

The Pentecostal

EVANGEL

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December 23, 1956

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



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS PHOTO

* *Wishing You His Joy at Christmas*

Watching for His Coming

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, only a comparatively small number of persons welcomed His coming. Most of the people on earth knew nothing about it. A few who did were violently opposed to His birth. Many Jewish people who ought to have rejoiced over His advent were indifferent and unconcerned. Evidently they were too preoccupied with earthly things, too far backslidden, too dull spiritually to know that the promised Messiah, in the form of a Baby, had arrived. We wonder how many people are watching eagerly for His SECOND coming!

The prophets, over a period of centuries, had foretold His coming. Isaiah and others had prophesied concerning His humble birth. It is true that even the prophets themselves could not understand the full meaning of the prophecies that the Holy Spirit had caused them to utter; but if the people had been walking in the Spirit and had kept these prophecies fresh in their minds they surely would have recognized the fulfillment when it came.

Satan was watching. He was alert to the fact that a King had been born, and he moved Herod to slaughter thousands of babies in an effort to destroy the newborn Messiah. Satan was alert but most of the Chosen People were not!

Wise men of a foreign nationality were watching. They had anticipated His coming by the sign of a star. The prophet Balaam had warned the people of the east that a Star would come out of Jacob, and a Sceptre would rise out of Israel, that would smite the Moabites and conquer the Edomites. Wise men in the east saw His star and came to visit Him—not to destroy this One who was bidding for dominion over them but rather to bow before Him in submission and worship. Perhaps these wise men were converts to Judaism. Could it be that converts in foreign lands, who have been led to Christ by our missionaries, will be watching and welcoming the Lord at His second coming while some Americans who have contributed to Missions will be slumbering, oblivious to His return?

Humble shepherds, faithfully watching over their flocks by night, were watching when the angelic messenger came. Possibly they had been talking together about the sacred prophecies. No doubt they were men of faith who loved to talk about the things of God—for it is to such people that God reveals His mysteries. God visited these "hired hands" while their wealthy, self-satisfied employers slept in comfort unaware that the time of God's greatest visitation among men had arrived!

There were devout people like Simeon and Anna who were watching for the consolation of Israel. For many days they had been studying the Holy Scriptures, praying longingly for the coming of the Redeemer. They were in touch with heaven. Therefore, when the Redeemer came into the world the Holy Spirit informed them of the fact. Simeon gave thanks for the birth of Jesus and prophesied of His mission. Anna gave thanks likewise, and witnessed of Him to all who were interested in God's work. God passed by the religious leaders of the day and revealed His act to a frail widow of great age who was engaged in fastings and prayers.

Surely there is a lesson here for us. We have a greater revelation of the Scriptures than the people who lived at the time of Christ's first advent. We have been fully warned. The Holy Spirit has witnessed again and again that Jesus is coming back and that His return will be very soon. Are we among the faithful few who are watching for His coming? Are we focusing our attention on the things of God? Will we be ready to meet Christ when He comes?

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

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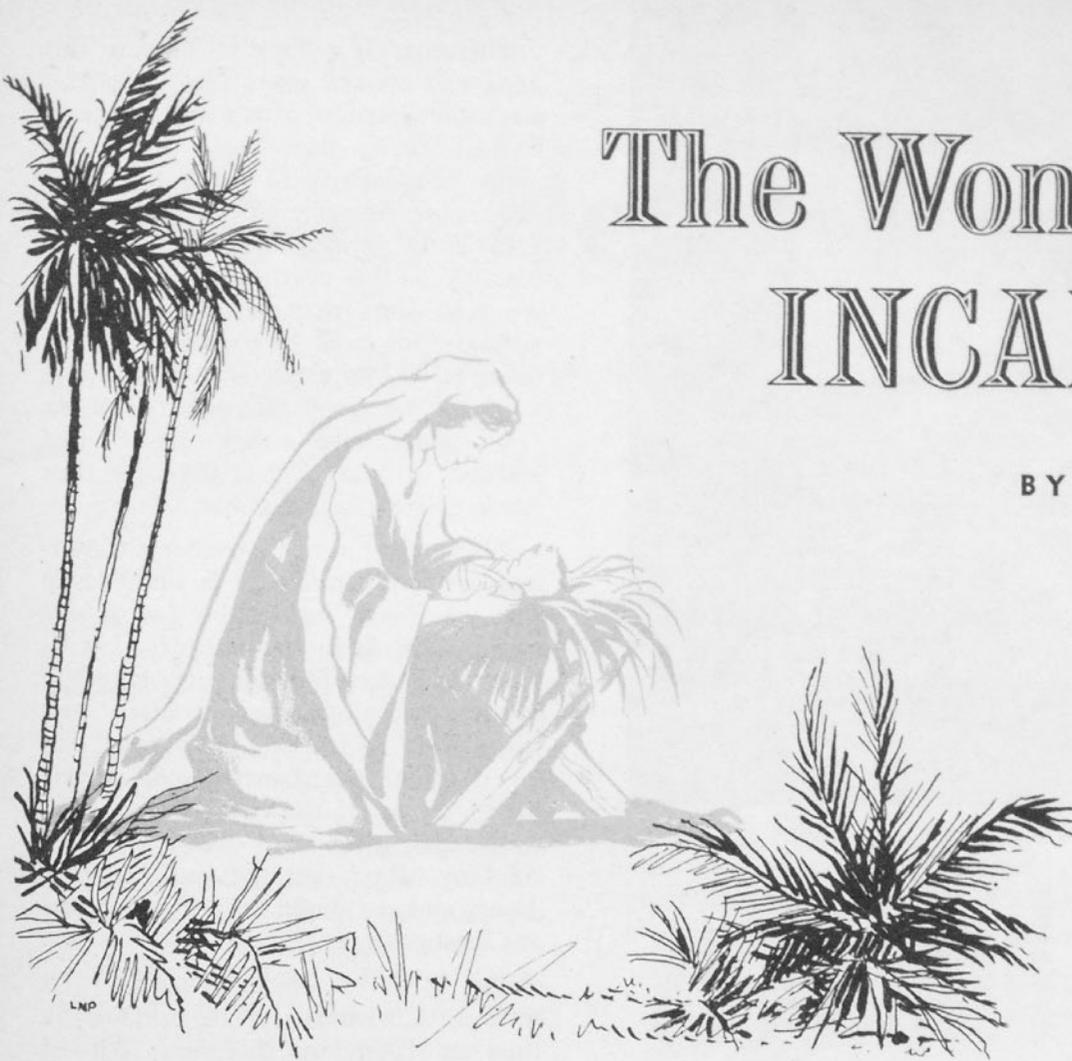
The Wondrous INCARNATION

BY DONALD GEE

Atonement. Here is fullness of power to stir and satisfy the human heart. Wesley's famous line—"That Thou my God shouldst die for me"—touches the well-spring of every new evangelical revival. No weaker doctrine will suffice.

And so—there was a point in history where God stepped out of eternity into time. Christ is still coming to penitent and believing hearts. He still is born in us by the gracious working of His Holy Spirit. There is, in some intimate sense, a personal and individual "Bethlehem" for the believer, even as there is a personal Calvary and a personal Pentecost. But nothing of all that alters the fact that "in the days of Caesar Augustus there went out a decree that all the world should be taxed"—a definite pin-point in historical time—and that in those days Jesus was born of Mary in the city of David. It happened in the fullness of time that "God sent forth His Son, made of a woman" (Galatians 4:4).

He who came once before is coming again. His one stepping into history is the promise of another divine intervention. Next time it will not be an Incarnation but a Revelation—an Apocalypse. Next time it will not be a Babe but a King. That is why the two Advents always mingle in our truest thought and hymnology and doctrine. If God came once among men, then He will come again. The world-wide Pentecostal Revival is pledged to that Blessed Hope. Its insistent prophetic note since its inception has been that "*Jesus is coming soon.*" For us His advent is inseparably linked with His resurrection and His enthronement. Jesus is coming; and our faith, hope and love are the stronger for dwelling on the wondrous story of how He CAME at the first sweet Christmas in old Judea. ◀◀



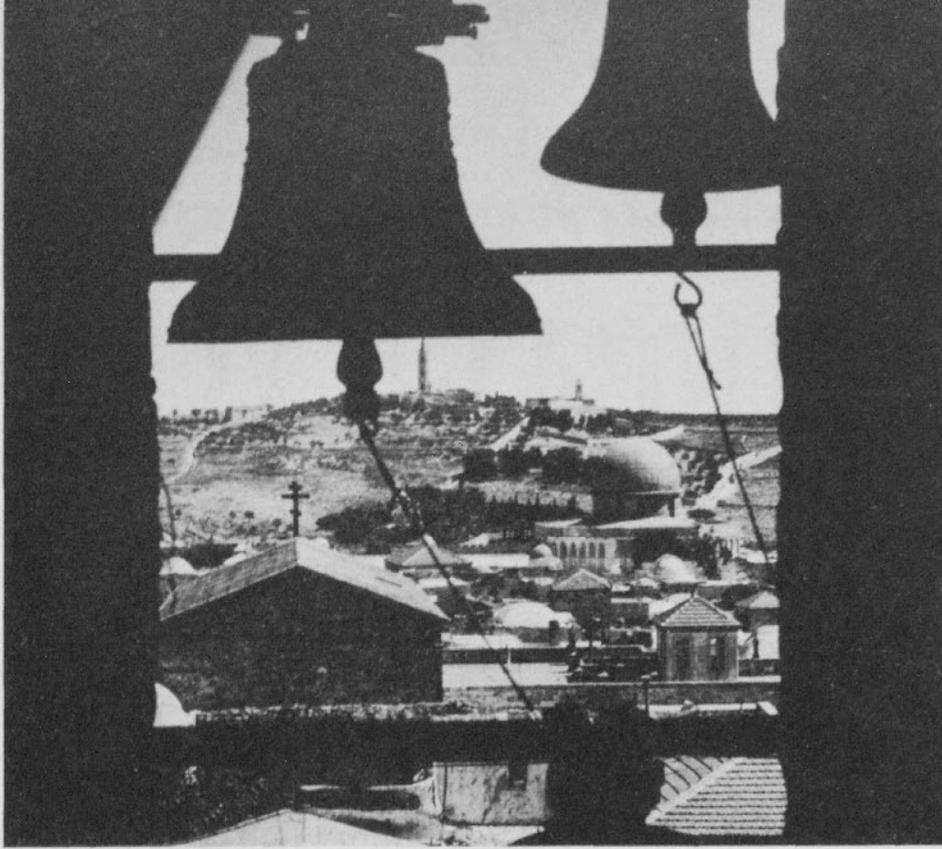
IT IS ONLY IN MY LATER YEARS THAT I have begun to appreciate the supreme importance of the truth of the Incarnation — historically, theologically, and evangelically. And now that the importance has begun to dawn upon my soul, I feel overwhelmed. It is beyond comprehension in its wonder. There are depths here which, though they are fathomless, invite our very best thought.

What wisdom is here! How wise that the King eternal, immortal, invisible, should appear in human flesh and make it possible for us to know and love Him. A Divinity, losing nothing of His greatness and yet coming within human grasp! "Which we have seen with our eyes . . . and our hands have handled" (1 John 1:1). The incomprehensible becomes intelligible. The Creator takes on flesh and blood. Fellowship becomes possible in a new and living way. The thunder of Sinai becomes the song of angels over a manger. The Mount that must not be touched becomes a Bosom that can be leaned upon.

And what condescension! This aspect of the Incarnation inspires our sweetest songs. "Though He was rich, yet for

your sakes He became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9). He steps out of the Ivory Palaces into a world of woe. Meekly He lays down His glory and becomes a helpless human babe. If the Incarnation be true—and it is!—then it is the most stupendous act of grace conceivable. It is condescension ineffably sublime. And with the humbling of Deity there is a corresponding ennobling of humanity. The Son of God becomes the Son of Man. He stoops but we are lifted. "He took not on Him the nature of angels, but He took on Him the seed of Abraham" (Hebrews 2:16).

"For the suffering of death." So challenging is this that even reverent minds find it difficult to accept when told that He was born not to live, but to die. Calvary was implicit in Bethlehem. "A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also" (Luke 2:35) was the prophetic word to the virgin mother. He came to give His life a ransom for many. He came to become the propitiation for our sins. He came that nothing less than the Blood of God should be shed for our redemption. Let us make no mistake about it—the doctrine of the Incarnation alone adequately conveys the doctrine of the



The First Christmas

BY HOWARD S. BUSH
South Florida District Superintendent

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL WAS sung by angels. Their words are recorded for us in Luke 2, verses 13 and 14: "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward man.*"

The humble shepherds had been filled with awe at the appearance of a lone angel, who had announced the birth of Christ the Lord. At first, perhaps, they thought they were dreaming, or wondered if they were seeing a vision, but when the angel was joined by a multitude of the heavenly host they must have been convinced that it was real. What an awe-inspiring sight and what a soul-thrilling sound it must have been!

The message that came that first Christmas day was clear and unmistakable. The angels were not divided in their message, but unanimously and emphatically they sang the very same words. Without a single exception there was harmony and unity expressed by all. How wonderful it would be if all those who profess to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, would also give forth a clear, unmistakable message of His divinity and of

the lordship of their own personal lives!

We should be eternally grateful to God that the thought of redemption was conceived, and that the plan was carried out in the birth of Christ. It revealed to man the true nature of God. It showed Him to be a loving Father, concerned about the redemption of lost humanity.

At this Christmas season let us consider some reasons why we should rejoice in the message of the angels. First, it was a message of *peace on earth*. Probably at no time in history has the message of peace needed more emphasis and sincere acceptance by all nations and peoples than now. With our world situation highly precarious, the Christian must become more enthusiastic over the peace that Jesus brings. It is very clearly evident that Christ wants this world to have peace; it is not His desire that nation be opposed to nation, nor that people be divided in their feelings toward each other. Christ brings personal peace to the hearts of those who accept Him; and when He returns to rule the world all the earth shall know perfect peace.

Christmas is a time to express our *good will* toward other men, who also are the creatures of a wise and sovereign God. During the course of a year many temptations to return evil for evil come across our pathway, and great is the person who can resist these temptations by overcoming evil. But we need more than just a passive resistance; we need to overcome evil by doing good—by expressing in love and kindness our good will toward others. One cannot have a right mental and spiritual attitude, and at the same time think evil of his neighbor.

There could not be a complete Christmas without Christ. It is unthinkable that we should leave Him out of our celebrations. It is *His* birthday. Let us honor and adore *Him* and give Him His rightful place in our devotions and plans for Christmas. It is good that we think of our friends, too, at this happy season of the year—to exchange cards and gifts with those who are thinking of us—but the best friend is Jesus, and we ought to put Him first at Christmastime.

The birth of Christ is God's *Gift* to men. Christmas is not primarily a time of receiving, therefore, but of giving. One gets an abiding sense of satisfaction from knowing that he has helped someone, particularly if that person is in real need. At Christmastime do you think only of giving to those from whom you expect to receive something? Or do you also think of making others happy by your gifts, knowing you will receive nothing in return in material values? That is the highest form of giving and it brings the greatest joys. Pleasure and true happiness will flood your soul because you have followed in the footsteps of the Master.

