so many in the new.

LIQUOR IN ALASKA

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor they were greatly aided by the manner in which liquor flowed so freely in the Islands. Should an enemy nation attack Alaska they would find a similarly helpful situation. In Anchorage, for instance, there are 63 bars and liquor stores. With an estimated number of 6,000 adult drinkers, this is one store for every 100 customers. There are two liquor stores for every food store. Marvin W. West, editor of the Anchorage newspaper, has had the courage to publish an editorial in which these conditions are revealed. He charges that a great deal of gambling is done in the saloons, and that some sell openly to minors, and to drunken soldiers. "Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim. . . . The drunkards of Ephraim shall be trodden under feet." Isa. 28:1-3.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Last year the papers of Memphis, Tenn., reported that in the novelty stores Christmas cards with religious sentiments sold in double the volume of non-religious cards. Perhaps it was an after-effect of the war that texts like "Glory to God in the highest," and "Peace on earth, good will toward men," found greatest favor.

LIQUOR, DIVORCE, AND CRIME

Excessive drinking among young people, and broken homes, were blamed recently by Judge John R. King of Columbus, Ohio, for the crime wave in Franklin County. "The crime wave today is the worst in twenty years," he declared. He estimated that 80% of the youthful criminals committed their crimes while drinking. He said a majority of them came from homes where the parents were separated or else too busy making money to do their duty as parents. "I don't know where these boys and girls from 18 to 21 are getting their liquor," he declared, "but they are getting it somewhere. That opportunity somehow must be curbed."

THE VATICAN EMBASSY

President Truman last month sent Myron C. Taylor back to Rome as his personal representative at the Vatican. Mr. Taylor himself receives no salary, but his expenses are paid by the State Department and these amount to \$40,000 a year, it is officially announced.

The Converted Catholic Magazine charges that use of taxpayers' money in this way is a direct violation of an Act passed in the 39th Congress, second session, which states: "No money hereby or otherwise appropriated shall be paid for the support of an American Legation at Rome (the Vatican) from and after the 30th of June, 1867."

BUDDHISM IN THE U. S. A.

Buddhism, which was planted in America by Japanese immigrants in the 19th century, now has thirty-five temples in this country—twenty-one of them in cities, and fourteen in rural areas. Services are conducted each Sunday, in much the same manner as a Protestant worship service—silent meditation, hymn singing, a sermon, the reading of selections from Buddhist writings, and an offering to provide the meager allowance of the priest.

Membership rolls list 15,000 names; but, in keeping with the privilege granted by the founder of the religion, many thousands consider themselves followers of the prophet without engaging in public services. Probably the most attractive feature of the religion is its promise of Nirvana—a semi-conscious state of absolute freedom from all ignorance, desire and hatred. Troubled souls accept its shadowy proffers of ultimate peace, ignoring the clear statements of Christ: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed," and "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

JAPANESE THANKSGIVING

Japan's bountiful rice harvest was celebrated on October 17 in the annual *kannamesai*, which is Japan's Thanksgiving Day. Emperor Hirohito took part in the ceremony at the shrine in the imperial palace, offering samples of new rice to Amaterasu, the sun goddess from whom his family claims descent. Evidently Hirohito is still bound up in heathenism, in spite of the reports telling us that he is studying Christianity.

A "FLOWER FUND"

According to *Watchman-Examiner*, some 1,000 elderly people in Sweden are supported in their old age through a "Flower Fund." The membership of this group includes notable men and women from all walks of life. Relatives and friends of a bereaved family, instead of sending flowers to the sorrowing ones, send checks to this flower fund. The fund secretary sends the family a sympathetic message in the name of the donor, and the money is used to provide comfort for elderly people in needy circumstances.

