

The Pentecostal

EVANGEL

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

10c

December 22, 1957

GOD'S GIFT

He did not use a silvery box,
Or paper green and red;
God laid His Christmas gift to men
Within a manger bed.

No silken cord was used to bind
The gift sent from above.
'Twas wrapped in swaddling clothes
and bound
In cords of tender love.

There was no evergreen to which
His precious gift was tied:
Upon a bare tree on a hill
His gift was hung . . . and died.

'Twas taken down from off the tree
And laid beneath the sod,
But death itself could not destroy
The precious gift of God.

With mighty hand He lifted it
From out the stony grave;
Forevermore to every man
A living gift He gave.

—Ruth Prentice



—Luoma Photo

Wishing You A Joyous Christmas

Peace on Earth

Never in all the centuries that have passed since the angels' song rang out over the pastures of Bethlehem has the world wished more ardently for peace. Men and women wish for peace that they might continue their money-making, their pleasure-seeking, their luxurious way of life. They wish for peace that their cities might be spared from bombing, their lives from destruction, their sons from hardship. They seize upon the angels' message of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men" hoping that perhaps it means there will not be another great war.

But the most astute statesmen cannot ward off war forever. God said, "The ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly" (Isaiah 33:7). There shall be wars and rumors of wars right up until the time of Christ's second coming, the Bible says. Therefore we ought not to deceive ourselves with vain hopes for a lasting peace in this godless age, however ardently we may desire peace and however zealously we may work for it.

The shepherds trembled that night, but it was not from war jitters. It was not the power of Rome that paralyzed them with fear, but the power on high. The glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sofe afraid. They thought, "God must be angry with us. He has come to punish us for our sins. It is the judgment day." And well they might think so, for it was night and yet the hills were flooded with a light as bright as the noonday sun. Not only that, but they saw an angel, and for all they knew he had come to kill them!

What relief those shepherds must have felt when the angel said, "Fear not." He announced the birth of One who had come not to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. Soon a multitude of angels appeared and began to shout God's praises, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." It must have gladdened those shepherds' hearts to know that God's thoughts toward them were thoughts of peace, and that He had nothing but good will toward men. God and sinners were to be reconciled.

How was the reconciliation to be accomplished? Through the Babe that was born that very night. The Scripture says, "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also ye have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand" (Romans 5:1, 2).

A day is coming when peace will be universal—when Christ shall reign for a thousand years and there shall not be a single war. What a golden age that will be. But at present the peace that Jesus brings is a personal matter. He imparts it not in universal measure, but on an individual basis. We read in Colossians 1:20 that Christ "made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself." He has reconciled us "in the body of His flesh through death," in order that He might present us "holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight" IF we "continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (v. 22, 23).

Peace with God—what greater blessing could we ask? And this is His Christmas gift to man, through His Son.

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Tidings of Great Joy

BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

IT WAS A MEMORABLE EVENT WHEN God sent the angel to announce the birth of the Saviour and to bring tidings of the great joy which would come to men through Him.

Angels fill a very important place in the purpose of God and in ministry to individual lives. When God would announce the coming of the Saviour it was one of the angels who made the announcement. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness angels ministered to Him. As He sweat, as it were, great drops of blood in Gethsemane an angel came and strengthened Him. On the day of His resurrection, announcement of His triumph over death and the grave was made by an angel. And when He comes again in

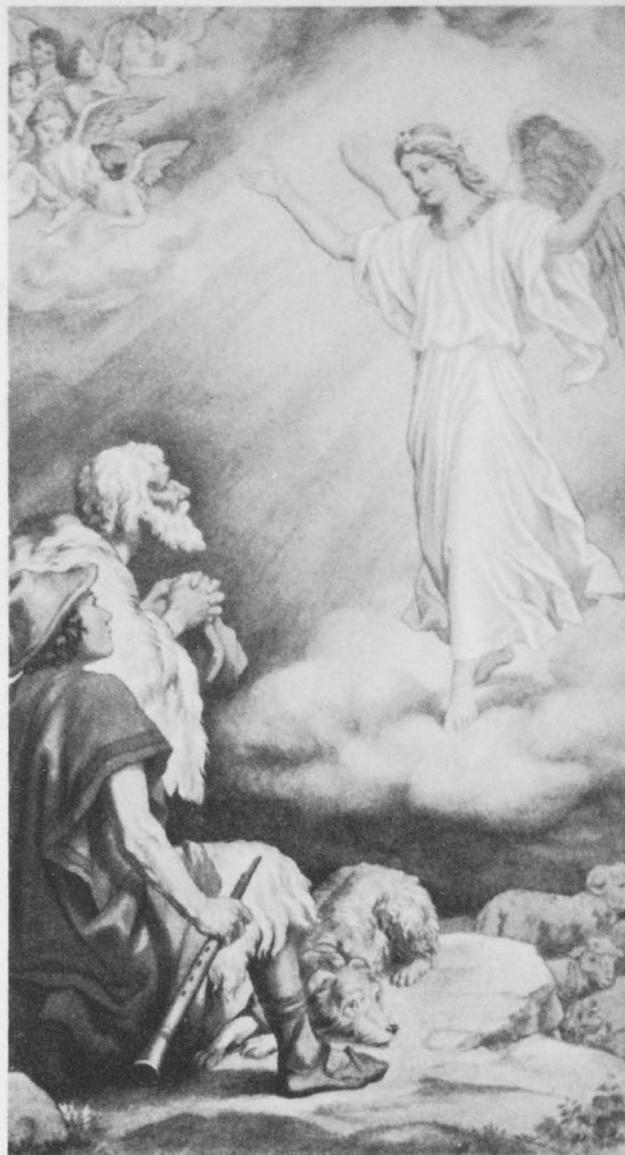
majesty and power all the holy angels will be with Him. The angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation."

The message of the angel at the time of the birth of Christ was so important that it was to be a universal proclamation—"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." What were the tidings? "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Our Saviour is Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed One of Jehovah, the Lord. When we think of the Babe of Bethlehem we think of Him before whom every knee shall bow and to whom every tongue shall confess. He is sovereign in the realm of nature, of mankind, of spirits; He sits in the heavens at the right hand of the Majesty there. Wonderful Saviour! Precious Lord!

TIDINGS OF SALVATION

Through the gospel of Jesus Christ and the moral transformation of one's life a man may now be reconciled to God and returned to fellowship with Him. Before the angel announced the good tidings of the Saviour's birth another angel had declared the value of His birth, saying, "And thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." The religion of Christ deals with sin and the sinful nature of man. What a mistake for any to think that Christianity winks at that which is evil. It was sin which drove man from fellowship with God. The good tidings of the gospel is that "the blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from all sin." Is it not good news?

These joyous tidings are for "all people." The gospel invitation is for all kinds and classes of people, people in all conditions. There is not a man or



—Courtesy Standard Publishing Foundation

woman whom Christ cannot save. This message is for "whosoever will," and its blessings reach out to both soul and body.

Some years ago a good man confided to the writer that he was greatly troubled about his soul. He was the father of a fine family, a successful businessman, and an officer in his church, but in his Bible he had read, "A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 23:2). This man had been born in illegitimacy, and feared that this verse meant that he could not be saved. It was a pleasure to tell him that this prohibition had reference only to the temple service of Israel, a people whom God raised up to set a moral standard for the world. This verse does not bar anyone from heaven. The promise in the gospel is for "whosoever will," for "God sent not his Son into the world

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THE ANGELS STILL SING

Christmas comes again to greet us.
Up, my heart, where is thy song?
Can you fill the air with singing,
Is the music clear and strong?
War-dogs snarling, growl about us
And their leash is not too stout,
Held at bay by human effort
Weakened by man's fear and doubt.

Yet my heart is full of singing,
And my weary spirit thrills
To the music of the angels
O'er the bleak Judean hills.
If that music finds an entrance
And is held within the breast,
That alone can pierce all darkness,
Quell all fear and give one rest.

On that holy night the angels
Sang of peace the Christ would bring.
War and judgment must precede it.
Yet withall, our hearts can sing.
As He brought to us salvation,
He alone can bring us peace.
Man-made plans are doomed to failure,
Christ alone can bring release.