Everyone should be a partaker of the Spirit of the Lord at Christmas, for the message of the angels meets the need of people in every age. As we worship Christ, and meditate on the mystery of the Man who was both divine and human, the Spirit of God illumines our minds and hearts. Thank God for His birth! We have a Saviour who cares and understands—One who is interested in children, parents, friends, and even enemies; One who gives happiness, peace, and good will toward all. Let us make our Christmas season complete by giving praise to Christ and gifts to both God and man. ◀◀

Good News for Sinners

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS THE BEST NEWS A SINNER EVER HEARD. FOR THE BIBLE SAYS THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS—"OF WHOM," PAUL ADDED, "I AM CHIEF."

ARE YOU A SINNER? IF SO, THERE IS good news for you in the message that the angel gave the first Christmas night. The angel gave the message to a group of shepherds who realized they were sinners. The shepherds needed a Saviour, and the angel told them that the Saviour they needed had been born in Bethlehem that very night.

Here is the core of the message: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Ponder these words: "Unto you is born . . . a Saviour." It's a wonderful message for sinners everywhere, whether we be old or young, rich or poor, learned or unlearned.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE

It's "unto you"—a personal message. Have you welcomed it? Have you accepted this Saviour? Have you ever knelt down and thanked God for sending His Son into the world to die for YOU? Each one of us must answer to God for his own sins. We will not be judged as a family, or as a community, or as a nation; we will stand before God as individuals, and be judged for our personal acceptance or rejection of Jesus, the Saviour of the world and the Light of the world. The Bible tells us the grounds on which God will judge each one of us: it says, "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light."

We must let Jesus, the Son of God, come into our individual hearts before we can hope to have eternal life. The Bible says, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12).

What is your personal reaction to this personal message? The Saviour

came to save you. Have you accepted His salvation?

A PRESENT MESSAGE

The angel said, "Unto you is born *this day* . . . a Saviour." To the shepherds it meant a twenty-four hour day, but to mankind as a whole it speaks of a longer day. God's "today" is the day of grace stretching across the centuries from Adam's day to ours. As long as

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His Son's Birthday

God had His Son's companionship,
And heaven was sweet and fair;
And yet He yearned for other sons
To share His mansions there.
So Christ the Lord came down to earth,
And ever since He came,
All may become the sons of God
Who trust upon His name.
And thus the heavenly family grows.
Now earnestly I pray,
"May many sons be born to God
Upon this Christmas Day!"

—Martha Snell Nicholson.

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a person is alive, and conscious, and will repent it is still the day of salvation. This very day the Bible is saying to you, "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

But every day must come to an end, and the day of salvation will not last forever. This present hour is the only opportunity of which you can be sure. Don't gamble on another chance. The stakes are too high. It is your eternal future that you're wagering. This Christmas season is the time to accept the Saviour and be saved from all your sin. What a happy Christmas it can be if you will call on Him for salvation and begin to live for Him today!

A PRECIOUS MESSAGE

The Christmas gift that God offers to you is His own beloved Son. "Unto you is born . . . a Saviour." No other gift could be so precious, for there is no other Name given among men whereby we can be saved (Acts 4:12). No works of righteousness that we ourselves could do would save us. No church could save us. No friend, however dear, could save us. Only one Saviour was able to carry away our sins, for only One was sinless in Himself: and His name is Jesus. *What a precious Gift it is that God offers to you this Christmas.*

Millions will celebrate Christmas without giving any thought to Christ. They will hang the holly wreath and pay no attention to the holy birth of the Saviour. They will exchange gifts and ignore the greatest Gift of all. Don't pass by the Manger. Stop, and kneel, and thank God for sending His dear Son to earth to be your Saviour. Make this the happiest Christmas of your life by listening to the angel's message and giving yourself to Christ. ◀◀

Somebody's Grandma

We saw her pass by often, on her way to the railroad to pick up bits of coal. . . . and search garbage cans for food

A TRUE STORY BY AL WEST

ONE OF MY MOST UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES took place during the Christmas season many years ago. It was in a large city in upstate New York.

I was working at a small factory in a dilapidated section of the city. The building next door was an old frame house, once occupied as a residence but long since empty, except for a frail old lady who had helped herself to the dingy little basement of the building and was using it for living quarters.

The little old woman might have been attractive in her youth, but now she was wrinkled, bent, and pitiable. Her hair was a dirty grey color and the few clothes she possessed were worn and ragged. How she kept body and soul together in those hard times no one seemed to know.

In the little ten-by-twelve basement room she had only the bare necessities of life—a couple of rickety chairs, a table, a small cot, and a rusty cast-iron cook stove. We often saw her pass by on her way to the railroad yards to pick up stray bits of coal for her fire. She was said to have been seen looking through garbage cans for morsels of food. But no one took any interest in her, unless it was to make fun behind her back.

Two sisters of our work force, Ethel and Amy Bradford, were quite talented as hairdressers and often they spent their spare moments during lunch hour fussing with someone's hair. One day Ethel remarked, "I'd just love to get after the old lady next door and give her a good scrubbing, then fix her hair up and see what she would like like."

How they managed it I don't know, but a few days later we men noticed that the little old lady had taken on a new appearance. The girls had cleaned her up, fixed her hair, bought her some

new dresses, and she looked as neat and sweet as the dearest grandmother anyone ever had. We often wondered if she wasn't somebody's grandma, and we wished they could see her now.

A number of the girls in the factory took to eating their lunch in the little basement home with Grandmother, as they now called her. One day, Ethel and Amy got all the men together and told us we ought to do something to help. "It's a pity anyone has to live the way Grandmother does," said Amy. "We girls have decided to adopt her, and we want you boys to chip in and buy some of the things she needs. The poor soul doesn't even have a lamp to read by—she uses candles!"

So we took up a collection and gave it to the girls. They bought rugs for the stone floor, curtains for the two windows, a new cot, a rocking chair, and some dishes.

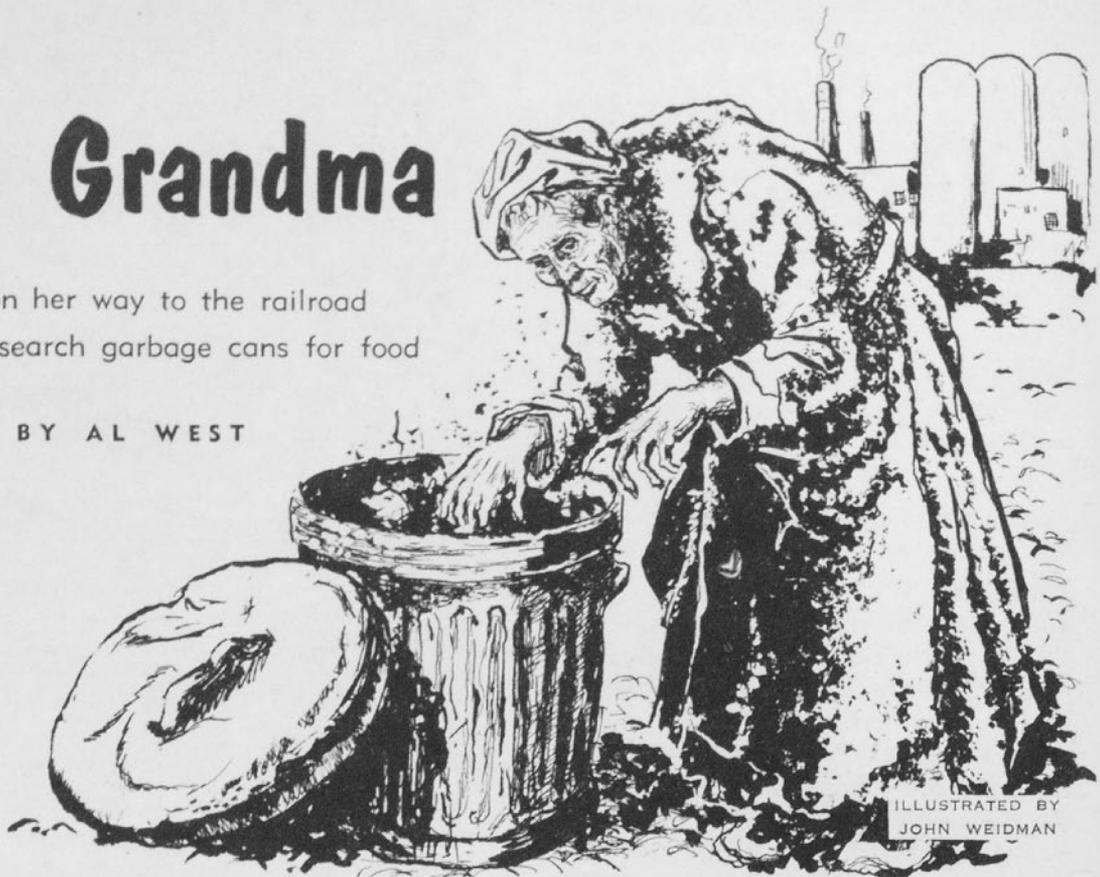
As Christmas drew near, the various workers were talking about their holiday plans, when someone said, "Let's have a party for Grandma." So the day before Christmas about twenty of us—men and women of various ages—gathered in the little basement next door, during lunch hour. Grandma was seated in her rocker in the center of the room. The rest of us crowded in wherever we could: most of the men were standing, and the girls sat on boxes, or on the floor, or on each other's laps.

I shall never forget that "party." The sky was overcast cloudy; the air outside was bitter cold; a blanket of snow covered the ground and more was falling. We could hear the icy winter wind howling through the broken windows in the forsaken rooms above, and an unlatched door banging as it swung to and fro on sagging hinges. But a warm fire burned in Grandma's old cook stove, and a real Christmas spirit beamed from each face as we ate from paper plates the modest feast that the girls had fixed.

After the meal there was the singing of carols and the presentation of gifts we had brought for Grandmother. There was a complete outfit of new warm clothing, boxes of candy, pretty pictures for the newly-papered walls. The dear old lady got about half her gifts opened when she began to cry for joy; then we all cried with her. There was not a dry eye in the room.

A few days later, the city officials stepped in and moved Grandmother out of her humble home: they were about to tear the old building down. We never knew where she went. We inquired of the police and searched in vain. None of us even knew her name: all we could learn was that she had been sent to some home for the aged.

We never saw our adopted Grandmother again, but we were glad we had helped her to have at least one happy Christmas. ◀◀



ILLUSTRATED BY
JOHN WEIDMAN

Joe's New Bicycle

A Christmas story for junior readers

This is a true story. It's about Joe Delwaide, a 12-year-old boy who lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Joe won a shiny new bicycle last month—with all the latest accessories. He won it by selling 74 new subscriptions to the daily paper that he delivers—the Fort Worth *Press*.

Of course, Joe was very happy when he won the bike. He worked very hard to earn it. When the new bicycle was delivered to his home, he jumped on his old one and went to see his pastor, Brother Baker. Joe remembered that every year his church (the Birchman Avenue Baptist) takes up a special Christmas offering for the missionaries.

Joe told Brother Baker that he had won a new bicycle, and he already had one. Naturally, he couldn't ride both of them.

He asked the pastor, "Do you know of any missionary's son who could use a bicycle?"

The minister was pleased with Joe's generous spirit. It made him feel happy that one of his Sunday School pupils was thinking of the missionaries, and not just of himself.

"Well, I guess so, Joe," the pastor said. "Does it need any repairs?"

"No," said Joe. "It's not this old bicycle. I want to give the new one."

So Joe kept on riding his old bike while delivering his papers, and Brother Baker started looking for a missionary's son who needed a bicycle.

Joe is a happy boy. He has discovered a great secret—the secret that there's more happiness to be found in giving than in receiving, especially when you give to missionaries. And the fellows at Joe's Sunday School all agree that he has learned the true spirit of Christmas.

**THE "EVANGEL" WILL MAKE
A WONDERFUL GIFT FOR A
FRIEND THIS NEW YEAR—
WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE NOW!**



Our Family Altar

Monday, December 24

SCRIPTURE: Gen. 3:14,15; Isa. 7:14; 9:1-7

TODAY'S GEM: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

FOR THE PARENT: The scriptures of today's readings will help acquaint your children with Old Testament prophecies about the coming of Christ. The first such promise came after Adam and Eve sinned. Throughout history men had looked for a Saviour and Redeemer. Christ was that Promised One.

QUESTION TIME: Where is the first prophecy of the coming of Christ? (Gen. 3:14, 15) Why was it given? (see above) What were some of the things Isaiah prophesied about Christ? (Isa. 7:14; 9:6, 7)

Tuesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25

TODAY'S GEM: "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

FOR THE PARENT: As you recall once again the familiar Christmas story, point out that the main reason why Jesus came to earth was to save us from our sins. Explain briefly the plan of salvation; call for decisions for salvation and consecration.

QUESTION TIME: How did Joseph know that Mary's child was to be the Son of God? (v. 20) What name did the angel say they should give the child? (v. 21) Why? (v. 21)

Wednesday, December 26

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:7-23

TODAY'S GEM: "He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways" (Psalm 91:11).

FOR THE PARENT: Review the story of the visit of the Wise Men, mentioning their stop in Jerusalem to see King Herod. Point out (1) Herod's feigned devotion, verse 8; (2) God's care over the infant Jesus, verses 12, 13; (3) Herod's wicked act in killing the children, trying to destroy Jesus. Stress that as we serve God, He will protect us.

QUESTION TIME: Why didn't the Wise Men return to King Herod? (v. 12) How did Jesus escape from this wicked king? (vv. 13-15)

Thursday, December 27

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-40

TODAY'S GEM: "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (Rom. 12:1).

FOR THE PARENT: (Additional material on "The Mark of a Dedicated Life" will be found on Sunday's Lesson page.) When Jesus was eight days old, his parents took Him to the temple in fulfillment of the law. Review their meeting with two devoted servants of God and the events that took place. Point out the value of living a life dedicated to God.

QUESTION TIME: How did Simeon happen to be in the temple when Jesus' parents brought Him? (v. 27) What was the reaction of Joseph and Mary to Simeon's prophecy? (v. 33)

Friday, December 28

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 5:13-16; Acts 13:47; Phil. 2:15 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

TODAY'S GEM: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

FOR THE PARENT: Stress the importance of influence, pointing out how Christians are like both salt and light. The Christian's life should convict others of their sins and should point them to Jesus.

QUESTION TIME: What do you think is meant by Christians being the salt of the earth and the light of the world? Why should we let our lights shine before men? (v. 16)

Saturday, December 29

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 24:34-53 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

TODAY'S GEM: "Not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).

FOR THE PARENT: From the story of how God directed and helped Abraham's servant, point out (1) God will always guide His children as they trust in Him; (2) the things that God does for us, or allows to come into our lives, are for the best; (3) we must desire to surrender to God's will in all things.

QUESTION TIME: What did Abraham's servant ask God to do? (vv. 42-44) What was the servant's reaction to God's answer? (v. 53)

PRAY that we will follow God's will.



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2:13, 14.