A KING GIVES THANKS

While in Oslo, Norway, it was the privilege of Pastor Henry H. Ness of Seattle to have an audience with King Haakon. When he commended the king on the wonderful way he handled the Norwegian situation during the war, the king turned sharply and said, "No, I do not wish any honor, but wish to give honor to whom honor is due. When I saw things coming, I prayed to God, and God gave me a positive faith that all things would work out for good and that I would return to Oslo. It was a miracle how God protected me and my family and party in our endeavor to escape the Nazis in Norway, but we arrived in England without any harm. So, first of all, the credit goes to God who gave us the victory; and secondly, it goes to the noble, unswerving stand which the faithful Norwegian people took as they knew that righteousness must prevail, and the extreme sacrifices through which these people went in behalf of their country."

"MARY, THE MEDIATRIX"

Even at Christmas the Lord Jesus is eclipsed to a large extent by the worship of Mary, His mother according to the flesh. *Our Sunday Visitor* carried an advertisement for "Our Lady of Fatima Magazine," inviting readers to order this monthly and see for themselves how "Mary warns the world; Mary challenges the world; Mary is the hope of the world; Mary will save the world!"

The same paper, under the title, "Our Lady—Our Land," gave extracts from an address by the President of Notre Dame University. "Today our country has need for Mary, the Mediatrix," he said, "and it is only natural that we should turn to her for help, for we are hers in a very special sense."

If Mary were living today a sword would pierce through her heart afresh at all the worship that is directed toward her instead of toward her Son. "Whatsoever *He* saith unto you, do it," she said. The Word of God is very clear in saying, "There is *one* Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." 1 Tim. 2:5. The prayers of the lowliest person who does His will carry as much weight with Christ as the prayers of His earthly mother.

Joseph and Mary

(Continued from page three)

fulfillment. She is a happy maiden who has a mother or a motherly friend much experienced in the ways of the human heart to whom she can tell all her anxieties; a wise, tender, much experienced counselor, such as Naomi was to Ruth, and Elisabeth to Mary. Was the virgin an orphan, or was her mother such a woman that Mary could have opened her heart to any stranger rather than to her? Be that as it may, Mary found a true mother in Elisabeth of Hebron. Many a holy hour the two women spent together sitting under the terebinths that overhung the dumb Zacharias' secluded house. And, if at any time their faith wavered and the thing seemed impossible, was not Zacharias beside them with his sealed lips and his writing table, a living witness to the goodness and severity of God? How Mary and Elisabeth would stagger and reason and rebuke and comfort one another, now laughing like Sarah, now singing like Hannah, let loving and confiding and pious women tell.

Sweet as it is to linger in Hebron beside Mary and Elisabeth, our hearts are always drawn back to Joseph in his unspeakable agony. The absent are dear, just as the dead are perfect. And Mary's dear image became to Joseph dearer still when he could no longer see her face or hear her voice. Nazareth was empty to Joseph; it was worse than empty—it was a city of sepulchers in which he sought for death and could not find it. Day after day, week after week, Joseph's misery increased, and when, as his wont was, he went up to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, that only made him feel his loneliness and his misery all the more. Mary's sweet presence had often made the holy place still more holy to him, and her voice in the Psalms had been to him as when an angel sings.

On one of those Sabbaths which the exiled virgin was spending at Hebron, Joseph went up again to the sanctuary in Nazareth seeking to hide his great grief with God. And this, I feel sure, was the scripture appointed to be read in the synagogue that day: "Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Joseph's heart was absolutely overwhelmed within him as he listened to that astounding scripture. Never had ear or heart of man heard these amazing words as Joseph heard them that day. And then, when he laid himself down to sleep that night his pillow became like a stone under his head. Not that he was

cast out; but he had cast out another, and she the best of God's creatures. Aye, and she perhaps—how shall he whisper it even to himself at midnight—the virgin mother of Immanuel! A better mother He could not have. So, speaking to himself till he was terrified at his own thoughts, weary with another week's lonely labor, and aged with many weeks' agony and despair, Joseph fell asleep.