—JOHN WRIGHT FOLLETTE

When the King Took Off His Robes

BY KENNETH D. BARNEY

**Out of the ivory palaces into a world of woe,
Only His great eternal love made my Saviour go.**



ROYALTY MUST BE ARRAYED IN FINERY. It is traditional that purple and scarlet and gold be associated with the clothing of kings and queens, along with ermine and velvet. Even in modern times, monarchs like Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain array themselves on state occasions in splendid clothing that can be worn only by sovereigns. No Englishman would begrudge a penny of the sum spent to make his queen lovely. On the contrary, every one of her loyal subjects beams with pride when she appears in her royal robes.

This is the Christmas season, and the world is celebrating the birth of Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. His human name was Jesus; His official title "Christ—the Anointed One." He too had robes, but not the kind made from ermine and embroidered in gold and scarlet—nothing as *cheap* as that! In John 17:5 we catch a glimpse of the splendor of these robes: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." In that tremendous hour just before Calvary the King thought of the robe of glory He had

worn at the Father's right hand in ages past, and the thrill of it buoyed the human side of His nature in the crisis of His passion.

Through the Psalmist, the Holy Spirit sketched a picture of those royal robes: "All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad" (Psalm 45:8). In Philipians 2:6 Paul declared that before His incarnation Jesus was in the form of God, equal with God. In Hebrews 1:2, 3 the Bible proclaims that God appointed His Son "heir of all things," and that by Him "he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power...."

Christ wore the flaming robes of deity. Micah declared that His "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Isaiah called Him "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." When, on the Mount of Transfiguration, He donned His robes again for a moment, they were too brilliant for His disciples to look upon. It was not a sight for mortal eyes.

Revelation 3:14 speaks of Him as "the beginning of the creation of God." First Timothy 6:15 calls Him "the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords." Luke 1:78 announces Him as "the dayspring from on high." Haggai called Him the "desire of all nations." John said He was "full of grace and truth." In the Revelation he pointed to Him as "the Lion of the tribe of Juda." Jeremiah declared Him to be "the Lord our righteousness."

Oh, the glorious robes He wore—this King of kings! In the eternities of the past, even before the world was created, He the Godhead's Second Person, wore the gleaming garments of His divine office. When the angels were created, they bowed before this King. When the universe came into being He upheld it by the Word of His power. No robes ever worn by any earthly monarch could rival the splendor of those He wore. Though the richest empire of earth emptied its coffers to furnish its king with the most costly garments, they would appear as sackcloth alongside the robes of the King whose coming to earth meant

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AS WE DROVE ALONG THE ROAD WINDING down the rocky Judean hills toward Bethlehem we imagined ourselves living back at the time of the birth of Christ. These slopes had changed but little in the intervening centuries. Sheep still grazed on the nearly barren hillsides; the camel-hair tents of shepherds were pitched nearby.

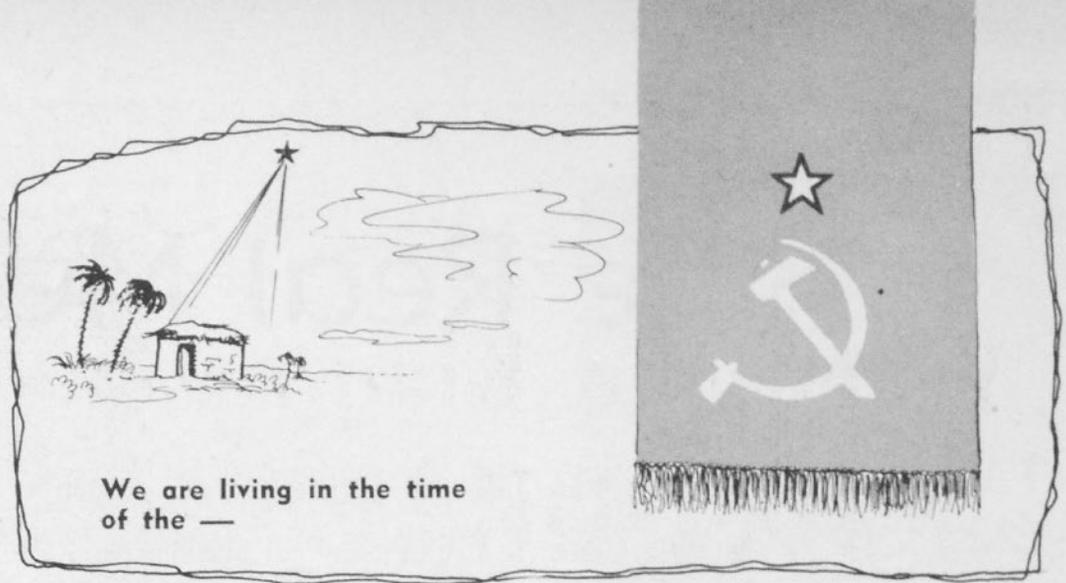
And then, rounding one of the innumerable bends in the road, we saw the Star. It was outlined in electric lights against the Church of the Nativity. How long ago it was erected I do not know, but I do know that its purpose is to remind the coming pilgrims of the first Christmas star that shone over this blessed spot 1900 years ago.

That white star shining above Judean pastures was a sign that God had broken in upon the history of man. It was the testimony that the people of God would no longer live by the philosophy of "an eye for an eye." It was a witness that God was giving a revelation of Himself to man as He had never done before, that a new Way was before man—a Way of love, of human dignity, of brotherhood. The sword would be replaced by the Truth as the instrument of conquest. New hope and faith could fill the hearts of men. That is why a star shone over a manger in Bethlehem and an angelic choir sang, "On earth peace, good will toward men."

Years later, transformed disciples went forth with this gospel of love. The Master had said, "Put up thy sword" and "Go . . . and preach"; and they had gone. Their spiritual enemies fell before them like the walls of Jericho. They marched forward with the gospel of peace and love, and soon the whole known world had heard the new message.

With reverent step we walked in the ruins of the Coliseum in Rome. We were overrased—not because we were impressed with the size of this structure, or its grandeur, or its history, but because we knew that we stood where dust mingled with the blood of a million Christians. As we thought of all the martyrs, we realized why Christianity has spread so far.

Early one morning a few days later we were in the Vienna airport. The four-engine Aeroflot plane stood on the runway. In a few moments the formalities of Customs and Immigration inspection were concluded, and we



TWO STARS

BY IRVINE J. HARRISON

boarded the plane for that memorable flight to Moscow. When we neared the capital of Russia it was late in the evening and the sun had already set. Our first glimpse of the city was an array of red lights like beacons in the sky. They were the lights on the many-towered University of Moscow.

The taxi took us to our hotel in downtown Moscow some 20 miles away; the hotel was situated directly opposite the Kremlin. We got out of the taxi, looked up, and saw another Star! It was a great red neon star, shining in the dark sky above the Kremlin's highest tower. There it appeared to hang, as though upheld by unseen cords. It pierced the fog with its red glow above the heart of the Communist empire.

This red star, too, heralds a revolution. It, too, bears testimony to a new philosophy and proclaims a new doctrine. It is the star of materialistic philosophy, the doctrine of atheism, of conquest, of religious repudiation. It, too, is seeking to envelop the world. Already about a billion people have come under its control.

Between the walls of the Kremlin itself and the marble Mausoleum enshrining the remains of Lenin and Stalin, there is a garden. It is a simple place marked by a few plain tombstones. The walls of the Kremlin at this particular spot are likewise dotted by little marble markers. Urns, containing human ashes, are inserted in the Kremlin walls. These are the burial places of people who died for the Revolution. The markers identify those

so honored, for this is the Garden of the Heroes. When we saw this garden we knew why the Communist Revolution had been successful. Even Communism, in order to succeed, demanded of its followers a dedication to the death.

Here you feel the conflict and see the gathering storm—the coming struggle between the way of Jesus Christ and the way of world power as manifested in Communism. The struggle is between the Spirit of Christ and the spirit of this world; between principle, honor, fair play, and integrity on the one hand, and political expediency, double-cross, and deceit on the other. Can Communism conquer America? No, not from without, but we must beware of its spirit of materialism, secularism, and opportunism which has already been spread abroad in the land. It is the struggle of the stars—the Star of Christ and the Star of the Kremlin!

In the light of these two opposing ways of life and the inevitability of their contest for the souls of men, how should we react? What must our approach be?

First, we need to re-examine our values, to determine anew what is really worth while—what is transient and tinsel and what is permanent and good. The Hungarian people in their tragedy of a year ago bore bitter testimony to their conviction that a life of slavery isn't worth living. So we too must learn again that the price of some things is too great to pay.