The Song of the Angels

BY J. A. SYNAN

ANGELS HAVE EVER TAKEN GREAT INTEREST in the affairs of men, and especially those things which pertain to redemption. One wonders what must have been the thoughts of the obedient cherubims who took up sentinel duty at Eden's Gate, wielding the flaming sword that turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life. Must they not have witnessed the first tragedy of man's fall? Did they not observe the evidence of dejection and despair that marked the passage of the first human pair across the threshold from the garden of happiness and peace to a world of weariness and woe? Remembering the swift judgment that had hurled suddenly from heaven to hell the first ones in God's kingdom to rebel against His authority—I speak of Satan and the fallen angels—they were doubtless amazed at the mercy which permitted

man to live and did not crush him utterly the moment he sinned. Perhaps they had waited with bated breath the horrible doom they felt man had so justly merited for himself.

To their astonishment the divine administration pursued a different course with regard to man. Ever eager to learn more of the profound workings of God's infinite mind, they studied closely all of His dealings with mankind, observing with deepest interest each new phase of the plan of redemption as it was unfolded to their wondering gaze. The apostle Peter, speaking of the glorious gospel dispensation and the wonders of redemption, declared that the "angels desired to look into" them. And the apostle Paul goes so far as to say that the Lord is now making known through the church unto the principalities and powers in the heavens the manifold wisdom of God. Thus, in this and future ages even the angels will understand

more of the riches of God's wisdom and grace through the ministries of redeemed men.

WHAT INSPIRED THE ANGELIC ANTHEM?

The angels probably did not fully understand the plan of redemption until the great transaction of the Incarnation made it clear to them. The full import of the blessed fact doubtless burst with sudden splendor upon their lofty intellects, as they saw in the Incarnation the culmination and explanation of many a perplexing procedure. They saw in this great expression of the infinite mind of God the unravelling of many of the deep mysteries of the past, and the confusing shadows of the future resolved themselves into definite form, as the scheme of redemption unfolded before them. They saw what God would do! They grasped in broad outline much of the meaning of the Incarnation, humiliation and immolation

of the Son of God. In wonder and admiration they burst into spontaneous songs of praise. Angel shouted to archangel, seraphim to cherubim, principality to power—"Glory to God in the highest!"

A few men on earth—humble shepherds of Judea—were sufficiently in harmony with the Spirit of God who moved these lofty beings, that one of the angels, commissioned of God, broke through the thin veil that intervenes between the world of sense and the world of spirit and announced to them the fact of the Saviour's birth. Awestricken, the shepherds shrank back from the insufferable brightness of the angelic presence. But the angel relieved them of their fears and preached to them the first Christmas sermon, the first gospel sermon: "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. This shall be a sign unto you, Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." The thrill of joy rolls on through the heavenly world. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Rapturous, thrilling, celestial song, resounding through the ages!

What did the angels see in the Incarnation to inspire this wondrous song of praise? They beheld in it a display of divine wisdom. A world was in rebellion against the heavenly empire, a world upon which God had expended lavishly His gifts of beauty and blessing, imposing only easy restraints, which, if obeyed, would have led mankind to higher honors and richer pleasures. But, without any inward tendency predisposing him to sin, man deliberately disobeyed his Maker, and plunged his race and habitation into ruin. Justice required the complete destruction of man; and even if his habitation should have escaped annihilation, it should have traversed its orbit as a depopulated and desolate thing, shrouded with darkness, and ever proclaiming to other worlds the disastrous results of disobedience. Considering the claims of Justice, Holiness and Truth, how could fallen and sinful man be redeemed? Could divine wisdom devise a way of salvation that would "Preserve Justice inviolate, Holiness immaculate, and Truth uncompromised"? Thank God! to the wonder of angels,

infinite Wisdom found a way—the Incarnation, the union of the divine with the human. Very God and perfect man united in one person, the sweetest, most wonderful and most gracious miracle of all the ages—Jesus Christ, through whose glorious atonement, whose precious blood God can be "just and the Justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Through this plan God could redeem, pardon and cleanse a fallen and sinful race, and still be God, holy, just and true, preserving the perfect unity of His attributes and being. No wonder it called forth from the angels the exultant strains of, "Glory to God in the highest!"

Moreover, they saw in the Incarnation a demonstration of God's power. To recreate man required as great a display of omnipotence as to create him in the beginning. It was easy for God to create the universe. "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." But to re-make that which sin had ruined required greater power and a far greater price, the power of measureless patience and longsuffering and the gift of God's own dear Son. The Incarnation and the atonement required the exercise of almighty power. And throughout the whole economy of redemption there has been a putting forth of power which must have caused the angels to marvel greatly. It is the power of God over Himself—Omnipotence restraining and controlling Omnipotence—the longsuffering of God.

We think of creation, the filling of the vast solitudes of immensity with teeming worlds, unnumbered systems and universes brought into being by one syllable of divine utterance, as a marvelous display of infinite power. And so it is; but not greater than the power of longsuffering that declined to strike when men rebelled, and that suffers insults without taking vengeance, defiance without destroying, blasphemy without crushing and annihilating. Fools have defied God, saying, "If there be a God let Him prove His existence by

striking me dead." His existence requires no proof; but such affairs as these are infallible proofs of His longsuffering, the power to refrain from striking when men so richly deserve it. Surely, the angels admired the revelation of mercy that refrained from slaying man while perfecting a way to save him.

And, again the angels must have seen in the Incarnation the potentialities of human regeneration, the power to give the sinful and degraded men a new birth into a life of righteousness, purity and love. The wretched sinner would, by the gospel of Christ, be transformed into a saint; wicked rebels would become love's bond-slaves to Christ; those who had crawled through the horrid corruption of sin's vileness would be raised up by the power of God and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; those who had been trampled as filth in the streets of earth would walk the golden streets of heaven, washed in Jesus' blood, and in every sense worthy and fit for such holy habitation. And they saw in all this the glory of God enhanced and His honor extolled. Marvelous transformations of divine grace! Wondrous displays of the matchless love of God! No wonder the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest!"

THE THEME OF THE ANGELS' SONG

The theme of the angels' song centered in Christ and touched the strains of *glory, peace and good will*. At the time of Jesus' birth the Roman conquests were complete, and Rome ruled the world. And in his marble palace, far away on the banks of the Tiber, sat Augustus Caesar, wielding a sceptre that swayed the world in accordance with his imperial will. There was no war, and of this Milton sings, thinking it to be the occasion of the angels' song:

*No war or battle sound
Was heard the world around:
The idle spear and shield were high uphung:
And kings sat still with awful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovereign Lord
was by.*

No doubt God has caused a hush in the noise and tumult of battle, requiring the demons of war and hate to lie still while His Son was born into the world, and the angels sang the song of His nativity. But the vision of the heavenly host embraced more than that. They saw millions of individuals justified and at peace with God and one an-

(Continued on page thirty-one)



I Lived Behind The Iron Curtain

*Unless America awakens from its lethargy,
it too may see its cities and peoples crushed under
the cruel domination of Communism—it can happen!*

BY SIEGFRIED ENKE

IT IS HARD FOR ONE LIVING IN THE comforts and security of America to realize the dangers of Communism, and how suddenly it can swoop down upon a people to put them in slavery and human degradation.

At times it seems like a dream to those of us who have lived behind the Iron Curtain and have seen what Communism has done to our families, our home towns, our nation. Never did I dream, as a boy, that anyone could destroy my father, my mother, my church and my town. But it happened, and unless the American people awaken from their lethargy they too, like the cities of once-free Europe, may find themselves washed away in a flood of human tears.

The night of Communism has already settled down upon one-third of the earth's surface, and nearly 800 millions of people are shut off from the light of freedom.

I was born in the thriving city of Elbing, Germany, in 1927, the fifth child to bless the parsonage of my dear father, Pastor Hermann Enke, and his devoted wife Anna. The family was to increase in the years to follow until there were eight of us, six boys and two girls.

Like other children born into Chris-

The author, an ordained minister, is now traveling in the U.S.A. as an evangelist. He is affiliated with the New England District of the Assemblies of God.

tian families, we had a mixture of joys and sorrows, but always the loving kindness of parents who brought us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Each day was eventful; either it was Sunday, or prayer meeting night, or there was some other service to attend, or evangelists were being entertained in the home. Each evening we would gather around the family organ and sing the songs of Zion, and each morning we had family devotions. Our father would read portions of God's holy Word; then we would kneel, and each of us children in our own child-like way would give thanks for our blessings.

Germany, in those days, was recovering from World War I. New mechanical devices, toys, automobiles, radios, and other inventions were coming yearly to surprise us and to strengthen our hopes for an easier and more pleasant life. But at the same time many political changes were taking place, and the stage was being set for World War II.

Then came the year 1939 and talk of war. To me it seemed like a fairy story. All I could envision was the thrill of war and none of its sorrows. When the fighting began, my older brother Hans was one of the first to join the German Army as it marched triumphantly into Russian territory. I remember how my father and mother would sit late at night by the radio and listen for news from the front, or re-



Evangelist Siegfried Enke

read line by line the tearstained letters from Hans. But this meant little to a boy of my age. I wanted to finish growing up so that I could join the ranks.

Then Hans was killed. He had been captured by the Russians and beaten severely. Then he had been tied to a tree and left there to die. Our own German troops, making the counter-attack, had inflicted upon him the wounds which caused his death, and somehow it seemed as if he were slain by the hands of his own countrymen.

Upon my seventeenth birthday I was called to report for duty in the German Navy. My mother and the rest of the family went with me to the depot and bade me tearful good-byes. Little did I realize I would never see my mother again in this life—that she would be one of the many victims of Communism.

My father was superintendent of our Pentecostal Churches in the Eastern District of Germany, and he was away on church business when I left home. Mother wired him, and arranged for him to meet me at Marienburg where the train in which I traveled to duty would have a short layover. But there was a delay in the train schedules, and I was never to meet my father again on this side of heaven.

I was assigned to submarine duty. However, Germany was losing the submarine war, and because of new equipment in the hands of the Allies a great portion of our fleet was put out of commission. I was reassigned to land duty, and was preparing to leave for the defense of Berlin when Canadian troops seized the town of Brake in Oldenburg

and captured the company that I was with.

During the six months that I was in prison I received no word from home. All I could do was to hope and pray that my family was safe. When the war ended and I was released from prison, I tried to go home to find my loved ones, but en route I learned that our city had been captured by the Communists and had been wiped out completely. My heart sank within me.

Our father had instructed us that should members of our family or our church become separated during fighting on home soil, we should go to the city of Erfurt and make contact with the church there. Accordingly, I hastened to Erfurt. The news that awaited me there was enough to crush the heart of any young man. One of my brothers was dead. Another brother had just been released from a Communist prison camp with tuberculosis (which resulted in his death shortly thereafter). My sisters, one 23 and the other 14, were living skeletons. Both my father and my mother had been destroyed by the Reds.

I learned that when our city was captured by the Communists, my father and the believers were taken on a death march to the frozen wastelands of Siberia. He had protested the cruel treatment of the people and had been stabbed in the back by Russian soldiers, but he traveled on with the family and the town folk in spite of the great pain he was suffering from the wound. My father was a marked man. For years the Communists had his name registered in a book listing those to be liquidated. The terrible "crime" that he had committed was that of winning a Communist leader to the Lord Jesus Christ in the early 30's. The Reds gloried in his sufferings. One day, as the death march halted to rest in a small town, they dragged my father into a church and shot him to death at the altar.

The treatment that my mother underwent during that cruel journey was more than she could bear. She died in a camp en route to Siberia. The troops who had captured our city were not of the Western Russian stock, but were of the Mongolian type. They were filthy men. Their stench was almost unbearable to decent people. No woman, from the youngest to the oldest, was safe in their hands. They enjoyed nothing more than to molest them. My youngest sister, who had seen my mother die, managed to escape together with two

other German girls. They disguised themselves as old women and fled by night, hiding by day. They got through but my sister developed tuberculosis and is still suffering from it.

My oldest sister was forced to work in the Siberian coal mines. She endured a living death at the hands of human beasts, and was only released because she was expected to die. She was still sick and thin when I found her in Erfurt. Even to this day she suffers severely from the inhuman treatment she received from the Communists.

When I found my sisters in such pitiable condition and heard of the loss of my parents, my brothers, my home, I had no further interest in living. All my hopes and plans for the future were gone. I had nothing left to look forward to. I could not even console myself with memories of the past. The nightmare of it all crushed my heart as I saw the ruins and tragedies around me everywhere.

Life had become a meaningless, unpleasant existence and my only desire was to get away from it all. In deep despair I took a walk one night. I stood on a bridge and wrestled with thoughts of suicide. I knew that all I had to do was to leap. In a few seconds, the shell in which I lived would lie crushed on the jagged rocks below, and my earthly worries would be over. But as I stood there making ready for the plunge, there flashed before my mind the scenes of my early life—our family altar, the prayers, the wonderful words of life that came from the Scriptures through the lips of my father. And there, before I could end my life, Christ spoke to my heart and helped me to make a full surrender to God. I asked for pardon and mercy. Christ washed my heart with His precious cleansing Blood and the Holy Spirit put a new life within me. With it came the peace and joy that I needed so much. That night I could sing with the saints of old—

*"Must Jesus bear the Cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone,
And there's a cross for me."*

I understood clearly then that, even through suffering, every one of us



who bore His name had a duty to occupy until He comes, and I determined that from that moment onward I would have a part in the advancement of the kingdom of God here upon earth. I promised the Lord that as long as there was life within my body I would serve Him wherever He placed me.

For three years I labored behind the Iron Curtain to keep alive the faith once delivered to the saints, and to point others to this Jesus who had brought peace and salvation to me. The saints gathered together in Erfurt and decided to rebuild the church that had been destroyed during the war. They pooled their jewelry and many keepsakes, including wedding rings, which they sold to raise enough money. Brick from the old building were scraped, and hours of labor were contributed that we might have a place to worship God. When the building was completed it had a seating capacity of 800. On the first night it was filled to overflowing; and what a joy it was to hear the voices of the people ringing forth the songs of Zion, praising our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. But our joy soon ended, for the Communists came and seized the church. They turned the church into a training center where they taught young Communists how to hate Christianity.

One night as we were conducting a young people's rally we were raided by the Communistic police. After an investigation, all our young people were sent home. However, the pastor and I were taken to the police headquarters where they questioned us for hours. We were charged with things we had not said nor done, but they had false witnesses who stood up against us. It was only through a miracle of God that I was delivered out of their hands.

Since my life henceforth was in danger, our brethren advised me to leave the country. By the help of the Lord and the British government I was able to make my escape to Berlin, from which point I was flown out and landed later in England. After studying at the International Bible Training Institute, I had the privilege of traveling in most of the free countries of Europe as an evangelist. Now I am here in America. I feel that God wants me to use every opportunity to challenge the American people to wake up to the dangers of Communism, and to challenge the Christian people to wake up to the dangers of spiritual indifference. ◀◀



THIS PRESENT WORLD

For Whom no Christmas Bells Toll

If we may revise a well-known saying, "One-third of the people don't know how the other two-thirds live." That's very true in a spiritual sense. Two-thirds of the people of the earth will have no Christmas celebrations this year, because they know nothing about Christ's birth. Although the Christian Church has celebrated Christmas for more than 1900 years, more than a billion people now living have never heard the Christmas story.