Then a thing was secretly brought to him, and his ear received a little thereof. There was silence, and he heard a voice saying to him, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Gabriel was sent to reassure Joseph's despairing heart, to demand the consummation of the broken-off marriage, and to announce the incarnation of the Son of God.

Did Joseph arise before daybreak and set out for Hebron to bring his outcast home? There is room to believe that he did. If he did, the two angel-chastened men must have had their own thoughts and counsels together even as the two chosen women had. And as Joseph talked with Zacharias through his writing table, he must have felt that dumbness, and even death itself, would be but a light punishment for such unbelief and such cruelty as his. But all this, and all that they had passed through since the angel came to Zacharias at the altar, only made the re-betrothal of Joseph and Mary the sweeter and the holier, with the aged priest acting more than the part of a father, and Elisabeth acting more than the part of a mother.

For my own part, I do not know the gift or the grace or the virtue any woman ever had that I could safely deny to Mary. I am compelled to believe that all that could be received or attained or exercised by any woman would be granted beforehand and all but without measure, to her

who was so miraculously to bear, and so intimately and influentially to nurture and instruct, the Holy Child. We must give Mary her promised due. We must not allow ourselves to entertain a grudge against the mother of our Lord because some enthusiasts for her have given her more than her due. There is no fear of our thinking too much either of Mary's maidenly virtues, or of her motherly duties and experiences.

The Holy Ghost, in guiding the researches of Luke and in superintending the composition of the third Gospel, especially signalizes the depth and the piety and the peace of Mary's mind. At the angel's salutation she did not swoon nor cry out. She did not rush either into terror on the one hand or into transport on the other. But like the heavenly minded maiden she was, she cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And later on, when all who heard it were wondering at the testimony of the shepherds, it is instructively added that Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. And yet again, when another twelve years have passed by, we find the same evangelist still pointing out the same distinguishing feature of Mary's saintly character. "They understood not the saying which Jesus spake unto them; but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart."

And, again, if we are to apply this sure principle to Mary's case, "according to your faith so be it unto you," then Mary must surely wear the crown as the mother of all them who believe on her Son. If Abraham's faith has made him the father of all them who believe, surely Mary's faith entitles her to be called their mother. If the converse of our Lord's words holds true, that no mighty work is done where there is unbelief; if we may safely reason that where there has been a mighty work done, there must have been a corresponding and co-operating faith; then I do not think we can easily overestimate the measure of Mary's faith. If this was the greatest work ever wrought by the power and the grace of Almighty God among the children of men, and if Mary's faith entered into it at all, then how great her faith must have been.

Elisabeth saw with wonder and with worship how great it was. She saw the unparalleled grace that had come to Mary, and she had humility and magnanimity enough to acknowledge it. "Blessed art thou among women: blessed is she that believeth, for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." "Blessed is she that believeth," said Elisabeth, no doubt with some sad thoughts about herself and about her dumb husband sitting beside her. "Blessed is the womb that bare



ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT

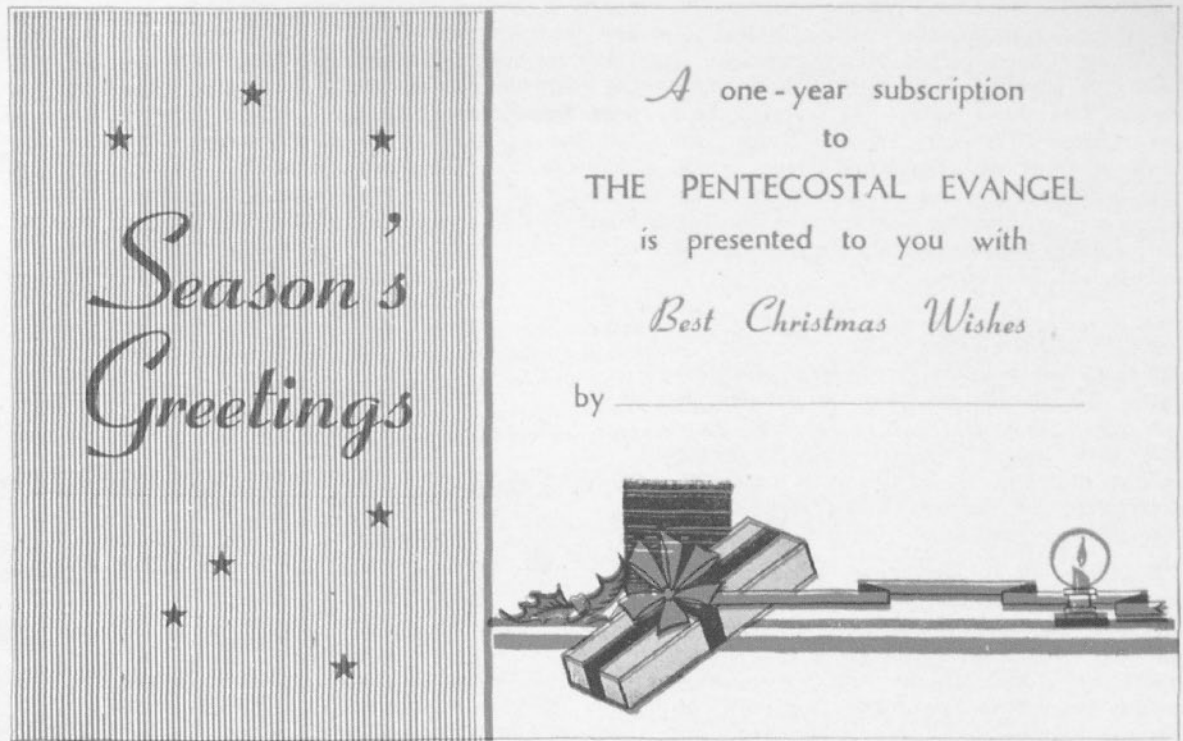
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Thee," cried on another occasion a nameless but a true woman, as her speech betrays her, "and blessed be the paps that Thou has sucked." But our Lord answered her, and said, "Yea, rather, *blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.*" And again, "*Whosoever shall do the will of My Father in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother.*"—From *Bible Characters* by Alexander Whyte.

This Shall Be a Sign

(Continued from page six)

parts of the sign your test whenever you behold the new strange wonders of the day.

"A Babe"—God has come among us in flesh. Test all so-called manifestations of the Holy Spirit with this test. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God. . . . Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God." 1 John 4:1-3.

Marvelous and real as was the miraculous leading star over Bethlehem that night, it was not "a sign unto you."

Glorious, thrilling, almost staggering was the vision of the angel that night—"and the glory of the Lord shone round about them"—but these glories and heavenly phenomena were not "a sign unto you."

"Swaddling clothes"—this is the lowly, lowly, lowly sign. No frills, nor golden lace, nor ostentation. "Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." This is the test of whatever life you are leading. If it is His life in you, it will be lowly, "swaddling-clothes" life. "This shall be a sign unto you."

"Lying in a manger." There wasn't any room then. There isn't any room now. You will have

to make room for Him always. If you think the world has more room for Him today because it has so much room for all the new thrills and knowledge and arts, you are mistaken. If you think the natural heart has room for Him, you are mistaken.

Make room for Him—even a manger. He will not refuse to enter.

When to you who have "listened in" to the good news that He has become God in our flesh, when you have found the flow of lowly life, when you have made room, you will know whom you have believed. When you have done these three things, it will be real Christmas in your heart, and you, like the shepherds, will go forth to broadcast your testimony concerning Him.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Our good friend, George T. B. Davis, has just published another edition of his Bible Success Band booklet, containing 365 scriptures to be memorized during 1947.

This 32-page booklet will be good to give to Sunday School and Bible classes.