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The Real Meaning of

I GREW UP IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND as a boy I learned that ships that ply the waters of the great oceans often become incrustated with what are known as barnacles. These little creatures fasten themselves to the bottom of a ship, multiplying there until the progress of the vessel is retarded. The ship must be taken out of salt water and brought into fresh water, because fresh water makes the barnacles release their hold and drop off.

Truth, like the ship in the waters of the Pacific or the Atlantic, can become incrustated with the barnacles of tradition, ritual, and superstition. Then it is necessary to dig down through all of this to find the real meaning, the real essence of truth.

Sadly enough, that is needed this Christmas. The observance has become covered over with the barnacles of Santa Claus and "Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer," Christmas trees and ornaments, and the giving and receiving of gifts. Christmas is such a commercialized affair now that it is hard to recognize Christ in the celebration. We have instituted a grand system of gift-buying and gift-giving, but very

few offer a gift to Christ on His birthday.

Let us focus our attention on what the Word of God says is the real meaning of Christmas: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). At the first Christmas, God sent His son. For what purpose? To be the propitiation for our sins.

"Propitiation" is a big word. What does it mean? Actually it is an Old Testament word meaning "mercy seat." God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle. There was to be an outer court, a Holy Place, and a Holiest of All. Inside, behind the beautiful veil that led to the Holiest of All, there was "The Ark of the Covenant," a beautiful piece of furniture made of acacia wood covered with solid gold. On the center of the lid, under the outspread wings of the cherubim, was a sacred spot called "The Mercy Seat." The shekinah glory of God rested there continually.

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest brought a basin of blood from the sacrifice and sprin-

kled it on the mercy seat. The blood of the sacrifice was a means of covering, of atonement for the sins of the people. This was Israel's only means of access to God. Without a mercy seat the children of Israel would have been cut off from God. Oh, how wonderful that God should love us so much that He would provide us a mercy seat!

Bethlehem's manger would be meaningless if it did not lead ultimately to Calvary's cross. There the blood of God's Lamb was spilled. God's Son became the mercy seat. He became also the priest, and His own blood became the blood of sacrifice, that in Him we might have a "mercy seat" where our sins might be covered, where we might meet a holy God. That is the meaning of Christmas. God has provided us a mercy seat, a means of forgiveness and cleansing.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world,

The real meaning of Christmas is lost when Scripture gives way to sentiment. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was a Jew, yet artists have taken the liberty of painting Him and Mary and Joseph as Japanese, Negroes, or South American Indians.



Christmas

—BY EMIL A. BALLIET

that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9). God sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem! The child that lay in the manger was God's Son. And why did He come? That we through Him might have life, everlasting life, glorious life. Does the world need life? Do you need life? Friend, apart from the life that Jesus gives, there is no life. Unless you have received life from God you are dead in trespasses and in sins. Christ came into the world that first Christmas day for the express purpose of giving you life, glorious life. Does the world need life? spiritual life that will make your physical life complete and perfect and altogether satisfying. You have not found a fullness of life until the Lord Jesus Christ begins everlasting life within you. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," said the Good Shepherd. Here is the heart of Christmas.

The Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem that through Him we might be born again and made citizens of God's eternal world. The world that really counts is not this world, but God's everlasting world into which we are born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. A new birth, a heavenly life is necessary. We must be born from above. The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world for the express purpose of making it possible for you to be born from above and to share the life of heaven, to share the life of eternity. Oh, thank God, this life is available for all by simply saying, "Oh, thou Christ of Bethlehem, come and be reborn in my life and bring me the life which you came into the world to bring." In Him, and through Him, and by Him there will be born into your life that transformation that makes one a true Christian and a member of God's eternal kingdom.

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14). The Father sent the Son, this verse

says. When? Where? At Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago. For what purpose? To be the Saviour of the world—"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour." Christ came to be the Saviour of the world.

This old world of ours, like a defunct business, is going to fall into the hands of receivership. Right now we are morally bankrupt, politically bankrupt, spiritually bankrupt. What is going to happen? The church is going to be raptured out of the world, and there is going to be one brief but horrible convulsion; then the world is going to fall into the hands of receivership. The receiver will be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. God has sent Him to be the Saviour of the world.

At this Christmas season we remind ourselves that the Christ who came so long ago said, "I will come again." He is going to come soon. The most important event in all the world, the biggest thing on the horizon, is the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ. When He comes, those who belong to Him will be caught out of this world. Then there will be a time of torment, trouble, tribulation, such as this world has never known. Oh, I want to be ready to meet Him when He comes again. He will return not as the Babe of Bethlehem, but as the glorious King of kings and Lord of lords.

God sent His Son into the world to be a Saviour. Is He your Saviour? It is not enough to say that Christ is a Saviour. It is vitally important to be able to say, "He is my Saviour."

More important than Christmas trees, lights, candles, gifts, or anything else, is the presence of the living Christ. Christmas means "Christ is sent." Does He live in your heart? Does Christmas mean to you a mercy seat, a Saviour? Oh, is He yours? God sent Him that He might be your Saviour. And this Christmas will be the most wonderful you have ever known if Christ lives and reigns in your heart.



Good Tidings

Angels of Bethlehem, shining afar,
Borne on the light of the wonderful star,
Tidings of heaven exultantly bring;
Angels of Bethlehem, joyously sing!

News, blessed news, from the Bethlehem sky,
Borne to the lowly and borne to the high,
Told to the shepherds and told to the king,
Angels of Bethlehem, joyously sing!

News in the highest, the glory divine
Out of the courts where the seraphim shine;
News in the lowest, fair peace among men:
Sing it, ye angels, again and again!

Strains of the loftiest music employ,
Sing the good tidings of infinite joy;
Sing to the burdened, the weary, the sad;
Sing the good tidings eternally glad!

Angels of Bethlehem, tell of the birth:
Love of the Father come lowly to earth,
Love of the Father come blessedly near,
Born to our sinning and sorrow and fear.

Angels of Bethlehem, publish the word!
Sing of the Saviour, the Christ and the
Lord!
Sing of the Son who will save us indeed
Out of the woe of our uttermost need!

Angels of Bethlehem, never again
Will heaven seem shut to the anguish
of men.
Blessed the answer we hear as we pray:
Sing of the Saviour forever and aye!

—Amos R. Wells

A Christless Christmas

A TRUE STORY BY BUSTER BARKER

Somewhere along the lonely road of his life, he learned to pray to God and found a happiness that he could never have known by believing in Santa Claus.

CHRISTMAS AT OUR HOUSE HAD always been happy—especially for us children—before that bleak and cheerless December. On the surface it had always been a fine occasion for grown-ups, too, glamorized as it was with mistletoe and eggnog and other traditional externals.

Scent and sight of partly-burnt wax candles and the tarnished left-over baubles now filled me with childish regrets. I sat postured on skinny, knickerbockered knees, my slight eight-year-old frame shivering as much from the chill of loneliness as from the lack of warmth in the big living room.

Before me was a leafless limb which I had hauled into the house from a nearby vacant lot. It stood at a drooping angle, plugged into the metal tree base which I had found on the top closet shelf where Mama had stacked away the Christmas decorations the last time. As I visualized it, the limb might have made a festive tree; but when I went to fetch it, all the green leaves of my vision were gone with the past summer. This stark, twiggy spread of brittle branches, even with the red and green candles hitched on, was hardly a cheery sight to compare with the trees of former years.

Yet I persisted in trying to recapture the happier scenes. I pulled strands of paper rope from the box of salvaged decorations and draped them from branch to branch. I could recall lovelier trees in back alleys after New Year's. And my pitiful arrangement of the shiny glass balls accentuated the gaunt-



ness spread out before me. Worst of all, the stark bareness was given sound effects when I showered the whole with isinglass "snow" and it pelted the white tissue paper spread on the tree base. It was supposed to be gay but it wasn't.

I gazed up at the jolly face of the plump, red-and-white Santa Claus hung grotesquely from the topmost branch—the place of honor where he had hung each year of my memory. In secret I had prayed most of the year to Santa for what I hoped most to receive on Christmas Eve. He was the nearest thing to any religious symbol at our house, and I respected the kindly old gentleman quite as many children reverence the Babe in the manger. The fat face hanging up there was my tangible idol—a personification of the only deity I'd ever been taught to believe in.

"Dear Santy," I appealed upwards with prayerfully clasped hands, "please

bring my mama back home! Please make my daddy be good to her and not drink anymore!"