Some Good Advice from an Invalid

Christian people ought to turn aside from their last-minute Christmas shopping and listen to the good advice of an aged and infirm man, before the last dollar's spent. We received his letter nearly a year ago. We thought it was significant enough to save, in case we could pass it on to you this Christmas. This is what he wrote:

"Well, friends, this is the day after Christmas, and we fared well. Too well. You see, this is a nursing home for the aged and infirm (in the State of Washington). We were showered with good things, more than we could contain. In fact, we fared so well that I am not too happy about it. The thought has come to me about the first Christmas, when the Wise Men came with their gifts and laid them at the feet of Jesus. But we give to everyone else, forgetting that it's His birthday we are celebrating. You know, there are many servants of Christ that suffer hardships for the sake of the gospel, and they are handicapped in their missionary work for the lack of funds. If we would remember them in our giving, it would make the Lord's heart very happy, for He said, 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me.' At the same time, we would be laying up treasure in heaven, and I think we would all be a lot happier. I wish this thought could be brought before the readers of the EVANGEL."

Well, there's his letter. It's not too late to give a special present to the Lord Jesus this Christmas.

Businessman to Devote Full Time to Religious Work

A successful businessman who didn't have enough time for the Lord's work has sold his business in order to give his full time to religious service. He is 56-year-old Charles A. Stuck, partner in the Stuck Brothers Lumber Company of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and a lay leader of the North Arkansas Methodist Conference. He does not plan to enter the ministry but will follow his "first love" by strengthening small rural churches. He will especially seek to develop lay speakers and manpower.

"It had been my intention to step out of my building materials business at age 65 and do something of this sort," said Mr. Stuck. "But after reflection, it seemed hardly fair to give God the 'tag ends' of my life. So I am offering the Lord my experience and energy while I have strength for ten or twenty years of expected service."

Approve Tax Exemption for Church Parking Lots

California voters passed a referendum measure granting tax exemption to property used for church parking lots. The vote was approximately 1,200,000 to 1,000,000.

WMC Day Theme Announced

"Lighten the Load" is the theme chosen for the annual National WMC Day. The Women's Missionary Council has set aside February 24, 1957, as a special day of emphasis on the work of the Assemblies of God women.

Petitions Ask Stores to Close on Sundays

Petitions calling for the closing of all Dallas County (Texas) grocery stores on Sundays have been presented to District Attorney Henry Wade. The petitions contained 45,000 signatures, including those of many retail clerks.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal from a grocery in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who was convicted and fined for keeping his store open on Sundays in defiance of an 80-year-old Sunday closing law.

Contractor Looks Ahead; Builds Church

Many builders put up houses before finding a buyer, but seldom is this the case with church buildings. In Ann Arbor, Michigan, however, there is a church building waiting for a congregation to buy it. The church, of prefabricated type, is in a new development. The planner figured that a new housing development will certainly lead to a new congregation, which in turn will look for a church building. And in case the building isn't big enough, it comes in sections, and can be extended to any size desired.

Denver to Have Monument Honoring the Bible

The Civic Center of Denver, Colorado, has been selected as the site for what city officials say will be America's first monument in honor of the Bible. The project is to be financed by public subscription under the sponsorship of Denver's "Honor the Bible Association."

A tentative drawing of the proposed monument calls for a tall granite shaft which would bear both the Christian cross and the Jewish star. Nearby, on a marble bench, would be a bronze replica of an open Bible.

Two More Protestants Killed in Colombia

Two Presbyterians were killed and another seriously injured in religious persecution in the Valle Department, Colombia. This raises to 77 the toll of Protestants killed in Colombia since 1948 because of their faith.

The report, which came from the Evangelical Confederation of Colombia, says that the killings coincide with other fresh outbreaks against Protestants, including interruption of a Protestant service by police at La Quibra, prohibition of Protestant services by a military mayor in Baraya, search of a house and confiscation of Sunday School materials in Ocana, and a threat of a fine for promoting Protestantism in Aguachica.

Christ Makes the Difference

The Christian Business Men's Committee, of Sacramento, California, recently invited General William K. Harrison, Caribbean area commander of the U. S. Army, to address them at a rally. According to *The Standard*, General Harrison told a group of more than 1,100 persons that mankind is in a state of futility and frustration because much of the world is trying to live independently of God.

The General asked what made the difference between people who practice deceit and those like the five missionaries, martyred by the Auca Indians, who were willing to give their all. He answered his own question by saying, "Jesus Christ, that's all that makes the difference!"

The General then went on to say that persons who sin are not without hope. "The debt of sin was paid once for all by the Saviour of the Cross. He paid with His life the wages of sin, which is death," the General said. "But God raised Jesus from the dead and sent Him to unite God and man forever. Jesus offers salvation from sin, but this gift is of no value unless we accept it."

Christian Voters Defeat Liquor Forces

Voters in Winthrop, Massachusetts, went to the polls and gave the wets a decided setback by defeating a proposal to license 19 taverns in the community of 18,000. Credit for the overwhelming vote was given to local clergymen of all faiths who spoke out in strong language against the licensing of bars.

In a much larger city the Christians defeated the liquor forces by a smaller margin. At Chattanooga, Tennessee, fifty-four legal liquor stores had asked for a referendum to see whether the voters wanted them to remain in business. They knew that an antiliquor campaign was under way and they wanted to bring the issue to a vote before it gained too much headway. The balloting was done on November 6, in connection with the Presidential election, and the voting was heavy. The liquor forces had underestimated the effect of the Christian campaign. The dries collected 29,704 votes and the wets splashed behind with 27,180. The fifty-four stores were given ninety days in which to liquidate their liquid.

Calls Liquor Industry a State Vampire

Methodist Bishop John Wesley Lord of Boston said that the "alcoholic beverage industry is a vampire on the body of the state, since it costs more than the revenue it claims to yield." He urged that all taxes and revenue from the liquor traffic be used for the rehabilitation of inebriates, the prevention of alcoholism, and to aid suffering families of victims.

Bishop Lord said that drinking is increasingly responsible for the disintegration of the American home. He called for the prevention of the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the abolition of liquor advertising except in trade journals of the industry. He asked fellow Christians to work for local option wherever possible, and to encourage nonpolitical enforcement of all liquor laws and regulations.

To support his claim that the liquor industry is a vampire on the state, Bishop Lord quoted FBI statistics as showing that 23 percent of the nation's fifteen-billion-dollars-a-year crime bill is due to drink.

And this vampire, which leaves in its path death and desolation, is called by some misguided persons the "good cheer" of the Christmas season!



BIRTHPLACE OF "SILENT NIGHT"—"Silent Night, Holy Night" was sung for the first time on Christmas Eve 138 years ago by a congregation in St. Nicholas church in the village parish of Obendorf, Austria (shown above). The church organ needed repairs at that time, but rather than forego the customary singing on Christmas Eve, Franz Xavier Gruber, the choirmaster, and Josef Mohr, the church vicar, hastily composed a simple melody that could be picked out on a guitar. The song they composed was "Silent Night"—the beloved song that has been translated into many languages and has become the most popular of all Christmas carols throughout the free world. (Religious News Service photo)

Church Construction Sets Another Record

The government announced that 76 million dollars' worth of new church construction started in October, setting a new record for any month in history.

Indian Church Fights Ban on Peyote

The Native American Church, Incorporated, an Indian group, has taken legal steps to countermand a court order banning the use of peyote for sacramental purposes. It filed suit in Flagstaff, Arizona, contending that peyote, a drink made from the cactus bud, is harmless and not habit-forming, and that the ban on its use violates the constitutional right of religious freedom. Attorneys for the group say the Indians have used peyote in religious ceremonies for hundreds of years.

The Navajo Tribal Council had prohibited the use of peyote on grounds that it is a harmful, intoxicating drug capable of inciting the Indians to violence. A number of killings and crimes have been charged to the use of peyote. Christian Indian groups hailed the Tribal Council's ban on the use of the drug as a wise decision.

NAE Executive Urges Christian Christmas

Evangelical Christians should take the lead in helping to prevent the over-commercialization of Christmas, Dr. George L. Ford, Executive Director of the National Association of Evangelicals said. Stating that "while the most cherished gift is a simple remembrance from the heart," Dr. Ford warned that "our giving can become so extravagant that Christian work suffers. And in keeping up with the Joneses, we get behind with God and with our creditors." He emphasized that there is a need not only to keep Christ in Christmas but to make Christ central in Christmas.



Student body at Puente, California

Latin American Bible Schools Report Progress



HOME MISSIONS

Nearly 500 students are enrolled in our three Latin American Bible Schools this year, preparing themselves for a future ministry among Spanish-speaking peoples, both in the United States and in Latin American countries. As the reports which follow indicate, many of the young people are already active in reaching the lost, even while in school.

PUENTE, CALIFORNIA

Theodore Bueno, superintendent of the Latin American Bible Institute of California, writes: "The Latin American Bible Institute of Puente, California, is marching forward in the training of Spanish-speaking Christian

youth to take the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into all the world.

"The first-year class is the largest in the history of the school, having an enrollment of thirty-five. The total school enrollment is seventy-two. Only about one-third of the students are from the state of California. There are three students from Hawaii, one from Puerto Rico, two from Peru, one from Nicaragua, one from Chile, and the rest are from seven other states of the nation—Washington, Utah, Arizona, Texas, Nebraska, Ohio, and New York.

"These students conduct their own church, Sunday School, and C. A. services at the school. Nearly every week they visit neighboring churches to help in the services and Sunday Schools.

"The daily schedule of classes begins with a devotional period which

proves to be a great blessing. Many times this period runs over into the first classes or longer when the Lord speaks to hearts and blesses in a special way. Many times the class periods are taken over by the Holy Spirit. At the close of the morning session of classes everyone gathers for a half-hour of missionary prayers.

"Special emphasis and effort is placed on missionary activities with the purpose of promoting a missionary spirit among the Spanish churches through these future ministers. The main event of the whole school year is 'Missionary Day' which is held the last Saturday of April. An all-day program is prepared, and from the beginning of the year everyone works, plans, and prays for that day. The missionary offering for last year was \$1,408.32. Pray that it may be even more this year,

Student body at Ysleta, Texas



if Jesus tarries until then. What is to be done for Christ and lost souls must be done *now*, for Jesus is coming *soon*.

"We thank God that from this school young people have gone forth with the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Spanish-speaking peoples of Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii, Spain, and different parts of the United States. Among them are missionaries, Bible School teachers, pastors, evangelists, C. A. leaders, Sunday School teachers, etc."

NEW YORK CITY

Manuel A. Cordero, director of the Spanish American Bible Institute of New York, writes: "The Spanish American Bible Institute of New York (312 East 138th St., New York City) was founded in 1935 as a preparatory school for Sunday School teachers. There was such great interest on the part of students and teachers that in 1936 it was incorporated as a Bible School.

"Up until 1955 we did not have a building of our own, and like the tabernacle in the desert we moved from church to church. Finally last year we obtained a building. We gave a down payment of \$10,000 on a \$35,000 mortgage at great sacrifice to the student body. We pay \$150 monthly. Our school is a faith work and the students only pay \$2.00 a month. Our eleven teachers receive no salary.

"We offer a three-year course and our classes are held during the evening because most of our students are adults who have to work to support their families. We offer a post-graduate course for ministers and graduate students. Most of our students come from our Assemblies of God churches, but we also have students from 21 independent churches.

"We have 174 students in the first year, 80 in the second, and 65 in the third. Sixty per cent of the students are Sunday School teachers in their own churches. Others are active in the ministry, preaching and serving as personal workers.

"To date 354 students including 129 ministers have graduated from our school, and are active in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, Spain, Hawaii, New York, California and other fields."

YSLETA, TEXAS

Kenzy Savage, superintendent of the Latin American Bible Institute in Ysleta, Texas, reports: "The new school year has brought together another very

promising group of young people. We have seventy-two enrolled this year. They are already holding weekly services in the city and county jails and opening new works in Clint (Texas) and San Ysidro (Mexico). They are also going out to Anthony (New Mexico) and to two preaching points in "Old" Mexico to assist in works already begun. House-to-house visitation is carried on each week in Ysleta, and the young ladies hold regular Sunday School classes for children in different homes. The young men do personal work in Ysleta and El Paso, and hold street services when the weather permits.

"This personal initiative and vision of the different students is accompanied by a high spiritual tide in the school. The Lord graciously manifested His baptizing power within two weeks after school began. For the first time in the history of the school, we have 'prayer rooms' (that is, rooms set apart for waiting upon the Lord) and we feel this will further encourage our missionary vision.

"Our graduating class last spring was small and included only seven young

men. Of these seven, one is an assistant pastor, four are pastors and one is teaching in Bible School. This high percentage of active workers is very encouraging."

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Atwood Foster, General Treasurer, General Council—Assemblies of God, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri



Our 1000 Men's Fellowship Groups

BY DON MALLOUGH, National MF Secretary

THERE ARE NOW ONE THOUSAND Men's Fellowship chapters in the nation, and the number is increasing each week. When the application for an official charter recently came from the Richmond Assembly in Seattle, the total jumped into four digits.

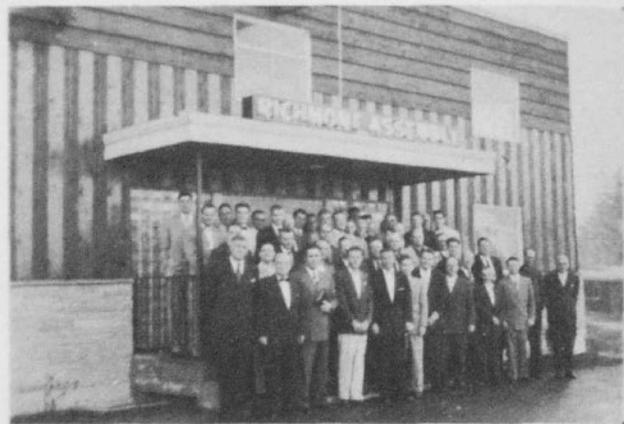
With the expanding of the MF organization, more pastors are discovering the advantages of having the manpower of the church moulded into an efficient unit to assist in winning souls and in the other work of the church. The men are finding delight, not only in the times of fellowship, but also in the challenge to win other men to Christ.

The one-thousandth Men's Fellowship is typical, in many ways, of others in all parts of the nation; but in some respects it is distinctive and unusual. The Richmond Assembly of God in Seattle, Washington, was first organized in 1947. Located in a new area of the city, it is progressing with the surroundings. There was an exceptional foundation for a Men's Fellowship, inasmuch as the congregation numbered as

many (or more) men as women. Another helpful factor was that, in this young church in a new community, the men were young and aggressive. All these things were advantages, but the lack of them would not have been a hindrance toward having a good Men's Fellowship.

A few months ago, Pastor Herman Kazen called a meeting to organize a Men's Fellowship. Sixty-seven men attended that gathering, and the Richmond MF chapter was off to a flying start. The charter from the national Department of Men's Fellowship has just been issued to them, and their accomplishments are only beginning. It is remarkable that, in a church which averages 177 in Sunday School and has 62 official members, the Men's Fellowship should have 34 charter members in its organization (although church membership seldom depicts the actual strength of an Assembly of God).