The booklets are sold at a low price in order to encourage people to memorize the Word of God. The prices are: 1 copy, 10 cents; 12 copies, \$1.00; 25 copies, \$2.00; 50 copies, \$3.75; 100 copies, \$7.00. White envelopes for mailing the booklets may be ordered at one cent each.

Please do not order from the Gospel Publishing House, but address all orders for the booklets to: George T. B. Davis, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

A SURE GUIDE

"He led them on safely, so that they feared not." Psalm 78:53. "We have many difficulties before us; I do not see my way at all; but it is enough that He does, who will guide and supply all our need."—Hudson Taylor.

Among the Assemblies

EXPERIMENT, GA.—We have had a week and a half of meetings with Evangelist and Mrs. Jack Coe. God gave us a harvest of souls. The Christians were revived, many sinners were saved, and several received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. All previous Sunday School records were broken and a new attendance record was made of 310. Brother Coe preaches the Word without fear or favor of man. They have been a great blessing to our church.—E. P. Pruett, Pastor.

ENNIS, TEXAS—A little over two years ago, Albert Ott of Dallas came here and held a revival under a tent, there being no assembly here at the time. The Lord blessed and the meeting was a great success. At the close of the meeting, Brother Ott felt led to ask M. E. Collins of the Southwestern Bible Institute to come and start a church here. So with a faithful few who agreed to go on together, and with our pastor, Brother Collins, the Lord has wonderfully blessed the efforts and honored the faith of His people. We now have a beautiful new church building, with many nice Sunday School rooms, on the way to completion, and in a fine location.

The Lord has given us many faithful and consecrated leaders over the different departments. We have a fine group of talented young people, many of them coming from Southwestern Bible Institute, who have proved a great blessing to our church. We have a fine Sunday School which has doubled and tripled in attendance and offerings since the work was started, and is growing steadily. Souls have been saved, many have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and many have been healed.—Mrs. Rodney Edwards, Sunday School Secretary.

McALLEN, TEXAS—We are praising God for a good revival with Brother Filbert of Ft. Worth. Churches from different sections of the Valley were well represented and the building was filled every night. The power of God was manifested in every service. Many were saved or filled with the Holy Ghost, others were healed. The saints were moved as never before and are praising God for the message that Brother Filbert preached—just old-time holiness.—A. M. Freese, Pastor.

HOUSTON, TEXAS—The Sunnyland Assembly of God wishes to give thanks to God our Father for all His goodness throughout this past year. Souls have been saved and many have been healed. In one revival, during vacation time, with W. S. Barham as evangelist, 10 received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost, 9 of whom were C.A.'s.

Evangelist R. G. Helvey of Dallas recently conducted a 4-week meeting here. We shall not know all the good that was accomplished until we reach heaven's shore, but the church gained new victory, courage, and determination to go through in these last days.—W. E. Sumrall, Pastor.

FLAT RIVER, MO.—Beginning June 9, we had 3 weeks of wonderful messages on Prophecy by Evangelist Otto J. Klink of Miami, Fla. Our people were deeply impressed with the thought that the Lord is coming soon. Several souls were saved, but due to ill health Brother Klink had to leave before completing his meeting.

On September 22, a meeting was commenced by the "Amazing Grace Evangelistic Party," composed of Chas. O. Neece of Miami, Fla., and the Musical Davidsons of Dallas, Texas. They climaxed this wonderful revival effort with their splendid music and singing. We cannot forget Beverly Ann, the charming little girl at the microphone, who did such splendid singing. And we cannot forget the old-fashioned Pentecostal preaching by Brother Neece. What breaking up and praying took place! Thirty souls were born into the kingdom and the church was greatly revived. Many times during the meeting, the auditorium was filled, and a few times there were some in the balcony. Last Sunday, two weeks after the meeting, we baptized 11 in water, and the fire is still falling.—Pastor and Mrs. Powhatan Huffman.