The painted smile was only a mocking smirk glaring down at me. My faith in Santa Claus suffered disillusionment, rude and cruel. Stillness in the empty shadows beyond the flickering candlelight proved that my whispered prayers fell on unhearing ears. Nobody came to share my miserable Christmas Eve.

Still I struggled for a festive air. With a bit of creased-up colored wrapping paper found in the bauble box, I attempted to make the only parcel that would appear under my tree. I had bought my daddy a five-cent cigar. I knew that would be the only present, because my boozing parent had given me the nickel to buy a "treat" for myself—with the admonition that it was all I'd receive that year.

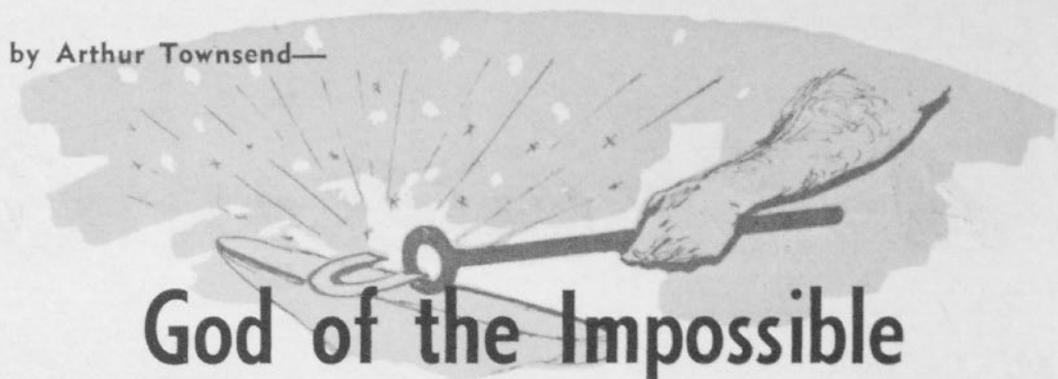
Yearning that it would make him happy to see the present with "To Daddy" painstakingly spelled out in big block letters across it, I waited a long time in the cold room, a little warmed by the candle flames. Great wonder that I did not burn the house down, for I lay drowsing under the tree a long while before I finally extinguished the candles and crawled exhausted into an unmade bed. I remembered how Mama used to tuck me in. Now I lay there not knowing where she was.

That was years ago. Now I am a grown man with two children of my own. I don't even recall that cold Christmas morning that followed, or whether my daddy was made happy by my crudely wrapped gift. For some reason I can only remember the night before.

Somewhere along the lonely route of my life I learned how to pray to God. Maybe it was while I lived in an orphanage for a while. Those days are hazy and unreal, but I remember we went to a church. I really knew the Lord by the time I was nine years old, and I knew how to pray to Him.

I have taught my children the right way to pray. Santa Claus has had no place in their young hearts. Some parents have been upset because I have deprived my youngsters of a cherished childhood happiness. Perhaps. Yet they have been happy with the reality of the Babe of Bethlehem. Always we have a traditional tree, leafy and green and well decorated, but the emphasis is upon Christ. My children know that the family gifts surrounding that tree must never supplant the gift of Jesus. There'll be no Christless Christmas at our house

by Arthur Townsend—



God of the Impossible

MAN IS AN EARTHBOUND CREATURE, limited in his possibilities. It is true that he has made great progress. His achievements in science and industry, in medicine and surgery, are marvelous. Inventions such as the radio and the automobile are blessings in the spreading of the gospel; medicine and surgery have saved untold lives.

We do not despise these accomplishments. However, man is limited in his power and he cannot move beyond human limits unless he contacts heaven. He needs to be transplanted out of the human realm into the heavenly realm. This requires that he be "born again" spiritually. The New Birth launches man out into the realm of the impossible. Salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the door to such a life.

Across the street from the rented building in which we once worshipped was a blacksmith shop. Over the entrance to the shop was the sign, "We specialize in the *possible*." And that is the limit of man's power; he can only do that which is humanly possible. But God is not subject to any such limits. I have often imagined that I saw a sign hanging over the entrance of the

Gates of Pearl, reading, "We specialize in the *impossible*." If our heavenly Father could not do the impossible, He would not be God. He can and does accomplish the impossible through human beings, through His Blood-washed children. Through the preaching of the Word, souls are saved. By the laying on of hands and the prayer of faith, sick bodies are healed. By prayer in the Holy Ghost, miracles are wrought in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the works of God. That which is humanly impossible is divinely possible.

In Luke 1:37 we read wonderful words. Mary was troubled at the message that the angel brought, and she doubted. "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" she asked (v. 34). Then came the answer from the angel: "With God *nothing* shall be impossible." We are serving the God of the impossible!

Mary was inclined to doubt. We cannot blame her, for her experience was to be outside the realm of human possibility. It takes God-inspired faith to believe in that which is humanly impossible. But the angel was adamant, and there came the day when the Baby Jesus cooed and cried in His mother's arms. God had wrought the impossible.

Do you have a seeming impossibility in your life? Do you have a problem or difficulty which cannot be solved by man? Turn your eyes toward Jesus. He can and will do the impossible for you. You are a child of God, a joint heir with Christ. You have been "born again" and made a member of the household of God. You have been filled with God, the Holy Spirit. Then put your case into His mighty hands. He will make a way for you.

Heaven's workshop is open for business twenty-four hours a day. Heaven specializes in the impossible. Then come and receive the attention of the Specialist. He is the God of the impossible.

THE WOMEN WILL PRAY. . .

The women of our Assemblies will join in the Week of prayer, interceding especially for the spiritual life of our homes.

How true it is that "The family that prays together stays together." The Bible says, "Therefore shall ye lay up these words in your heart and in your soul, . . . and ye shall teach them your children, speaking

of them when thou sittest in thine house . . ." (Deut. 11:18, 19).

Throughout this week let us pray that family ties may be strengthened, the Bible honored, and Christ glorified in all our homes.



EDITH WHIPPLE
National Secretary
Women's Missionary Council



THIS PRESENT WORLD

MISSIONS

Auca Indians Destroy New Mission Building

Another attempt to reach the fierce Auca Indians of Ecuador with the gospel has ended in apparent failure. The savages left a half-finished mission building wrecked and ruined. They also left lances at the scene—perhaps a sinister warning that last year's massacre of five young missionaries would be repeated if outsiders made further attempts to evangelize the tribe.

This time there was no loss of life since the missionary, Dr. Wilfred Tidmarsh, was absent when the Indians came. Last September, after establishing his new beachhead very near the

Auca territory, he had broken his leg, and further work on the building had been held up pending his return. Now the new building has been abandoned.

Attempts to reach the more friendly savages at "Terminal City," however, are still continuing. These Indians are accepting—and returning—gifts sent to them by air via the "bucket drop" method devised by the martyred pilot, Nate Saint. Missionaries believe that the friendly group of Aucas did not participate in the latest raid, and may not even know that it had taken place.

"New Nation" Magazine Discontinued in Ghana

The magazine *New Nation* has discontinued publication. This 20-page Christian magazine, edited in Ghana

and printed in England, made its first appearance in June, 1955, and reached a circulation of 17,000. The editor, David C. B. Smithers, said the primary cause of ceasing publication is the Ghana government's persistent refusal to permit the magazine to be incorporated as a "Company Not for Profit, Limited by Guarantee." He said this has resulted in financial help from England being cut off. Also, a new Ministry of Information censoring the press (particularly religious news) has made it unwise to continue.

Israel Won't Restrict Missionaries, Official Says

An Israeli government official, making a tour of the U. S., reported that his country will not restrict the admittance or work of Christian missionaries in that country. Dr. Chaim Vardi, counselor on Christian affairs in the Ministry of Religious Affairs, said there are now about 400 Christian missionaries in Israel, half of whom are engaged in evangelism and half in medical and social work.

Dr. Vardi reported that Israel has about 45,000 Christians, most of them Arabs. The country has nearly 2,000,000 Jews and 150,000 Moslems.

"Many persons have protested that the number of Christian missionaries seems unusually high in comparison with the number of Christians," Dr. Vardi said. "But we have been grateful for the educational and medical work they have done, and we believe it to be in the interest of religious freedom to admit them."