The monthly meeting of this Men's Fellowship is a breakfast session on the first Saturday of the month. They meet in the basement of the church—



MF Group, Richmond Assembly, Seattle, Washington

and the men plan and cook the meal. (Those men really know how to cook!) They prefer it that way, rather than to depend on others. A freewill offering is received for the meal. Following the breakfast, they have devotions, a brief business session, and then a guest speaker, who is usually a layman.

Already the group has assumed three projects. They will soon surface the parking lot at the church, and then will purchase a new Sunday School bus. On New Year's Eve, the men will give a banquet honoring the ladies of the church.

Even prior to the organization of the MF group, the men were very active at Richmond Assembly. In September of 1955, a beautiful new church building was dedicated; and the men did most of the work, under the leadership of the construction committee. The entire job was completed in less than a year. Today the edifice is valued at \$125,000 and contains 10,000 square feet of floor space. There are two auditoriums, seating 450 and 175, and 22 classrooms. Comfort for the wor-

Sixty-seven men assembled for the organizational meeting of the Richmond Men's Fellowship in Seattle, Wash. Pastor Herman Kazen is standing fifth from the left.



Five hundred fifty men attended a Men's



shippers is provided by a system of radiant heat.

The current officers of the Richmond Men's Fellowship are: Dave Jordan, president; Eric Hedblom, vice-president; Al Steiman, secretary; Tom Stainer, treasurer. The executive committee is composed of Gene Dizard, A. P. Roberts, Glenn Willard, Al Heppner, and Kurt Ramme.

The organizing and chartering of a Men's Fellowship is the opening of a door to vast possibilities in utilizing the manpower of the church. One thousand MF groups is not the end of the road, but only a milestone along the way. Other chapters are organizing regularly, and the ministry of our men is continually expanding.

Red-blooded, virile men can and do serve the Lord. They like to be challenged to go all out in His service. Men's Fellowship helps to bring them to that place and makes the individual a part of an aggressive program of winning other men to Christ.

Most districts have an active Men's Fellowship director, who is willing to be of assistance to local groups in organizing their men. Pastors or men desiring literature, or wishing to ask questions about the work, may write the national Department of Men's Fellowship. Three helpful booklets are available without cost: "How to Have a Men's Fellowship," "Projects and Activities for Men's Fellowships," and "Duties of Officers in a Men's Fellowship." The official magazine for Men's Fellowship is TEAM (*To Enlist All Men*). A sample copy of this quarterly magazine may be had upon request. All inquiries or requests should be sent to the Department of Men's Fellowship, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri.

Men's Fellowship banquet in Detroit, Michigan



Your Questions

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

Why do ministers accept the title of "reverend" when it is used only once in the Bible, and then in relation to God alone (Psalm 111:9)?

A good answer may be found in Cruden's Concordance: "Where this word [reverence] is used in connection with men alone it is with the old meaning of deference, or of an act of homage, or merely obeisance. When used with reference to God it means godly fear and awe."

While "reverend" is used only once in the Bible, reverence is used a number of times. Mephibosheth did reverence to David (2 Samuel 9:6). Reverence was shown toward kings (1 Kings 1:31). The wife is supposed to reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:33). Parents are to be revered (Hebrews 12:9). The minister is spoken of as "reverend" because he is set apart to holy service.

* * *

We take for granted that God is, but what proof have we that He exists?

We may begin with nature. The Psalmist said, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained. . . ." (Psalm 8:3). The apostle said, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead" (Romans 1:20). He then showed that if man had not turned from God he would have had a rich revelation of Him through a study of nature. It is because "when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful" that "their foolish heart was darkened" (Romans 1:21).

In nature we see evidences of the power of God. Back of all that has been effected there must be a Cause. Back of the protoplasm there must be a Giver of life. If this is not true, then everything has resulted from accident, and accident is made the Cause of all things.

In nature we see the evidences of

wisdom. Everything brings forth "after its kind." Nature, the gift of God, has so arranged that each species of plants and animals continues in its God-appointed order. We see the wisdom of God in the starry heavens, where God moves the heavenly bodies with mathematical precision. These things tell us that God not only was the Cause of all things, but that He sustains all things (Hebrews 1:3).

Perhaps one of the greatest evidences of God's existence can be found in *man's moral nature*. Universally man is born with a sense of right and wrong. Conscience approves what man recognizes as right, it disapproves what he realizes to be wrong. Conscience, which warns and convicts man, also tells man that there is a Higher One to whom he must give account.

This takes us to the thought of universal belief. Everywhere man by nature feels that he must give account to a Supreme Being. Man may have been given erroneous ideas concerning the Deity, but the conviction that He is has never been erased.

* * *

Jesus stated in Matthew 24:14, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Why then did Christ not return in apostolic times, since Paul said the gospel was then preached to every creature under heaven (Colossians 1:23)?

Personally, I believe Paul had in mind the Roman world when he wrote to the Colossians. There were parts of the world that were unknown to Paul. It is our duty now to get the gospel to every creature, as far as possible, as a witness before the end comes. It is possible that this is being done much more rapidly than we think by means of radio and literature as well as missionaries.

If you wish Brother Williams to answer a question, send it to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Mo. He will answer either in this column or by personal letter.

Christmas in Africa

BY JOHN F. HALL

French West Africa

“DADDY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO have for Christmas?” Betty Ann asked as she and shy little black Sidabe came up beside the home-made desk where I was preparing a translation of Scripture in the Mossi language.

“Well, Betty Ann, I don’t know just what it will be, but we do know you will have some nice things because Miss Howie wrote that the W.M.C. in Trinity Temple, Compton, California, is sending packages with things for us all. Then, too, the W.M.C. in Hobbs, N. Mexico, and the Yoncalla, Oregon has always sent something even though they didn’t write ahead and let us know.”

“Oh, goody, goody, Daddy! I hope I get a nice new dolly like we saw in the catalogue that says, Ma-a-ma, ’n wets its diaper, ’n has real hair I can comb, ’n has a hoop skirt!”

Sidabe took it all in with silent interest, for Christmas meant nothing to her in a pagan land. Her ear-of-corn “doll” in its husk, the silk tassel plaited in pigtailed, with a tiny string of colored beads around its middle to simulate the longer one around her own nude little body, satisfied her girlish desires for a dolly.

Betty Ann grabbed me around the neck with both arms and after a big, juicy little-girl kiss ran out to play some more on the sand pile beside our adobe house with her Mossi playmate.

The rustling of paper in the bedroom sounded like a rat in a box. But it wasn’t; it was mother digging in the old trunk. She was getting out the few precious Christmas tree ornaments and a little make-believe tree with folding branches. The W.M.C.’s in Bridgeton, N.J. had given it to us at a farewell with fifty new dollar bills pinned to its branches. She set it up on the cedar chest in our living room. That evening she and Betty Ann hung the wee ornaments in happy anticipation.

The next day the Mossi who saw it

remarked to another, “Don’t the white people have queer customs? Imagine having a make-believe tree inside a house! A tree with either *taama* or *sibi* or *noba* or *weda* fruit to eat is better than that useless custom! All that bright, colored tinsel and ornaments would look better in our wives’ hair or on their arms and necks, than dangling on that useless tree! Oh, well, the white people have a lot of queer ways! We hope they don’t expect us to do the same things too, like they think we ought to wear their kind of clothes and try to sing their queer kind of music!”

In view of the nationals’ comments we planned our family Christmas to be at night, shut away from the contempt of African eyes and mouths. And besides hadn’t C. M. Ward published a booklet telling how our Christmas celebrations came from heathen customs of pagan countries? Well then, why introduce more pagan ways in a pagan country?

Of course, the French observe Noel to some extent, and the Mossi know about it. However, the Mossi Christian leaders decided to have long church services at Christmas with much singing of their own music to the accompaniment of their own kind of instruments. The many testimonies followed in rank according to age—old to young. We showed them colored slides on the Nativity and they sang a lengthy multiple-verse song recounting all those early events. Then they had their feast outdoors, seated in groups, men and boys separate from women and girls—all eating with their fingers from common bowls, sucking from their fingers noisily. At last, to show their delight and to prove they were full, some belched noticeably — part of their etiquette!

Our Christmas had been a package or two that had been mailed in October from the U.S.A. by a few W.M.C. folk who built up enough enthusiasm that

far ahead to think of Christmas! We knew by experience when most packages would come—in February! Yes, thirteen of them all at once. We didn’t have enough money to pay the customs and inland postage on all, so took what we could. The friendly African postmaster said he would hold the remainder till we could clear them and not send them back at the prescribed time limit. So in February our children enjoyed another installment of Christmas. Then, two weeks later, when allowances came, we got the remaining packages from the Post Office and enjoyed our final installment!

Later on, the Mattox family while they were with us for language study received a package that was not wrapped well, and what a conglomeration we poured out of the bag! Sneezing frequently from soap powder, we helped sort out the broken boxes of soap power, jello, baby powder, crayons, used Christmas cards, pencils, spools of thread, buttons—what a mixture.

But other packages were sewn in cloth, wrapped with thick wrapping paper and tied securely with heavy twine. We found the contents intact. Sometimes people send us used things which cost us more than their worth in postage and customs duty. Others send us wonderful, expensive things which, we know, were prompted by their big hearts of love for missionaries whom they know could not afford that quality.

Isn’t it wonderful that so many people do go to all the expense and bother of buying, packaging, going to post offices, patiently waiting while clerks thumb through postal guides looking for foreign rates. Sometimes the sender is told it is overweight, and he or she has to go home, take the parcel all apart, eliminate enough to bring down the weight, wrap it again, and return to the post office once more to stand in line till her turn comes. This is a sacrifice. We missionaries appreciate all the time and trouble it takes to send us Christmas packages.

However, what thrills us even more is the knowledge that those who go to all this trouble are the ones who pray for us. Oh, how prayer is needed in these darkening days as the end of an age drops its curtain slowly on the missionary drama. A few missionaries of the Cross struggle against great odds in foreign lands where the “other sheep” must be found. If it were not for the birth of Christ they wouldn’t be there! ◀◀

New Church In Iran

by TOOMA NASIR

The church at Kermanshah is in the stage of completion. The Sunday School annex is complete but for doors, windows, and some interior work.

There is a financial need amounting to 80,000 Rials or \$700 to complete the work. The local people have reached the limit of their ability, and we hope our American church members can help their Iranian brethren in this emergency. Contributions should be addressed to: Kermanshah Church, Foreign Missions Dept., 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Missouri.



Church entrance and congregation

The Athens Evangelistic Center

by MRS. MARY METAXATOS

Here in Greece we are experiencing a precious moving of the Lord. A few months ago we had the joy of witnessing fourteen young people baptized in water at one of our services. Shortly afterward, six more were baptized.

Just recently at a communion service there was a distinct moving of the Holy Spirit upon the people. The need for a new Gospel Center in Athens was made very real to the people, and many were inspired to do something about it. Rings, a watch, a gold bracelet, and many other valuable items were dropped into the offering plate. One woman offered five okes of oil. The cash offering amounted to \$300—our first effort, and all in one day! This offering came from very poor folk and students of high school and college.

Enthusiasm is high among the young people. They are bending every effort to this project.

The meeting hall is packed to overflowing at each service and there is a danger of the floor giving away. We are in desperate need of a new place of worship. May we solicit your prayers and help? A fund called the Athens Evangelistic Center Fund has been established at the office of the Foreign Missions Department, 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield, Mo.

THE ANGELS' MESSAGE

God called His Son's name *Jesus* because He knew the human race needed deliverance from sin; and He sent the angels to announce "Peace on earth" because He knew the world needed deliverance from the gnawing tooth of inward fear. And nothing basic has changed. We today need Jesus, and we need Him for the same reasons they needed Him two thousand years ago.

Send Foreign Missionary offerings to
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MISSIONARY News Notes



Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Garlock

On November 20, Mrs. H. B. Garlock sailed for Nyasaland, East Africa, to join her husband who left the States several months ago.

* * *

Word has reached us telling of the safe arrival of Mr. and Mrs. John Wright and family in India.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. P. Willisroft and family are now located at 305 Rose Street, Yakima, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Grams of South Africa have another son, Dennis Dwight, born October 29.

* * *

The following missionaries have recently returned on furlough:

Irene Dietrich from South Africa; who can be reached c/o Mrs. C. Wolf, 3403 University Ave., Highland Park, Illinois.

Alta B. Hodge, whose present address is 434 W. Raymond St., Indianapolis, 27, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Busby; who are located at 1123-25th Ave., Seattle, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Furman, who are making their home at Mission Village, Route 5, Box 720, Springfield, Mo.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS NEEDED

Waldo Nicodemus of the Bible School at Manacas, Cuba, would like musical instruments for the Students' Band. The need is for cornets, trumpets, trombones and a bass horn. If you have instruments you can donate, kindly send them to Evangel Temple, N.W. 7th Avenue and 36th Street, Miami, Florida. They will be transported by missionaries going over to Cuba.

God's Twofold Miracle

by Allan A. Swift



Elizabeth, New Jersey

TWO MARVELS OF GOD'S GRACE WILL be the wonder of all ages: the incarnation of God's once begotten Son, and the regeneration of God's twice begotten sons. In the first century the Son of God was born into the world, and ever since then He has been born in the hearts of those who will receive Him as Saviour. This is God's great twofold miracle.

In Isaiah 7:14 we read, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." This promise through Isaiah was known in Israel; and, according to Daniel, the promised One became "the desire of women." Then the fullness of the time came, and "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman."

God created a Seed in the womb of an ordinary God-fearing virgin. God Himself was in that Seed, animating its every impulse to live and serve. He gave full liberty to the human element in His Son, so that Jesus grew like any other normal child. He was lost by His parents and later found in the temple, an experience which could have happened to any real boy; and His daily life among the people portrays a fine ordinary man in His contacts with others.

This God-man so perfectly matured that His creator-title, "The Word of God," was absorbed into His humanity and His name in Revelation 19:13 is still "The Word of God." Our character is determined by that with which we associate. God's Son so absorbed the Word, lived by it, and used it in His ministry and in His conflict with Satan, that it became His "new name" to which He refers in Revelation 3:12.

A similar miracle takes place in God's regenerated sons. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things

are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Before this transformation we were "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). But then we "put on the new man, which after God is *created* in righteousness and true holiness"—"which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that *created* him" (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10). The word *created* is used to emphasize that in our regeneration something is brought into being which did not previously exist. It speaks of those who "in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy" (1 Peter 2:10).

We are "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God" (1 Peter 1:23). God plants this seed in the human heart. He Himself is in it and animates its every impulse to live and serve, just as He moved in His incarnate Son.

God's grace allows the human nature of His son to mature normally like any other person. But like the incarnate Son, the spiritual nature of God's regenerated sons must develop, too. They must learn their dependence upon Christ, as He did upon His Father, for He says to us, "Without Me ye can do nothing."

By careful attendance upon all the means of grace (such as feeding on the Word; meeting with Spirit-filled people for seasons of prayer, fellowship, and worship; and pooling our efforts for the advancement of God's kingdom among men) we can mature spiritually so that Christ can write upon us His "new name," according to His promise to the overcomer (Rev. 3:12). Those who live by the Word *now* shall be like Christ the Living Word *then*, for we become like that with which we associate.