EDINBURG, TEXAS—Six weeks ago we accepted the pastorate here. Since then, many have been saved and filled according to Acts 2:4, and many have been healed. One who had been deaf for years was healed. A woman who had cancer of the breast and stiff knees, and who had been sent home to die and seemed about to go, was instantly healed and came out of bed, shouting and praising God. Another woman, deaf in her left ear, was healed instantly. A severe headache, which she had had day and night for months, was healed at the same time God unstopped her ear. A 6-year-old boy, at the point of death, was healed of polio and came to church next day, sound and well. A back-slidden preacher, bedfast 15 weeks, was healed and is now on fire for the Master. Space forbids my telling of the many healings that have taken place. Crowds are packing the building and this

valley is seeing the greatest ingathering of souls ever known.

We are beginning special meetings under the big tent, November 20, at 201-207 East Fay St., with Evangelists Olive Burns, Clara Classen, and Joe Ragsdale as the main speakers. The church is so revived that anything can happen.

People of several denominations have been saved. The church is praying continually for the latter rain, having daily prayer services at 5:00 and 10:00 a.m., also services five nights each week. Our Sunday School attendance has more than doubled the last six weeks. All Council brethren have a hearty invitation to stop over with us when in the beautiful Rio Grande Valley section. Why not come now and camp out with us?—Pastor and Mrs. Ray Averitt.

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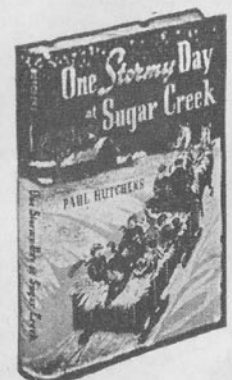
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THE SUGAR CREEK GANG FLIES TO CUBA

What an exciting time the Gang has as it plans a plane trip to Cuba, and in ninety minutes they are whisked across the Caribbean where they actually see a foreign missionary at work.

After being prayed for, she threw the tumor up in four pieces. It weighed ten pounds. The doctor gave a written statement that she was healed. Our hearts were deeply stirred with gratitude as we witnessed the mighty hand of God moving. The auditorium of the church will seat 900. It was packed, and we had 356 sitting in the basement auditorium. People were standing all the way to the doors.

We have learned to know Brother McDowell as a faithful servant of God, and we can speak most highly of his fine spirit of co-operation and his wholehearted interest in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus. We have engaged Evangelist McDowell for another great revival next spring.—W. C. Nelson, Pastor.

RADIO NEWS FLASHES

The following stations have recently been added to the list of those carrying the National Assemblies of God Radio Hour, SERMONS IN SONG:

Station	KC	State	City	Time
KWAT	1240	S. Dakota	Watertown	9:15 a.m.
KROD	600	Texas	El Paso	7:15 a.m.
KELA	1470	Washington	Centralia	7:15 a.m.
KHBC	1230	Hawaii	Hilo	8:15 a.m.
KGMB	590	Hawaii	Honolulu	8:15 a.m.
VOUG	1340	Labrador	Goose Bay	1:30 p.m.

The release over station WATZ, Alpena, Michigan, is now at 8:45 a.m.

REMEMBER! SERMONS IN SONG is your national Assemblies of God radio voice. Give it your whole-hearted support in PRAYER and OFFERING. Address all correspondence to Assemblies of God Radio Hour, P. O. Box 70, Springfield, Missouri.

Coming Meetings

Due to the fact that the Evangel is made up 16 days before the date which appears upon it, all notices should reach us 18 days before that date.

ENTERPRISE, ALA.—Dec. 5-22; Carl C. Haas of Hartford, Evangelist.—Robert Body, Pastor.

SHERBURN, MINN.—C. A. Rally, "Speed the Light," South Central Section, Dec. 13—E. A. Kingsriter, C. A. Chairman.

FARGO, N. DAK.—Missionary Convention, Gospel Tabernacle, 403 Seventh Ave. N., Dec. 12-15. David and Ruth Kensing, H. T. Waggoner, and Doris Carlson, Missionaries. Sectional Fellowship Meeting, Dec. 16.—Milton Barfoot, Pastor.