RADIO

NABRT Claims Evangelical Broadcasts Are Not in the "Public Interest"

In most cases paid religious broadcasts are fighting to stay on the air. Radio and TV stations, through pressures of organized advertisers and super-church groups, sometimes find it "advisable" to cancel religious broadcast contracts. But Los Angeles TV station KCOB may have to fight to keep some of its religious broadcasts.

AT A GLANCE ...

Girl Scouts Emphasize Duty to God and Country. The Girl Scouts of America have adopted a badge that emphasizes duty to God and country and encourages Scouts to work for their Church Service Award, it was reported at the organization's 34th national convention in Philadelphia. Dorothy Stratton, executive director, said there are now more than three million Girl Scouts in the country.

YFC Distributes Special Christmas Seals. Youth for Christ International has sent out more than two million Christmas seals. Printed in three colors, they bear the inscription: "This Christmas—Christ First!"

Christmas Parade Has Religious Emphasis. The Christmas season in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was opened by a parade which had the theme, "Put Christ Back in Christmas." Local churches entered floats in the parade which was sponsored by the local Merchants Association and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

UN Prayer Room Reopened to Public. The meditation and prayer room at the United Nations has been reopened after being enlarged and artistically decorated. More than 300,000 persons have visited the room since it was first opened to the public in 1952.

Denver Realtors End Sunday Showings of Homes. Directors of the Denver Board of Realtors voted unanimously to end the open-house showing of homes on Sundays. Norman LaSelle, secretary of the board, said: "From the remarks I've heard from

the salespeople, co-operation will be close to 100 per cent." The action was made without any pressure from religious groups, he said. "But many salesmen have told me, 'Thank goodness we can finally get to church on Sunday,'" he added. One Denver realtor said he planned to run pictures of churches in the Sunday paper, saying, "This is our open house for today."

The Effect of Mission Schools. Reliable Africans in administrative posts today have been educated in mission schools.

Bingo Illegal in Colorado. Bingo games, including those conducted for religious and charitable purposes, must be construed as gambling and therefore are illegal under the Colorado constitution, according to State Attorney General Duke Dunbar.

Present Handel's "Messiah" Simultaneously. This year, as for ten years past, Handel's "The Messiah" will be presented simultaneously on December 8 by churches in 75 areas of southern California, Arizona, and Nevada. More than 100,000 persons are expected to attend.

"Coronet" Magazine Features YFC. The November issue of "Coronet" magazine tells of the growth of the Youth for Christ movement. According to the article, "God's Teen-age Commandos," more than one-fourth of the nation's high-school population is being reached by the Youth for Christ High School Bible Club which meets weekly at 2,000 schools. YFC work includes Saturday night rallies, high school Bible clubs, and youth guidance work.

Complaining against KCOB is the National Association for Better Radio and Television. NABRT has asked the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a public hearing on whether or not KCOB's license should be renewed. NABRT charges that the station carries several evangelical broadcasts that are not in the public interest. The association criticized the station for permitting religious broadcasters to make repeated appeals for funds, and also maintained that the station does not provide time for discussion of both sides of controversial issues. Singled out for special criticism by the NABRT were the telecasts of Evangelist Oral Roberts.

Apparently NABRT has set itself up as the final authority as to what is in the "public interest." It would seem to us that most religious programs are far more in the "public interest" than the sex and crime-laden programs which crowd the TV screen.

Businessmen Seek License for Evangelistic Radio Station

A group of businessmen in Spokane, Washington, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission to operate a 50,000-watt commercial station that would promote evangelism. It would be one of the most powerful stations in the U.S. operated by a religious group. The applicant, Christian Services, Inc., is comprised of members of conservative Protestant churches in the Spokane area.

The group told the FCC that its purpose is "to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ; instruct believers in the Word of God; [and] foster and encourage all phases of evangelism." The proposed station would be a standard commercial broadcasting station supporting itself through the sale of advertising time. Twenty per cent of the air time would be devoted to evangelistic broadcasts.

MISCELLANEOUS

Episcopal Clergymen Prefer King James Version

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible, now five years old, is claimed by its sponsors to be firmly established as the best of modern translations. Nevertheless the King James version of the Bible still outsells the R.S.V. by about eight to one.

The National Council of Churches, which sponsors the R.S.V., assumed that the swing to the new version would



PRESENTS CHURCH BELL TO GERMAN VILLAGE—Chaplain Albert C. Rice, an Assemblies of God minister, presents 1300-pound church bell to the citizens of Mehlbach, Germany, on behalf of the American Servicemen of the 12th AAA Group. It was largely through the voluntary contributions of time and money by the men of this Group that Mehlbach today has its church and its bell.

The Church Bell Rings This Christmas

The bell is chiming in the Protestant church in the little German village of Mehlbach this Christmas—the first time it has summoned worshipers to Christmas services. And behind the bell—and the church itself—lies a story of determination, sacrifice, and international Christian love.

Mehlbach, in the Protestant district of Kaiserlautern, had no church. Since 1907, its citizens had been trying to get a church under construction, but without success. They had even formed a church-construction association, but the citizens of Mehlbach were far from wealthy, and the project almost ground to a halt because of financial difficulties. Many of the townspeople mortgaged personal property to insure continuation of the church.

It was in the spring of 1956 that several American servicemen stationed nearby heard of the plight of Mehlbach. These men resolved to help the village get its church. The project soon attracted the interest of the battalion commander and eventually the entire 12th AAA Group. Men of the Group made voluntary contributions to the building fund. Unit commanders loaned heavy-duty equipment and men donated off-duty hours transporting materials and grading the site. Mehl-

bach was going to have its church at last. Then, in June of this year, the men of the 12th put the finishing touches on their contribution. On a bright, warm Sunday the streets of Mehlbach were lined with expectant crowds. Homes and shops were decorated with banners and crosses. A convoy of American vehicles made its way through the main street of the village. First came a jeep bearing this sign: "Citizens of Mehlbach, Rejoice—Your New Bell Is Coming." Then came a truck decorated with branches and topped with a 1300-pound church bell, bought with contributions from the men of the 12th.

Senior Group Chaplain Albert C. Rice, an Assemblies of God minister, presented the bell to the citizens of Mehlbach on behalf of the 12th AAA Group. Behind him was a sign reading: "This Bell Shall Ring Out Unity and Friendship of Free Nations Under Christ."

This Christmas, as at other times during the year, the bell in the Protestant church in Mehlbach calls the faithful to worship Him whose coming was announced in song by a chorus of angels. And for the citizens of this little German village, a fifty-year dream has come true.

begin with clergymen and other Bible scholars. This assumption, however, was severely jolted by a recent survey conducted by the *Living Church*, a weekly Protestant Episcopal magazine. In a poll of more than 400 Episcopal clergymen, it was learned that 262 "always" read from the King James Version at public worship, compared to only 32 who regularly use the R.S.V. as a pulpit Bible.

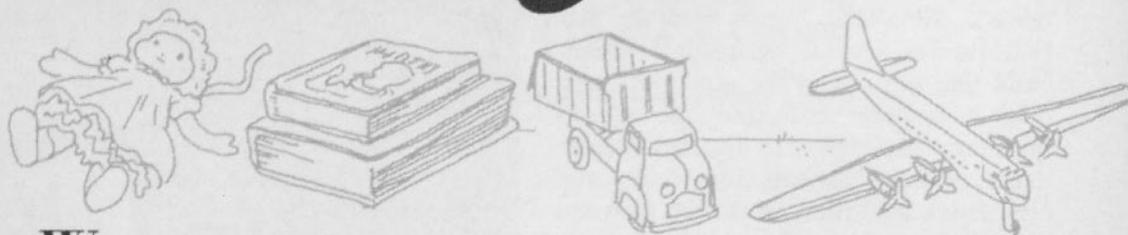
Canada's Premier Opposes Parliamentary Prayers by Clergymen

Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, a Baptist, opposed a sugges-

tion made in the House of Commons at Ottawa that parliamentary sessions be opened with prayers by a minister or a priest. He said the present custom is adequate. At present the Speaker of the House reads a prayer each day, alternating between French and English, Canada's two official languages.

About fifty years ago the Canadian Senate had an Anglican bishop-member who made a practice of praying for twenty minutes at the start of each day's business. When he died, the Senate ruled that the Speaker should perform the office.

Christmas Comes to



At the right, Ruth Speece (with accordion) and Ginger assist in the Christmas program at Bannock Creek.



Christmas carolers from Fort Hall Reservation



Sunday School boys from Bannock Creek display their Christmas gifts

Girls from Fort Hall show appreciation for their gifts



WHAT IS CHRISTMAS LIKE ON THE Reservation?