To make us the regenerated sons of God cost the incarnate Son life, but for the joy that was set before Him He endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. This is written for our encouragement. God who was in His Son, and is in His sons, is able to perfect us in His likeness if we press forward with determination; so that not only for Christ, but for us also, there shall be a perfect consummation, and we shall sit with Him in His throne (Rev. 3:21).

The Rejected Christ

BY DAVID H. McDOWELL

Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

WE ARE ENTERING ANOTHER SEASON which, in its activities and customs, reminds us again of God's gracious Gift to a lost world and the only sure remedy for all its ills.

And yet, according to the modernists this annual festival with its sacred teachings is "to go the way of all absurdities in a more or less sane world." They think the old ideas held by the fathers are unsuited to a progressive and advancing civilization. Every form of life is in the melting pot, and the old must give way to the new.

These are but the vaporings of the advance agents of the coming "man of sin, the son of perdition," whose program will be to destroy all religion and set himself as the only god to be worshiped (2 Thessalonians 2:3-5). Thus the world will be prepared for its final blood bath. Its doom is not caused merely by decree of the Deity enraged by the sin and weakness of men, but by the fact that the foundations have been destroyed (Psalm 11:3).

Bible Christianity needs no change and Divinity needs no doctor. The laws of Christianity as revealed in the Bible are fundamental, and men cannot violate them without bringing a total collapse of human society.

The builders in Solomon's day dis-

carded the chief cornerstone because it was not to their liking. It did not appeal to their artistic tastes so they relegated it to the scrap heap. The Jews in like manner rejected Christ—but, as a result, their house was left desolate and collapse followed (Matthew 21:42; 23:38). The modern world is following the same road to destruction and death because it is leaving Christ out of the program.

Our only hope today is in going back to God and back to the Bible. We must accept God's way as revealed in Christ Jesus, whom He sent into the world to bear the judgment for our sin. We must accept Christ as our Saviour, or perish. There is no other alternative.

Remember—the builders had to go to the discarded stone and bring it back from the rubble, for no other stone would fit into the place designed for it. The Jews will never have lasting peace until they turn back to the rejected Messiah. Modern Christianity will never be right until it discards its dead and lifeless forms and takes back

to its heart the person and power of a living, risen, and glorified Redeemer.

Modern Wise Men

BY U. S. GRANT

Kansas City, Kansas

THEY WERE NOT THERE THAT NIGHT—the wise men were not a part of that manger scene when shepherds came to see the strange thing that had come to pass in Bethlehem's manger. Angels announced His birth to startled shepherds on Judean hills. But many miles distant in alien lands, His star appeared to the Magi—Wise Men of the East.

When these wise men saw His star they rejoiced exceedingly and followed it many months until it stopped over

the place where the young child was. Finding Him in a house, they fell down and worshiped Him, presenting gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

These wise men sought Him in whom is hidden all the wisdom of all the ages. They followed His star—a star of His own making, for by Him were all things made. When they found Him, they worshiped and presented gifts. Yes, they were truly *wise men*.

The jungle chief of Africa who travels hundreds of miles by river boat to learn of this "Jesus Man" who can give His people peace, is a wise man. The Chinese peasant who walks for days just to plead, "Will you please tell me His name again?" is a wise man. Those for forsook all to follow Him nineteen hundred years ago, were the wise men of their day.

Would *you* be among the modern wise men? Would you offer gifts to Him on His birthday? Then fear God and offer *yourself* to Him on the altar of entire consecration. It is not gold and frankincense that He desires, but *you*. He came to establish a kingdom and to employ wise men in His service.

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SUNDAY'S LESSON



THE MARK OF A DEDICATED LIFE

Sunday School Lesson for December 30, 1956

LUKE 2:22-38

The second chapter of Luke sets before us five individuals who were beautifully and entirely dedicated to God and His will—Joseph, Mary, Simeon, Anna, and Jesus Himself. We shall concentrate mainly upon Simeon.

I. SIMEON'S CHARACTER (Luke 2:25)

(1) *Simeon was righteous.* In relation to his fellow man he was "just"—he was upright, good, kind, merciful, generous, and benevolent. In relation to God, he was "devout"—he lived in the consciousness of God's presence, loving Him, and thinking, speaking, and acting so as to please God.

(2) *He was expectant.* Simeon was "waiting for the consolation of Israel"—the Messiah. In Simeon's day there was a definite feeling among certain devout Jews that the time of Messiah's advent could not be long delayed.

(3) *He was Spirit-anointed.* "And the Holy Ghost was upon him." How very wonderful! Here was a man who lived and walked in the Spirit in a day when the Spirit had long ago departed from the religious leaders of the nation and had left them among the husks of lifeless formality!

II. SIMEON'S EXPERIENCE (Luke 2:26-35)

(1) *Revelation by the Spirit.* "And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Revelation by the Spirit comes to those who walk in the Spirit. We cannot disassociate Simeon's devout, Spirit-anointed life and His Spirit-given revelation.

(2) *Guidance by the Spirit.* "And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and . . . the parents brought in the child Jesus." It was not by mere coincidence that Simeon happened into the temple just at the time when the parents of Jesus brought the Christ child to be dedicated! Simeon was supernaturally guided by the Spirit that day! Unless he had received that divine guidance he would have missed his great opportunity. And unless he had first been in touch with the Lord and walking under the anointing of the Spirit, he would have missed the precious guidance!

(3) *Prayer in the Spirit.* "And when the parents brought in the child Jesus . . . then took he him up in his arms and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace . . . for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." The same Spirit who led Simeon into the temple, now caused him to recognize the infant Christ when he saw Him. Simeon's words yield the following lessons: (A) Our last days may be our best days, bringing us our fullest revelation of the Lord (see Prov. 16:31; 4:18). (B) The anticipation of death need bring

no terror to those whose lives are dedicated to Christ for they can look forward with keenest anticipation to the life beyond (2 Tim. 4:7, 8). (C) Not until a man has seen Christ is he ready to die, nor can he die in peace. Though Simeon with his physical eye saw Christ as a Babe, he had to see Christ with his spiritual eye as a Saviour. So it must be with every man who would be ready to die (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

(4) *Utterance by the Spirit.* After taking the infant Christ into his arms, Simeon broke forth into prophetic utterance by the Spirit. The Spirit-given revelation of Christ was most amazing in that Simeon saw what even Christ's disciples could not fully see until quite some time after the Ascension—that Christ had come to save the Gentiles as well as the Jews! Prophetic utterance by the Spirit is still to be coveted today (1 Cor. 14:1, 5, 31, 39).

III. ANNA'S LIFE AND TESTIMONY (Luke 2:36-38)

The biographical sketch given here of Anna is very brief, but it reveals the nobility and spiritual stature of this dedicated but otherwise unknown saint! Observe: (1) She had suffered severe trial and bereavement, having been a widow for many years. (2) She rose above her misfortunes and enjoyed a real spiritual ministry—she was a prophetess. (3) She possessed a deep and consistent prayer life. (4) She practiced constant self-denial, as evidenced by her fasting and praying. (5) She was unceasing in her service unto the Lord in the temple. (6) She was grateful for the blessing of beholding the Christ, and expressed that gratitude by testifying of Him to others. In all these things she sets a wonderful example for us.

—J. Bashford Bishop

"A GOOD BEGINNING, SON—"



Operation B.G.M.C.

BY EVERETT L. PHILLIPS

Field Secretary for Africa

BGMC offers a counterattack on the deluge of communistic and other false-cult literature flowing into heathen lands. It opens the hitherto closed door to the missionary and to the gospel.

In the year 1934 one copy of THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL was sent to an African pastor in Nigeria, West Africa. What has followed no one could have possibly foreseen. We do not know the name of either the man who sent this first piece of literature or the man who originally received it, but that printed page fell like a fertile seed in soft ground. The message of Divine Healing and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit spread like wildfire, from heart to heart, and from church to church. Thus, one of the great Pentecostal revivals of our time had its beginning in the printed page. Today there are thousands of converts in Nigeria, more than 245 self-supporting churches, an organized Sunday School Department, two Bible Schools—and, perhaps most important of all, a printing establishment from which flows hundreds of thousands of pieces of gospel literature each year. THIS ALL BEGAN WITH A SINGLE COPY OF THE "EVANGEL."

To the vast majority of the backward people of the world, the ability to read and write is their one burning desire—the acme of all their ambitions. Recognizing this need, governments and mission societies alike are teaching millions each year to read. Little children and white-haired grandparents both lean over the same slate or tattered paper to learn the ABC's in their own language. They are determined to read something—anything! What will they read? This is the question that *we* must answer!

The Communists are supplying literature—but what literature! Other strange and frightening ideologies are making their bid for the minds of this vast group of new readers by distributing their literature in many languages. What

are *we* doing to meet this need?

In the year 1949 a new project, the Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, was born.

Some earnest friends shook their heads and prophesied an early death to this new missionary child of the Sunday School family. This new "child" has now reached the age of seven and has already taken its place as a strong, vigorous helper in our world-wide missionary effort. To date, the \$323,635 contributed by our children in this BGMC program has been used to produce gospel literature in the seventy countries where we have missionaries. Translation and printing costs are met, paper is purchased; and in some instances where the people read English, the freight and postage charges are paid to send back-dated materials from the Gospel Publishing House.

One tribe in Africa had adamantly rejected the missionary's ministry time after time. Finally the missionary gave up trying to force his way among them, and sent literature by the bundle to be distributed among the people. After two years of seed sowing (all financed by BGMC) the door opened, and we have a flourishing work among those people.

Would you like to assist in such a project? Let me tell you how BGMC works.

Every child in your Sunday School under C. A. age is given a small wooden barrel to collect coins, and once a month these barrels are brought to Sunday School and emptied. The money is sent in to the Foreign Missions Department, carefully designated as a BGMC offering, and ALL of this money is put to work in our great literature campaign on the foreign fields.

While every dollar given to BGMC is used to give the gospel in printed form to the people of heathen lands, there is one great benefit to the child who gives. Parents are realizing that BGMC teaches stewardship to their children. They learn to give to God cheerfully of their

money, and also learn their responsibility to help evangelize the world.

Let me give you one more testimony of the value of literature, using the words of Jones Nkpa, an ordained minister in Africa:

"I was a fisherman and owned a fleet of canoes. My storied (two story) house held my family and my idols, and I was happy. Then one day my wife became very ill, and through the months that followed I made myself a poor man buying charms and jujus. But it did no good at all.

"Walking along the ocean one evening I found a piece of paper with printing on it. It was wet and dirty, but I took it to my house and read something I could hardly believe. This paper told of a man who had been sick unto death. It described his illness, but there was more. This paper told of how the writer heard of One called Jesus and how people prayed in His name. In answer to prayer this man was healed. Of course, this was strange news to me, and I wished for more information. There was a name and address at the bottom of the page, and I decided to write to see if my wife could be healed. The name was Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri, U.S.A. That night I wrote to the Gospel Publishing House telling of my wife's great need and asking for help. They wrote to their missionary who lived forty miles from my home, and he visited me.

"How can I tell you all that took place? We had a long talk about salvation and healing in the name of Jesus Christ, and then the missionary prayed. At first nothing happened and I was disappointed. However, the next day my wife was better and in three days was doing all of her work again.

"Today I am in Bible School. I have sold all I own to come here to prepare myself to be a minister."

Brother Jones Nkpa now is a pastor of a fine growing Assemblies of God church in Africa and his wife faithfully stands by him.

Where did that tract come from that led him to write to the Gospel Publishing House? No one knows the answer to that question, but let us continue to sow the seed. There are many more Jones Nkpas who need just one tract to point them to Christ. ◀◀

Pentecostal Convention Held in Atlanta

The ninth annual convention of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America was held in Atlanta, Georgia, October 30, 31, and November 1, 1956. The services, held in Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, were marked by a high tide of Pentecostal blessing in keeping with the convention theme, "In Spirit and in Truth."

TUESDAY NIGHT

The convention opened with a great youth rally on Tuesday evening. The speaker, Laurie Price, of Belleville, Ontario, Canada, read a Scripture lesson from the second chapter of Acts and thrilled the great congregation with an old-fashioned sermon on the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. The altars were crowded with seekers at the conclusion of the preaching.

WEDNESDAY

E. J. Fulton, Chairman of the P.F.N.A., addressed the convention on Wednesday morning. His Scripture lesson was taken from First Samuel, chapters 13 and 14. He emphasized our great need for adventurous faith and for weapons forged in the Fire, to meet the challenge of this hour.

The speaker on Wednesday afternoon was E. L. Cyrus, of the Pentecostal Church of Christ. At the conclusion of his sermon there was a communion service. The representatives of twelve different Pentecostal denominations had a time of precious fellowship around the table of the Lord,

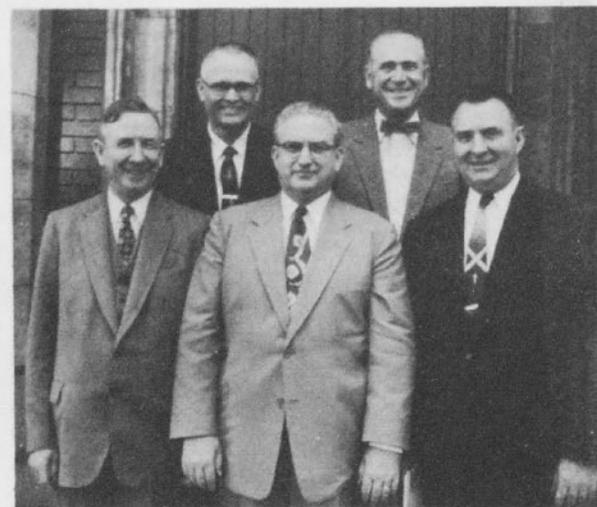
after which prayer was offered for a number of sick folk.

PASSING OF HATTIE M. BARTH

Another great crowd gathered on Wednesday night to hear an inspiring sermon by H. P. Robinson, of the Pentecostal Holiness Church. The convention was saddened by the news that Hattie M. Barth was very ill. Sister Barth, age 80, had been in the meeting Tuesday night, but on Wednesday she was unable to meet her classes at the Beulah Heights Bible School. On Wednesday night she passed on to be with her Lord. Thus another stalwart pioneer of the Pentecostal Movement joined the ranks above. Sister Barth and her husband, the late Paul T. Barth, started holding Pentecostal meetings in 1907 and founded the first Pentecostal church in Atlanta. Her mother, Mrs. Sexton, started a monthly paper in 1907 called "The Bridegroom's Messenger" which is still being published. The Barths also founded the Beulah Heights Camp Meeting in Atlanta, and later the Bible School, where some fine new buildings are now under construction. There is also a new church on the grounds called the Barth Memorial Church.

THURSDAY

On Thursday morning there was a business meeting and the following officers were elected to serve the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America during the coming year: Chairman, Gayle F. Lewis, Assemblies of God; Vice Chairmen, W. E. McAlister, Pentecostal Assemblies of



Executive officers for P.F.N.A. for 1957. Left to right: W. E. McAlister, Vice-chairman; William Spencer, Treasurer; Gayle F. Lewis, Chairman; Howard P. Courtney, Secretary; Clayton Lawson, Vice-chairman

Canada, and Clayton Lawson, Church of God Mountain Assembly; Secretary, Howard P. Courtney, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Treasurer, William M. Spencer, International Pentecostal Assemblies.