FT. WORTH, TEXAS.—City-wide Fellowship Meeting, First Assembly of God, 1326 S. Jennings, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m. Leonard Norville is pastor.—W. F. Mercer, Sectional Secretary.

PANAMA, OKLA.—Dec. 11, for 2 weeks or longer; Lee Krupnick, Jewish Evangelist.—C. A. Minick, Pastor.

DENVER, COLO.—Glad Tidings Assembly; meeting in progress; Evangelist and Mrs. G. R. Kelly.—R. C. Schachterle, Pastor.

TORRINGTON, WYO.—Dec. 8-22; Bennie Harris, Ft. Morgan, Colo., special speaker.—C. H. Stephens, Pastor.

BATON ROUGE, LA.—4641 Sherwood Drive; Dec. 1, for 2 weeks or longer; Evangelist and Mrs. A. C. McGaugh, El Dorado, Ark.—L. R. Logan, Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

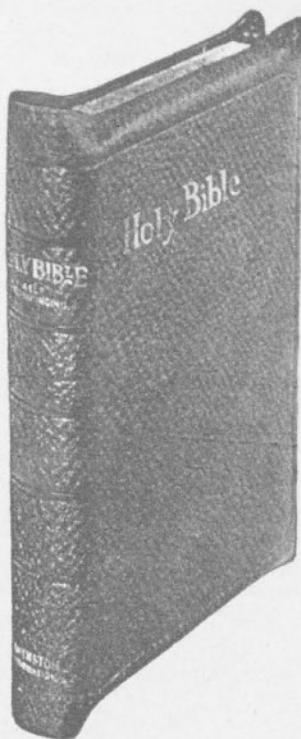
State Sunday School Convention, Faith Tabernacle, 13th and Trenton Sts., Tulsa, Okla., January 2-3. Wm. E. Kirschke, Centralia, Wash., principal speaker. Other speakers: Mr. and Mrs. George Davis, Little Rock, Ark.; T. A. Kessel, Springfield, Ill.; and F. C. Cornell of Oklahoma City. First session, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.—Paul Copeland, District Sunday School Superintendent.

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TYPE SPECIMEN

God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a

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SPECIMEN OF TYPE

20 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members	42 Give to him and from him of thee turn no	43 ¶ Ye have
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SPECIMEN OF TYPE

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Evangelistic

Frank F. Gould, Box 413, Alger, Ohio. "Open for evangelistic calls."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES

NEW ADDRESS—518 W. Baylor, San Antonio 4, Texas.—Gideon O. De Merchant.

NEW ADDRESS—2739 S. Fourth St., Louisville 8, Ky.—Ernest V. Berquist.

NEW ADDRESS—213 N. Retta St., Ft. Worth, Texas. "Have been back in the evangelistic field since June."—Clyde C. Goree.

FOR SALE—Mimeograph, practically new, automatic feed, standard size, rotary type, \$35.00. Write Nancy Galbraith, 155 W. Michigan, Tucson, Ariz.

FOR SALE—85 "Songs of Praise" song books, cloth bound; 21 of them new, balance used but in good condition. Price for lot, \$35.00. Write W. O. Slocum, Route 6, Poplar Bluff, Mo.

WANTED—Bibles and Testaments in the Roumanian language.—A. D. Nichol, 216 S. E. 6th St., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

FOR SALE—Good used Piano-Accordion, Corsani, an Italian make, white and black. Price \$395.00. Write Mrs. Cleo Meritt, Route 1, Box 93, Edinburg, Texas.

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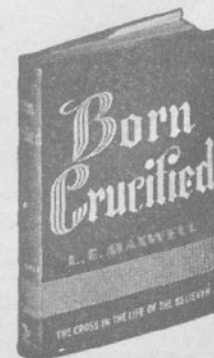
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