The Indians say that December 25 was no more to them than any other day, until white people taught them its significance. Now several families have adopted the custom of trimming a tree and exchanging gifts.

Last year, in a goodwill gesture, the two factories located on the Fort Hall (Idaho) Reservation gave a bag of treats and a small gift to each of about four hundred Indians who gathered at Eagle Lodge for the occasion.

Our sister Mission at Fort Hall, where John Bennett is the missionary, presented a Christmas program and message at this meeting, and distributed New Testaments to those present.

But the white man's influence has not all been good. From him the Indian learned to drink, and if the Indian should chance to have money in his pocket at Christmas it is often spent for liquor instead of food or gifts. Sometimes not only the father, but also the mother and older children are staggering in the streets, while the little ones are left deserted in a cold house, or forgotten on some street corner. Jails are overcrowded, and officers of the law desperately inquire, "What can we do with the drunken Indians?" No one has found an answer.

In many homes in the Bannock Creek section of the reservation, the only indication of the Christmas season is found in the manger scenes and other Christmas decorations made by the children in Sunday School, and the toys presented at the Christmas program. Through the Mission, Christmas has become the high point of the year, eagerly anticipated, especially by the young people. For them there is the

Editor's Note: Ruth Speece is one of our appointed home missionaries to the American Indians. She and her sister Ginger are ministering on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho to the Bannock Creek Indians.

excitement of preparation, dressing up for a pageant, singing Christmas carols, and sharing in the gifts.

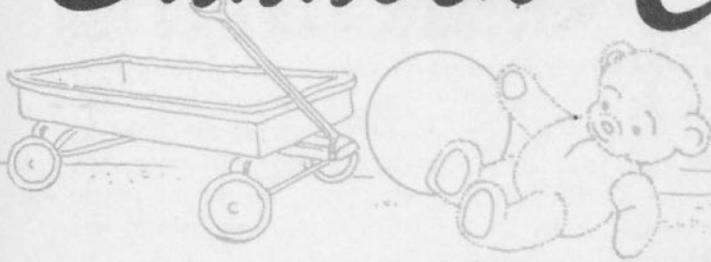
Of course, the task of "making Christmas" for such a large family is not an easy one, nor can it be done overnight. Most certainly it could never be accomplished without the help of friends who send Christmas offerings for buying treats, and donate toys and other gifts. Just before Christmas the life of a home missionary to the Indians resembles a merry-go-round. First a Christmas program must be planned, and costumes prepared—then practice, practice, practice. For our pageants last year we joined forces with the John Bennetts at Fort Hall, borrowing costumes and helping with their program in return for their assistance with ours. We chose a very simple presentation of the Christmas story, because we felt that it would be easier for our people to understand. A Saviour born in a manger isn't an *old* story to them. Many don't know about Him at all, and others have only a distorted idea taught by false religions.

With plans for the program underway, we turned to the tremendous job of sorting and repairing toys. Some were new—stuffed animals made by W.M.C. groups, candy-filled trinkets, horns, cars, whistles, dolls. Members of the Pocatello Assembly of God took time to make lovely little girls' dresses, jumpers, and blouses from leftover remnants. Rummaging in their attics they discovered dolls, toy stoves, irons, trucks and cars no longer needed by their own children. They thoughtfully giftwrapped many boxes and delivered them to our door. Then the C.A.'s and the W.M.C. offered to help with preparing gifts that were coming in from other churches and friends. This was a great blessing.

You should have seen those dolls! Some we were forced to take to the doll hospital for new paint, arms, even heads. One little fellow, minus legs, was

Bannock Creek

BY RUTH SPEECE



taken by a sweet old grandmother of the church and equipped with cloth limbs nicely covered with a new pair of overalls.

Energetic C.A.'s returned their dolls with complete wardrobes tucked into tiny suitcases. One had been fitted with an Indian costume, tiny beaded moccasins, and a feathered headdress which neatly covered a bandaged head. An especially large and beautiful doll I selected for Irene, a little girl whose home, I believe, is the poorest on the reservation. Her home is one dark overcrowded room with nothing of beauty to appeal to the eyes of a child.

Next we turned our attention to the mechanical toys, enlisting the aid of city firemen in welding and straightening bent wheels. A few cans of paint made a wagon, fire engine, and tricycle almost like new. Checking our supplies, however, we found that although we had gifts for our girls and teen-agers, we were short on presents for boys. What to do? Frantically we were juggling our budget when, only two days before our Christmas program, a package arrived at the freight office. A little boy in North Carolina had heard about the Indian children and wanted to share his toys with them. What a wonderful box! There were trains and more trains, rocket ships, trucks, tractors, cars, airplanes, soldiers—almost everything a boy could desire. Our problem was solved.

Meanwhile the Indian children had been stringing popcorn and making

paper chains for decorating a tree. We searched for a pretty one, knowing that it would be the first Christmas tree many of them had helped to trim. The last day or two were especially busy ones as we packed treat bags, wrapped gifts and made other last minute preparations. There was little sleep at our house the night before the program.

Sunday morning dawned bright and cold, and we hurried to Fort Hall to join the program there. Afterward, when the gifts were being distributed to the congregation, we were shocked to hear our names called. My sister Ginger and I were given a big box containing a shower of household goods—pots and pans, a pitcher and glasses, a set of dishes, a casserole set, tableware, and other lovely things! Knowing that we had recently moved here from the south and had bought only what we absolutely needed for house-keeping, the Fort Hall Indians had combined their trading stamps with those donated by the pastor's wife—and these gifts were the result!

We had planned the Bannock Creek pageant for late Sunday afternoon. Rushing home we loaded our car to the bursting point with boxes of gifts, the tree, and treats. A neighbor had kindly offered to help, and we packed his car too. Coming in sight of the reservation school where we hold services, we were thrilled to see the number of cars. My sister unloaded and went back to pick up those who needed a ride, while I went inside to direct the

trimming of the tree and to get our little "shepherds" and "wise men" into costumes.

More and more Indians kept arriving until the room was crowded. In the candlelight they sat patiently waiting. I glanced at my watch. *Where was Ginger?* We had to do something. Taking out my accordion I played until my arms ached, and we sang every Christmas song I could remember. The people loved it, but I was ready to drop when Ginger arrived and announced that she had had a flat tire.

Soon our program was underway with no greater mishap than King Herod's forgetting when to enter. (Brother Bennett had become too interested in taking pictures.) After the pageant we had a short message, telling the Indians how the Baby Jesus grew up and gave His life for our salvation. Then we gave treats to everyone and gifts to the children, including each visiting child as well as our regular Sunday School children.

It was after dark when we started home at last, tired but happy. Stopping by one of the tiny Indian huts on the way, we found the children outside, heedless of the bitter cold, taking turns riding in a new red firetruck. Christmas had come to Bannock Creek! Remembering childish voices singing "Away in a Manger," and grownups uncertainly trying to follow words unfamiliar to them, suddenly I couldn't keep back the tears. God sent Him to the Indians also. Why have they been so long left out?

* * *

Approximately 100 Assemblies of God home missionaries are under appointment for ministry among the American Indians. Your offerings to assist in this work should be designated for INDIAN MISSIONS and sent to

This Is Christmas

To know Him as He is today—not as a manger babe, but as the One Who lived and died and lives again, enthroned and reigning in our hearts. . . .

To sense the need of men who only know the tinsel and the rushing of the crowds—Who celebrate a day, and nothing more, because to them He slumbers yet at Bethlehem. . . .

To love Him and His Word above all else; and, loving, wish to tell men everywhere The tidings of redemption—this, to me, is Christmas.

HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

434 West Pacific Street
Springfield 1, Missouri

Sunday's Lesson

"RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH"



Simeon and Anna: The Pure In Heart

Sunday School Lesson for December 29, 1957

Luke 2:25-40

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Purity, and not intellectual brilliance, is the secret of spiritual revelation. The words of Jesus are beautifully illustrated in the lives of two ordinary people whose consecration and devotion to God was rewarded by a glorious revelation concerning the infant Christ.

Simeon's Character. "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him." This is only a very short biographical sketch, and yet if our biography recorded in heaven reads like that, it will bring to us a most blessed eternal inheritance!

Simeon was "just" in relation to his fellow man. He was upright, good, kind, merciful, generous, and benevolent. In relation to God Simeon was "devout;" that is, he lived in the consciousness of God's presence, loving Him and thinking and acting and speaking so as to please Him.