The following members were chosen for the Board of Administration: Zeno C. Tharp and Houston R. Morehead, Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.); J. A. Synan and T. A. Melton, Pentecostal Holiness Church; E. J. Fulton and R. B. Mitchell, Open Bible Standard Churches; Rolf K. McPherson, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Chester I. Miller, Pentecostal Church of Christ; C. M. Wortman, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; Ralph M. Riggs, Assemblies of God; and Carlton Spencer, Elim Missionary Assemblies.

The speakers on Thursday afternoon and evening were L. Sigsbee Miller of the International Pentecostal Assemblies, and Wade H. Horton of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.).

MISSIONARIES AND YOUTH LEADERS MEET

Missionary films were shown each evening preceding the regular service. The films not only were informative but also challenged the people to catch a greater missionary vision. Two additional features of the convention were the missionary seminar and the youth leadership seminar which were held on Monday night and all day Tuesday.

Reports from the committees on Missions, Youth, Education, Publications, and Radio were brought before the convention.

RESOLUTION ON BROADCASTING

A number of important resolutions were adopted by the convention, including one which expressed appreciation and support of the work of the National Religious Broadcasters, as follows:

"A matter of national religious concern has been the recent resolution of the National Council of Churches to the Radio and Television Networks, requesting that

P.F.N.A. Board of Administration and Atlanta local committees. ROW 1 (left to right): Lee Watson (local), Clayton Lawson, William Spencer, W. E. McAlister, E. J. Fulton, Gayle F. Lewis, J. A. Synan, William Smith. ROW 2: Clarence Chambley (local), Chester I. Miller, James G. Mayo (local), H. R. Morehead, Zeno C. Tharp, George Klarman (local), R. E. Lichty (local), A. S. Yorkman (local). ROW 3: Ralph Riggs, Earl P. Paulk Jr. (local), Howard P. Courtney, Eugene Guftason (local), C. M. Wortman, G. R. Watson (local), Casey Monsees (local).



no radio or television time be sold for the purpose of broadcasting or televising the gospel. The resolution has requested that all time be donated by the networks for religious programs. It should be noted that the National Council of Churches now controls the donated time on the networks. They have claimed to represent all Protestantism.

"Further, it should be noted that the effect of the resolution of the National Council of Churches to the networks has already been disastrous to certain evangelical broadcasters. The Westinghouse stations have cancelled all contracts for religious broadcasting on their stations. Some broadcasters have been affected who had been on the air for as long as twenty years.

"The National Religious Broadcasters, an arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, has vitally protested the above resolution with great effect.

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this convention go on record as commending the work of the National Religious Broadcasters and expressing to it the appreciation of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America for the stand it has taken."

PRAYER FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

The convention sent a telegram to President Eisenhower, assuring him that the delegates were deeply concerned with the international situation and were praying for him, that he might have God's guidance in dealing with the threat of another world war. The chairman received a personal reply from the President, as follows:

"Dear Mr. Fulton:

"I am grateful to you, to Mr. McAllister, and to the representatives of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, recently meeting in Atlanta, for your prayers and thoughts of me and of the members of the Cabinet in this time of grave crisis.

"With best wishes,

Sincerely,

DWIGHT EISENHOWER."

LOCAL GROUPS CHARTERED

Certificates of membership as local chapters of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America were presented to William Spencer, representing the ministers in Toledo, Ohio, and G. R. Watson, representing the ministers in Atlanta, Georgia.

Special music was furnished during the convention by a union choir from the Atlanta churches, directed by Robert Blackwood, and also by college groups from Lee College, Beulah Heights Bible School, South Eastern Bible College, and Immanuel Bible College.

The convention in Atlanta was a time of rich Pentecostal fellowship and real spiritual blessing.

The delegates accepted an invitation to hold the 1957 convention in Seattle, Wash.

Many Churches Plan To Observe Universal Week of Prayer

The "Universal Week of Prayer" will be observed by people of many denominations, January 6-13, 1957. The custom of devoting the first full week of the new year to prayer began in England over one hundred years ago, under a new organization called the World Evangelical Alliance. The week served to unite evangelicals in England. The observance in that country is by communities; the people come together in a different church each day of the week.

This year the National Association of Christian Evangelicals is again encouraging the Christian people of America to join in the Week of Prayer. The N.A.E. has printed a folder containing suggestions for the prayer services, and offers these materials to ministers free of charge.* Inasmuch as the Week of Prayer has spread into other countries, materials are being provided in various languages.

The following daily themes have been suggested for the 1957 Week of Prayer:

The Christian and God
The Christian and the Lord Jesus Christ
The Christian and the Church
The Christian and the Family
The Christian and Business
The Christian and the World

Will the Week of Prayer be observed in YOUR church? The following article, which appeared in the bulletin of one Assemblies of God church in California, might well apply to ALL our assemblies:

"The time has come for our Week of Prayer. Beginning with Monday and continuing through Saturday, we will meet each evening at 7:30 in the lower auditorium. Every member is expected to take part in this concerted effort to bring greater blessing upon our church in the coming year. Those who never miss a church social event will surely find it possible to take in this far more important event. It seems reasonable to ask that every church officer lead the way and set a good example by wholehearted interest in this effort. This does not mean merely the members of the advisory board but

also every officer of every department: the Sunday School staff, the C.A.'s, the WMC, and the choir. It is an inescapable principle that the privilege of office carries with it accountability and responsibility. So let us all be faithful stewards of the trust God has committed to us.

"There will be very little preliminary in these meetings so that we may get to prayer quickly. You are asked to come prepared to give God at least one hour, as it is certainly only a waste of time to expect half-hearted prayers of five minutes' duration to accomplish anything of value. The service each night will be over by nine o'clock unless the Spirit moves in special manner. This will allow you to get home in good time so that you may return the next night without undue weariness.

"When God had said that Nineveh should be destroyed and sent His prophet Jonah to pronounce the sentence, the king took the warning to heart and called for a time of city-wide repentance and seeking God, saying, 'Who can tell if God will turn away from His anger, that we perish not?' With this same attitude let the saints of our church come together in this week of prayer! 'Who can tell' what God may do?"

In the event that your church has planned an evangelistic campaign or other events for that week, perhaps the prayer meetings could be held in the daytime instead of night. Let us all participate in this week of prayer, either in church or at home, praying that God will make 1957 a year of great blessing. "Who can tell" if He will not send a greater spiritual awakening in 1957 than the world has ever known!

STUDY THE BIBLE AT HOME

Eleven Courses Now Available

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Old Testament</i> | <i>Dispensational Studies</i> |
| <i>Life of Christ</i> | <i>Prophetic Light</i> |
| <i>Book of Acts</i> | <i>Divine Healing</i> |
| <i>Book of Revelation</i> | <i>Pentecostal Truth</i> |
| <i>Pauline Epistles</i> | <i>Pastoral Theology</i> |
| <i>Hebrews and the</i> | <i>General Epistles</i> |

For information write to

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Mo.

* Materials for the Universal Week of Prayer should be ordered from: National Association of Evangelicals, 108 North Main Street, Wheaton, Illinois.



Fagots From the Torch of Evangelism

Compiled by the Department of Evangelism, 434 West Pacific St., Springfield, Mo.

► **BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.**—Evangelist Claude O. Wood of San Jose, Calif. conducted meetings here in the Niles Assembly of God immediately upon his return from an evangelistic mission in the Hawaiian Islands. Several were saved, reclaimed, or filled with the Holy Spirit, and every department of the church was strengthened. There were also some definite healings.

—Ernest L. Friend, Pastor

► **ALBANY, GA.**—Many souls were saved and sick bodies were healed during the recent two weeks of wonderful revival with Evangelist Philip Jackson of Stoke-on-Trent, England. Many people attended the church for the first time. The greatest benefits cannot be evaluated statistically. Every message seemed to meet the need of the moment, and was confirmed by the presence of the Lord. The church as a whole was richly blessed.

—Mrs. J. S. LaGrone, Pastor

► **HYATTSVILLE, MD.**—Faith Tabernacle experienced one of its greatest revivals in the recent meetings conducted by Evangelist and Mrs. A. Alaimo of Brooklyn, N. Y. Quite a few came for salvation, and many testified to Divine Healing. During the meetings we counted 218 visitors, including 38 "first-timers." The revival fires continue to burn. The church here is just a little over three years old. In that time a building has been purchased, and the church is self-supporting.

—B. M. Slye, Pastor

► **KLAMATH FALLS, OREG.**—The Singing Wyricks conducted three weeks of meetings here, and many people believed it to be the greatest revival in the history of the church. Fifty-one knelt at the altar for salvation and a goodly number were filled with the Holy Spirit.

—Silas H. Jones, Pastor

► **MASON CITY, ILL.**—The church here recently had a wonderful four-week revival with Evangelists Mabel Brown and Helen Cox of Virginia, Ill. Souls were saved and reclaimed, believers were filled, and sick bodies were healed. The church was greatly edified by the anointed preaching and singing of these ladies. More outsiders attended the services during this revival than at any other time.

—Kenneth C. Wallace, Pastor

► **TOPEKA, KANS.**—The Highland Park Assembly has just concluded one of its best revival meetings under the direction of the Ruth Smith Evangelistic Party. The meetings were originally scheduled to continue two weeks, but the results were so gratifying that the evangelists stayed four weeks. There was a move of the Spirit in every meeting as Sister Smith hurled forth the gospel under the anointing of God in uncompromising tones. She is a former school teacher and a member of the First Assembly of God in Kansas City, Mo. The entire party had a capable, sound, and congenial ministry.

—A. M. Selness, Pastor

► **MONTGOMERY, ALBERTA, CANADA**—Evangelists Paul and Dorothy Olson of Minneapolis, Minn. have just completed a revival campaign in the Pentecostal Tabernacle here. It was a time of rich blessing as several decisions were made for Christ. Some received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and many testified to healing from various sicknesses. The special youth meetings on Saturday nights were well attended with young people gathering from surrounding churches.

—R. A. Penmoyer, Pastor

► **HAVRE, MONT.**—Evangelists Gladys Norwood and Marie Carlquist of Chehalis, Wash. just closed a four-week meeting in the church here. It was truly a time of revival with backsliders returning to Christ, believers being quickened to new spiritual life, and people being saved, filled with the Spirit and healed. The morning Bible teaching and prayer time was a very important part of the revival. The Spirit of God is moving in the church, and the morning prayer meeting is continuing as a regular daily service.

—Don Ashmore, Pastor

► **VALLEJO, CALIF.**—The First Assembly of God here just closed a two-week campaign with Pat Thomas and party from Tulsa, Okla. The youthful evangelist was assisted by her mother and twin brothers, Walter and Wayne. The services drew the largest crowds the church has ever witnessed in a revival, and young and old alike were drawn into the kingdom of God. Pat's sincere and solid Bible preaching reached more adults than children. The party has an effective ministry in music and song also.

—Keetah Jones, Pastor

► **SHAWANO, WIS.**—Last February and March Evangelist Russell B. Park conducted an evangelistic campaign which resulted in the establishment of a new church in the neighboring town of Marion. In addition to the starting of the new church, the campaign brought more converts into the fellowship of the Assembly than any previous effort. The new converts have displayed great faith, a love for God's Word, and a concern for the lost which has resulted in many more conversions. Today there is a healthy body of believers in Marion. Weekly cottage prayer meetings are being blessed with a response of new people coming from the community. Bodies are being healed and souls are being saved. Spirit-filled laymen are in charge and do much of the preaching.

—Paul B. Hoff, Pastor

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

| STATE | CITY | CHURCH | DATE | EVANGELIST | PASTOR |
|--------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ark. | Clarksville | A of G | Dec. 10-23 | Eldon Bryce | Clyde Daniel |
| Calif. | Garden Grove | First | Dec. 30-Jan. 13 | Bill Lewis | R. G. Markey |
| | Salinas | Alisal | Dec. 31— | Tom Ming, Sr. | Joe D. Wright |
| Fla. | Tampa | Evang. Center | Dec. 30— | Carl C. Haas | W. H. Magee |
| | Vero Beach | First | Dec. 11— | J. M. Graham | F. S. Taylor |
| Kans. | Manhattan | A of G | Dec. 30-Jan. 13 | R. Alan Davis | Ernie Camery |
| La. | Columbia | Caldwell Faith | Dec. 2— | Robert Copeland | Peggy Ketchell |
| | Forest Hill | Midway | Jan. 6-20 | Earl Irby | Hubert Rhymes |
| Md. | Greensboro | First | Jan. 2-13 | Eddie Roush | James Miller, Jr. |
| Ohio | Cuyahoga Falls | A of G | Jan. 6-20 | John C. Potest | A. T. Calvanico |
| Okla. | Anadarko | * A of G | Dec. 31-Jan. 6 | N. B. Rayburn | Olen T. Craig |
| | Hammon | A of G | Dec. 30-Jan. 13 | James Gilbert Family | Lynn Beeson |
| Oreg. | Newport | A of G | Dec. 30— | John W. Everett | Russell Emerson |
| | Oregon City | A of G | Jan. 6— | Carl Johnson, Jr. | Donald Caves |
| Tex. | DeLeon | A of G | Dec. 30— | Lois Ann Cockerell | M. M. Otwell |
| | Mineral Wells | First | Dec. 10— | Z. E. Amburn | R. E. Maxwell |
| | Plainview | First | Jan. 6— | Michael Mastro | Louie Shultz |
| Wash. | Stamford | A of G | Dec. 30— | Glenn Lester | T. M. Barrett |
| | Spokane | First | Jan. 6-13 | Willard C. Peirce | Wallace Bragg |

* Workers Training

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

► **BILOXI, MISS.**—The Central Assembly of God has just experienced one of its greatest revivals in the past ten years with Evangelist Bruce Thum and the Sunshine Party of Indianapolis, Ind. God's rich anointing rested upon the ministry of Brother Thum, and over 100 souls were wonderfully saved. In one night 37 people responded to the salvation appeal. Many nominal church members heard the message of Pentecost for the first time. A Baptist lady who had been attending the services was gloriously converted, earnestly sought for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and then gloriously received the infilling. A number of outstanding healings took place. Scores of new people came to the church for the first time, and the prestige of the church was lifted to a new high in the city. The evangelists conducted their own daily radio program, and also made three TV appearances. Twenty-five new members were received into the church as a direct result of the campaign.

—*W. Douglas Carroll, Pastor*

► **OLEAN, N. Y.**—This whole area was blessed in a recent two-week revival campaign here in the rollerdrome conducted by the Reid Evangelistic Party. Eleven churches in the area sponsored the meetings including the Open Bible, Elim Fellowship, Pentecostal Holiness, Assemblies of God, and Foursquare Gospel. All of the churches benefited greatly from the meetings as a goodly number were converted, backsliders reclaimed, some baptized in the Holy Spirit, and a large number graciously healed by the power of God. One contributing factor to the success of the campaign was that there was no unusual appeal for finances. No items such as books, etc., were sold from the pulpit, and God graciously met both the campaign expense and the support of the party.

—*William Burkett, Pastor*
Olean Assembly of God

One of the crowds attending the Al Reid evangelistic campaign in Olean, N. Y.



► **EVANSVILLE, IND.** — The greatest crowds in the history of Calvary Assembly attended the revival meetings when Evangelist B. R. Minton of Tallahassee, Fla. was with us. Every night the church was filled, but even more wonderful was the glory of the Lord that filled the building and the precious souls that were saved. During the meeting the Sunday School attendance surpassed 1,000 on one occasion, and went over 900 on another. Brother Minton has a prophetic message that is especially helpful in this hour of fast-changing world events.

—*H. P. Vibbert, Pastor*

► **TWO HARBORS, MINN.** — Eight individuals were saved or reclaimed and six received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in a three-week meeting recently closed here by Evangelist Don Miller of St. Louis. There were also a goodly number of re-fillings and healings reported. The whole church benefited greatly. The Sunday School average for the month was 150.

—*C. R. Liddle, Pastor*

► **GARDEN CITY, MICH.**—The Bethel Missionary Assembly of God just concluded one of the greatest revivals in its history, with Evangelist Bill Lee of Atlanta, Ga. Many new folk were reached who had never been to the church before, and there was not a service without the power of God. Crowds continued to grow until it became necessary to bring in extra chairs. At least 40 souls were saved, and a good number received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Brother Lee had a great ministry among the sick and afflicted. Night after night people testified to having received definite healing. On the closing night of the meetings all those who had received healing were asked to stand, and at least 70 people did so. The whole church has been blessed and inspired to a greater love and devotion to the Lord.

—*J. J. Traub, Pastor*

► **GLASSPORT, PA.**—Evangelist and Mrs. Joseph DeGrado recently closed a 17-day campaign in the church here. Ten souls were saved in the meetings, including two Catholic women. Seven received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and there were several outstanding healings. Two women who were prayed for testified later that tumorous growths had disappeared. The congregation prayed for one woman who was dying of cancer. Shortly afterwards she passed a cancerous growth the size of an orange, with long string-like roots. Thank God for His hand of blessing upon the church.

—*Arthur E. Davies, Pastor*

CAMP MEETING

DURANT, FLA.—On the last night of the Pleasant Grove Camp Meeting, the altars were lined with sinners praying through to salvation. This was the greatest climax we have witnessed in our camp meetings.

The camp was held from October 11 to 21, and the tabernacle was filled every night. Evangelist Carl Haas was the speaker for both morning and evening services. The Spirit of God moved in a marvelous way. Brother Haas' messages were charged with the dynamic power of the Holy Ghost. Church members repented and made restitutions. Heaven was made more real when Brother Haas told of his vision of heaven.—*W. H. Magee, President, Pleasant Grove Camp Meeting.*

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL CONTINUES TO GROW

Enrollment in the Assemblies of God Correspondence School exceeds 5,700, an increase of 820 over the report for 1955, according to Frank M. Boyd, head of the school.

Courses offered by the school, a division of our Education Department, include 11 different subjects covering most books of the Bible. Since establishment of the school in 1948, certificates have been issued to 2,036 persons, an increase of 380 since 1955.

Besides use for home studies the Correspondence School makes courses available for prisoners through assistance of the Assemblies of God Home Missions Department. To date 650 prisoners have enrolled in courses representing 40 or more penal institutions. Of those enrolling, 53 percent of the prisoners complete their work compared to 32.7 percent completions by nonprisoners.

To widen the service of the school, courses have been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Chinese, and Italian. Studies are also being used in Assemblies of God Bible Schools in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Formosa, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, South Africa, Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Australia, and Switzerland.

Information concerning the courses offered may be obtained by writing to: Correspondence School of Bible Study, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield, Missouri.

They Are Looking For the Answer Through REVIVALTIME



Revivaltime is heard by millions

People are spending millions of dollars each year for the services of psychiatrists, fortunetellers, mediums, and others just to find the answer to their problems. But thank God, thousands who have heard REVIVALTIME, the Assemblies of God national radio broadcast, have found the real answer to all their needs—financial, marital, spiritual and physical. They have found that Christ is the answer. Thousands of their letters tell us how God has worked wonders for them through listening to the broadcast.

Regularly, new listeners are finding that God can do the same for them. As they listen to the testimonies of what God has done for others, and hear the faith-building radio sermon, they themselves are inspired to believe and look to Him, the Giver of all good things. They are led into a new understanding of God and what He wants to do for them. Every week, new miracles take place—souls are saved, the sick are healed, and problems are solved—as a result of REVIVALTIME.

Still from multitudes of other listeners comes a heart-cry for spiritual

help. The two questions most frequently asked are, "How can I be saved?" and, "How can I know I am saved?" Words cannot express the real feeling of these letters, but let us share just a few of them with you:

From Binghamton, N.Y., Mrs. M. T. writes, "Please pray for me. I need assurance of forgiven sins so badly. I can't have any peace of mind and I am almost distraught."

B. P., of Selma, Calif. says, "I am glad to hear your good broadcast. I would like for you to pray that I may have the assurance I am saved and have the peace God promises."

An Akron, Ohio, listener writes, "I listened to you last night and do every Sunday night. I want you to pray for me. I am a backslider and down with a stroke. I can't help myself. I've been this way for three years and want to be able to go back to church."

And from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, a lady writes, "I listened to your broadcast last night and it seemed that you were talking just to me. It seems that I've been mad at Him since He took

my mother. Regardless of my warnings, I haven't accepted Him as yet. I have come part way—enough to make me more miserable. You have and are praying for others; will you please pray for me, that He will save and cleanse me from all my sins, and that I will come just as I am and give myself to Him."

H. A. of New Brockton, Ala., expressed the feelings of many when he wrote, "As I write I am unhappy and sad. I believe the end of time is pretty close at hand. I am unsaved, and I don't know whether I can be saved or not. I have a fear that I can't be saved because I may have blasphemed against the Holy Ghost, but I want to be saved, baptized in the Holy Ghost, as well as in water. I am unhappy and sorrowful, sad and fearful. Please pray to God to help me out of my trouble."

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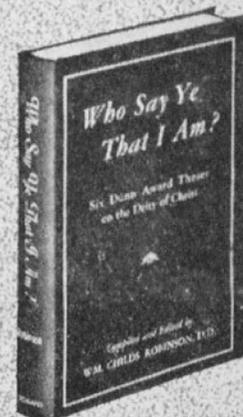
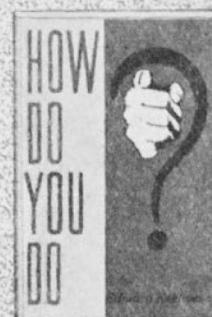
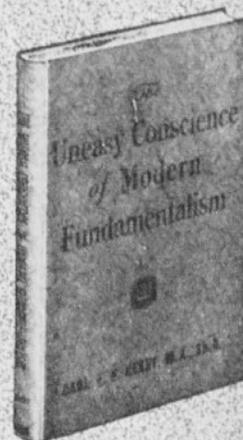
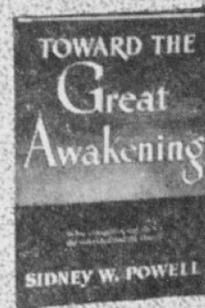
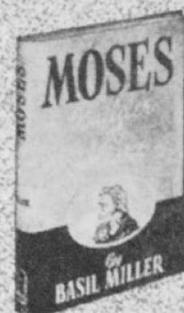
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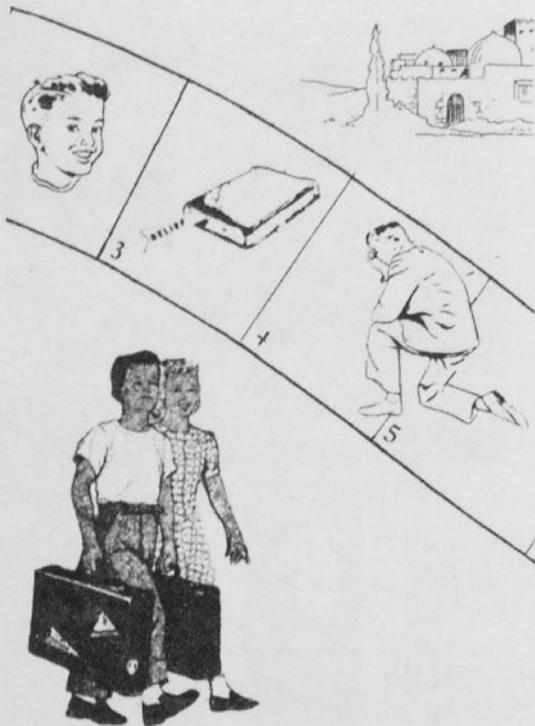
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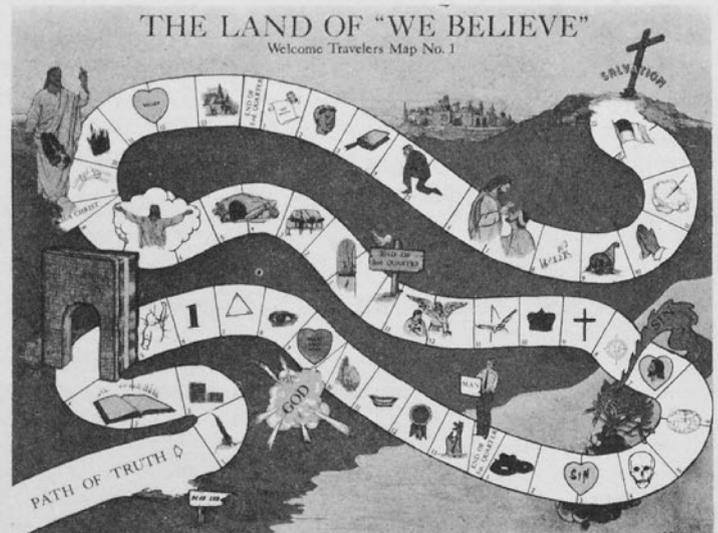
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The Song of the Angels

(Continued from page nine)

other. Then they saw far down the distant vistas of time an age when that same Prince of Peace, whose birth they joyfully acclaimed, should take dominion over the earth, and the kingdoms of this world should become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ, and He should reign forever and ever. They saw the ambitious militarists at last shorn of their power, Antichrist dethroned, Satan imprisoned, armies and navies disarmed and disbanded, the machines of war and destruction converted into implements of agriculture, and all nations, tribes and races dwelling together in peace and good will. They saw all animosities finally swept from the earth so that ferocious wild beasts became docile and dwelt with domestic animals in perfect harmony, even to the extent that a little child could lead them. They saw all this

accomplished through the power of the Babe who was born in Bethlehem on that first Christmas day, and so they joyfully sang, "Glory to God in the highest!"

One wonders what must be the reaction of angels to what is going on in our world this Christmas season 1956. They must feel a sense of sadness at man's inhumanity to man. They must blush with shame for all his base and senseless folly and crimes, knowing as they do that if all men and nations would accept Christ and be governed by His Spirit and principles, there would be no war, oppression, sin or trouble, but peace on earth and good will among men. Perhaps the problem of all problems to these holy intelligences is why men do not accept the only Saviour and the only salvation from sin and

trouble, and allow Him to give them peace and prosperity here, and the hope of a home in heaven hereafter. And methinks I can hear them re-echo the prayers of God's people today: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN." Surely, this is the prayer of all holy beings in the universe; and while the angels are still singing "Peace on earth, good will toward men," the sanctified of earth are singing this Christmas as perhaps never before:

*Come, dear Lord Jesus, thy promise fulfilling,
Come quickly, our souls cry to thee.*

Long has the earth been enthralled by the tempter,

The curse is on land and on sea,

Yet thou shalt triumph, the nations subduing!

The truth of thy Word cannot fail.

God's wondrous glory, like ocean's deep billows,

To earth's farthest bounds shall prevail!

"Even so, come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen."

—Pentecostal Holiness Advocate

Faith has an eagle's eye and a lion's heart.
A lion's heart to bear present evils; an eagle's eye to see future good. —Selected

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE

opportunities in '57...

TO TELL THE MESSAGE OF THE STAR

This season of the year reminds us of the time when the star appeared to herald the birth of Christ. We, too, like the wise men, have been made to rejoice because of the message of that star. Now we would give that message to all men—the message of a Saviour who came to liberate them from sin. We desire during the new year to take advantage of every opportunity to tell the story more effectively.

The Regional Sunday School Convention is designed to help you become a better "messenger" in the Sunday School. There you will find unlimited opportunities to learn the most effective methods of present-day Sunday School work and teaching. Attend the convention nearest you. Write the National Sunday School Dept., 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Mo., for more information.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.—FEB. 5, 6, 7 • WICHITA FALLS, TEX.—MAR. 5, 6, 7
SACRAMENTO, CAL.—MAR. 12, 13, 14 • SPOKANE, WASH.—MAR. 27, 28, 29
DES MOINES, IA.—APR. 9, 10, 11 • ROCHESTER, N. Y.—APR. 23, 24, 25

What a Christmas Gift!

— BY A. G. WARD



COURTESY STANDARD PUBLISHING CO.

"Unto us a child is born."

GOD ALMIGHTY appearing among men as a little child—how gentle and yet how sublimely grand was His coming! He let in the light as our eyes were able to bear it. What a priceless Christmas Gift to the whole human race; to the working men toiling in the fields, to the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. The Lord of Christmastide places a halo over common toil and suggests that none is a common laborer who works for Him. How truly blessed to think that "the very birth-hour of Christianity irradiated the humble doings of humble people."

What a revelation to Simeon, who worshiped and waited in the temple. For many a long day his heart had craved peace and satisfaction; perhaps like others he had tried nature and art and music, but still he waited; yet, thank God, not in vain. The God child was the answer to his heart longings, and thus "the Lord was not only to dignify the body but also to gratify the soul."

The wise men were not overlooked. The Christ child offered mental satisfaction to those who had been devoting their time to the study of the vast and intricate problems of the mind. He is the key to all true wisdom. "To seek mental satisfaction and leave out Jesus is like trying to make a garden and leave out the sun."

"Unto us a son is given."

HERE WE HAVE the superlative Gift. What an infinite expression of God's good will toward all our race.

Here we have divine love overflowing the eternal boundaries and pouring itself in lavish abundance upon the fallen sons of Adam. God's unique Son was given in order that we all may be born into sonship. No further need to grovel about as slaves of sin and Satan; no need to continue feeling the pinch of dire moral poverty; we may experience the glorious freedom of the sons of God, for, **"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

What a Christmas Gift! All other gifts seem so trifling, so incomparably small, of so little worth. In the midst of the awful darkness of this present hour, let us look away from the scene of hatred and carnage to yonder sky which does not express a frown but which bends over us in infinite love and compassion and bids us behold anew the Son who long ago was given as God's expression of good will to the warring nations of the world.

You ask, "Are you sure that if I look to yonder sky I shall behold the Son who was given?" Stephen did: **"Behold, I see,"** said he, **"the Son of man standing on the right hand of God"** (Acts 7:56). Yes, He is there for us! Let fears be gone, let anxious care flee away. No matter what the immediate or distant future may hold for us, all will be well. There is a Man in the glory who once lived on this earth. He understands all our weaknesses, enters deeply into our every struggle, and is disposed to help us in each time of need.