He was "waiting for the consolation of Israel." He was one of those in Jerusalem who believed that Messiah's coming was near at hand.

"And the Holy Ghost was upon him." How wonderful! Here was a man who lived and walked in the Spirit in a day when the Spirit had long since departed from the religious leaders and the masses.

Simeon's Relationship to the Holy Spirit. How intimate and definite was Simeon's relationship to God through the Spirit! He was:

(1) Spirit-anointed—"And the Holy Ghost was upon him."

(2) Spirit-taught—"And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ." We cannot dissociate Simeon's Spirit-anointed life and his Spirit-given revelation, the former was prerequisite to the latter. The truly Pentecostal life is lived in the realm of divine revelation, and it calls for a truly Pentecostal consecration.

(3) Spirit-led—"And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and . . . the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law." It was not by chance that Simeon came into the Temple just at the time Jesus was brought there to be dedicated! Unless he had received divine guidance he would undoubtedly have missed his great opportunity. And unless he had been living in sensitive relationship with the Lord he would have missed that guidance. Said Spurgeon, "We must submit ourselves to the divine teaching and drawing, or Christ may come to His temple, and we shall not perceive Him."

(4) Spirit-inspired utterance—"And when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms and blessed God." From the lips of Simeon, as he held the infant

Christ in his arms, there poured forth a stream of prophetic utterance given by the Spirit concerning the life and ministry of Jesus—a prophecy which was far beyond the grasp of his own mind! If the ministry of the Holy Spirit was thus available to Simeon while living still under the old order, how much more available is the same Spirit in this dispensation when He has been poured out upon all flesh!

Simeon's Prophetic Utterance. "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace . . . for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Simeon knew by the Spirit that the Babe he held in his arms was the promised Messiah. His cherished ambition thus fulfilled, Simeon was ready to die in peace. And only the man who has seen Christ as Saviour and has accepted Him as such is ready to die in peace!

"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." To Simeon it was thus revealed that salvation was for Gentiles as well as Jews—a truth not grasped by His own followers until many years later.

Anna's Thanksgiving (Luke 2:36-38). The biographical sketch given of Anna is brief, but what a great deal it reveals concerning the nobility and spirituality of this otherwise unknown woman! Observe concerning her: (1) She had suffered severe trial and bereavement, having been a widow for many years. (2) Nevertheless, 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 prayer. (5) She was unceasing in her service for the Lord in the Temple. (6) She was grateful for the blessing of beholding the Christ, and she expressed that gratitude by testifying of Him to others. In all these things she sets a most worthy example!

—J. Bashford Bishop

TODAY'S STAR OF BETHLEHEM



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA'S SUNDAY SCHOOL FAIR

When the Central California Sunday School Fair was held in Turlock, September 25-28, rain was predicted for the Turlock area during those days. The papers stated that the night before, San Francisco (about 90 miles north and west) had a history-making one inch of rain—the heaviest rainfall recorded for that time of year in nearly half a century. One man driving from Seattle to Turlock came through 600 miles of rain—but thirteen miles north of Turlock, the rain stopped! To the south it also rained. The rain was everywhere in the area—but not in Turlock.

Even a little rain would have ruined the floats in the parade on Saturday, for most of them were made of paper. But the people of Turlock earnestly prayed that it wouldn't rain during their Sunday School Fair—and God smiled upon them and their efforts.

The Central California Sunday School Fair was a unique endeavor and an outstanding example of Christian unity. The already-busy ministers of Turlock and the surrounding area pooled their resources and skills in giving birth to an idea which is becoming one of the most-talked-about methods of Sunday School promotion of the year.

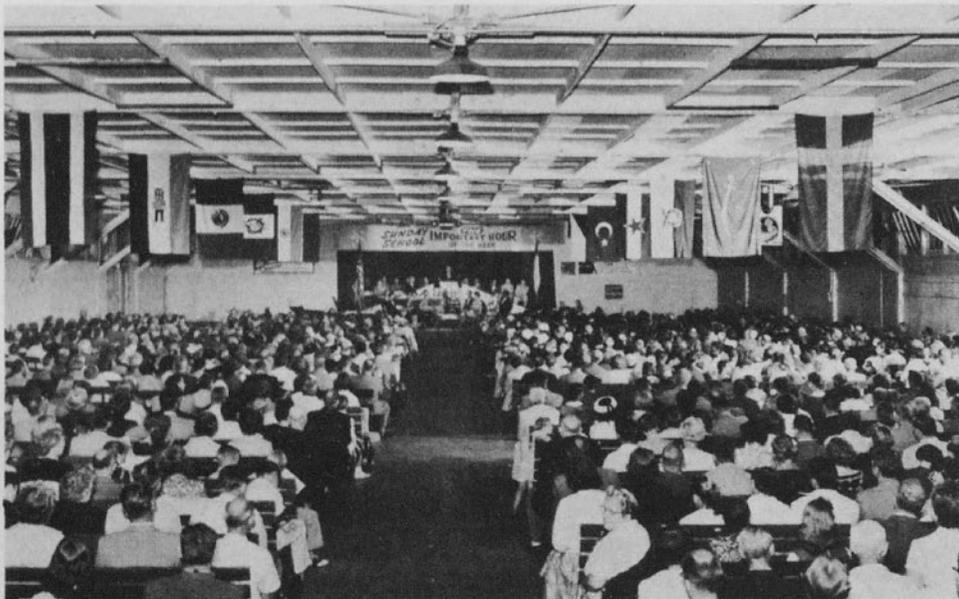
Pastor Robert Carrington of Bethel Temple (Assemblies of God) was the chairman of the fair, and one of the leaders in its inception. Many other ministers and laymen of various denominations worked hard to make this venture a tangible success. Aply serving as director of the fair was Ulphin O. Davis, nationally known Sunday

School leader from Portland, Oregon, and director of the Evangelical Sunday School Services.

The Sunday School Fair differed from Sunday School conventions in that it appealed to the entire family, rather than only to leaders of the Sunday School. Featured in it were exhibits, demonstrations, Sunday School booths, and arena rallies—all designed to appeal to the Sunday School pupil. More than 20,000 people attended the three-day event, coming from as far away as New York City. One of the big attractions was the giant Sunday School parade which wound its way through the main streets of Turlock to the fairgrounds.

The success of the Sunday School Fair exceeded the high expectations of its promoters—to such an extent that Central California plans to have another Sunday School fair in Turlock next year. Inquiries have come from a number of other areas which desire to have similar fairs. And the California State Legislature is investigating the Sunday School Fair idea as a weapon to combat juvenile delinquency.

There have been dozens of reports, according to Chairman Robert Carrington, of whole Sunday Schools that have been revolutionized because of the Central California Sunday School Fair. It was an answer to prayer that God miraculously withheld the natural rain from Turlock during the Sunday School fair. And it is another answer to prayer that the Sunday School Fair has resulted in "showers of blessings" in the churches which co-operated in this first-of-its-kind endeavor.



More than 20,000 people attended the three-day Sunday School Fair. This is the Thursday night crowd at an indoor rally. "Sunday School—the Important Hour of the Week" was the theme.



Enoch Christoffersen (left), mayor of Turlock and publicity chairman of the Fair, and Robert Carrington, Pastor of Bethel Temple, chairman of the Fair.



The Central California Sunday School Fair's great Sunday School parade winds through the main streets of Turlock.



Children, the life of the Sunday School, march in the parade carrying Christian flags.



"Sunday School Is for Men"—and living proof of that statement was found in the several hundred men who marched in the Sunday School parade.

How to be:



*shrewd as
a financier*



*generous as
a phi-
lanthropist*



*carefree as
a kitten*

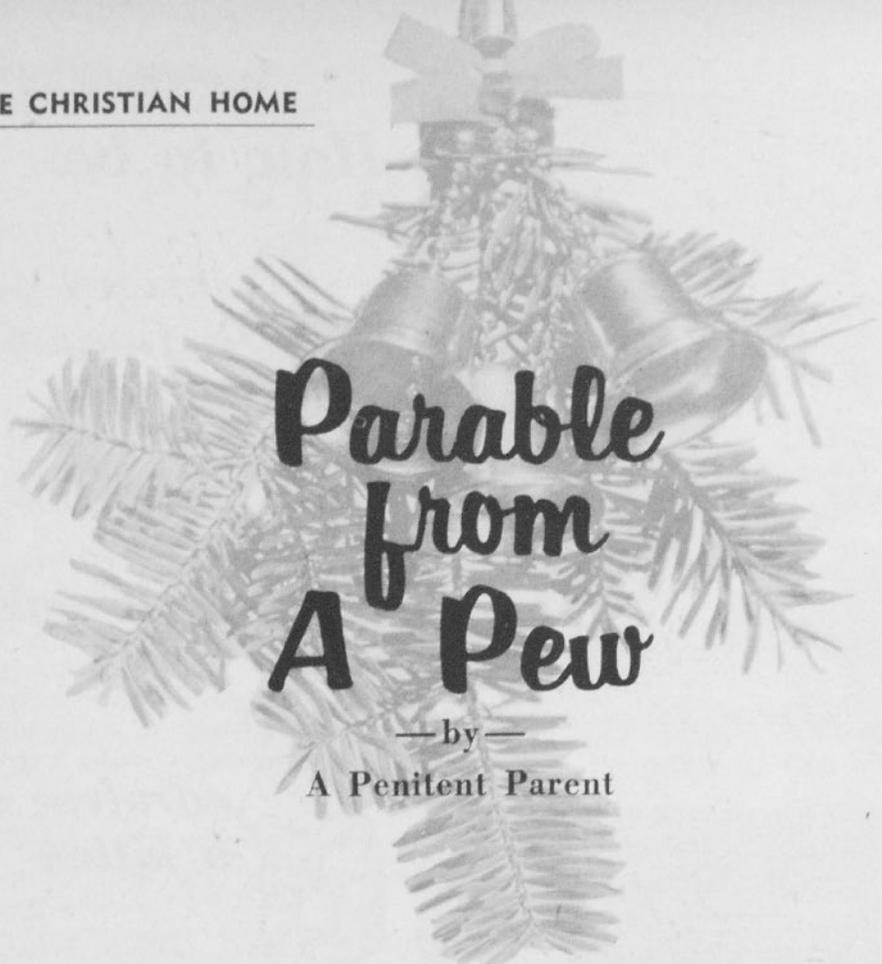


*wise as
an owl*

*and a faithful
Christian steward*

Yes—you can be as worldly-wise as a financier in the way you handle your money, yet as generous and open-hearted as a philanthropist. And it doesn't take a lot of worrying and fussing with money to do it. In fact, once you make this investment, there's no more to it.

Wise? It certainly is, because it provides for you as long as you live. The Assemblies of God Annuity program is an excellent way for an older Christian to climax his life of faithful stewardship. If you have \$100 or more to invest, write today to M. B. Netzel, Treasurer, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri.



Parable from A Pew

—by—
A Penitent Parent

AND THERE WERE A YOUNG FATHER and a young mother, and they were loath to bring their child to the church, saying, "He is too young; we must each take our turn and sit home with him on the Lord's Day." And so they did.

And the child grew until he was at the age of the cradle roll, and the young mother took him there and brought him home thereafter while the young father went to church. And sometimes the young father took his child to cradle roll and sat home with him thereafter while the mother went to church.

And thus it continued, and the child grew until he was no longer of age for the cradle roll.

And lo, the young mother and the young father brought him to Sunday school, and took him home immediately thereafter.

Then the young mother and the young father said, "Our child is now seven years old, and behold we have nurtured him all these years; we have stayed home from church, each of us a Sunday, for this, our child. Lo, now he is old enough to go with us to church."

But they were sorely vexed when they considered their child's welfare, and said, "Surely it is too much to expect that he be in Sunday School and sit also beside us through the entire church service; yea, surely, he

will fidget and be grievously bored."

So they brought with them such as would delight the soul of their child. And so it was that when the pastor read from the Word of God, the child read of Superman and Screwly Squirrel; and when the pastor rightly divided the truths of the Most High, their child cut pictures and colored them.

And the child found pleasure in his comic books and scissors and crayons, and he found not the temple of the Lord too dull. And it concerned him not, nor his parents, that those who sat around him were sore displeased at the noisome confusion and could not discern the message from the pulpit.

And when the child was eight years old he laid aside his crayons and his scissors, but forsook not Superman and Screwly Squirrel, but added unto himself Dick Tracy and Donald Duck.

And the young father and the young mother, considering that their child was sitting in a church pew, took thought and said, "We must find him something more in keeping with the surroundings."

And being diligent parents, they forthwith brought with them some Sunday School papers and a book of Bible stories.

But the young child was loath to leave off the reading of his comic books, and forsooth he raised a rumpus so that he was permitted to bring Superman and Screwly Squirrel and

Dick Tracy and Donald Duck together with the book of Bible stories.

And lo, he found no pleasure in these latter, but continued to grow in the wisdom and stature of Superman.

And the child grew until he was nine, and lo, Donald Duck no longer went with him to the temple of the Most High. For in truth, the child had added unto himself even livelier literature for Lord's Day reading.

And the child grew until he was ten and lo, the father and the mother became sorely wrought and said, "Son, it is time for you to leave off these childish things and learn to sit reverently in church. Today we shall no longer bring forth out of the house these comic books. Only the Bible story books may you bring with you if you find the sermon too long and tedious in its half hour."

And the child was sore displeased, and grumbled, and found no pleasure in church that day, for even the Bible story was boring.

And so the child was loath to be weaned from his comic books, but his parents steadfastly refused him, feeling that it was their stern duty. The child continued to fidget and to grumble, and found no pleasure in church, and thought the milk of the Word of God to be very thin after the blood and thunder of Superman.

And his parents marveled at him, saying, "Son, we have brought you to church each Lord's Day these many years, and do you find pleasure in the house of the Lord?"

And the child answered them saying, "You have made of this house a reading room for pleasure in Superman and Screwly Squirrel. How now do you expect me to so quickly find pleasure in that which formerly I was taught to ignore?"

And his parents were sore afraid and cried out, "What is this thing we have done?"

And they remembered a Child who was lost three days. And when Joseph found this Child, He was in the Temple, for He must be about His Father's business. And His Father's place of business was familiar unto Him; He had been brought there often since He was a tiny child.

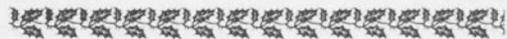
And this father and mother now considered their own childhood, and remembered how they had gone to church with their parents and had sat quietly through the service, without scissors or comic books. And they had found

pleasure in the house of God, for lo, their parents had not denied them.

And now, as their child grew, they strove with him that he might learn to worship in the temple of the Most High, and they were filled with anguish in their hearts. And they regretted that they had listened to false teachers with a saccharine doctrine of child rearing, and had not hearkened unto the sayings that are written in the Book: "Train up a child. . . ."

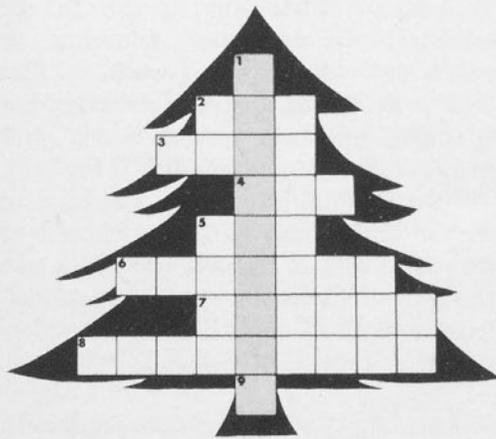


Our Family Altar



A Christmas Puzzle

Here is a Christmas puzzle for you to fill in the words and letters. The numbers below correspond to the numbers on the puzzle. All words go across, and they are all taken from the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel where he records the visit of the Wise Men to see Christ. If you have completed the puzzle correctly, the letters in the shaded squares will spell the name of the city where Jesus was born.



"Now when Jesus was (1) —orn... behold, there came wise (2) — — — from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? . . . When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem (3) — — — (4) — — — . And when he had gathered (5) — — — the chief (6) — — — and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where (7) — — — should be born. . . ."

"When [the wise men] had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over the place where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with (8) — — — great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child, with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and (9) —yrrh" (Matthew 2:1-11).

If you have solved the puzzle correctly, the word in the shaded squares will be: BETHLEHEM.

Monday, December 23

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

Learn: "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we...are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

For the Parent: Have the group tell the story of the visit of the Wise Men and how they followed the star many miles until they found the Christ-child. Then point out that seeking Christ in all parts of our lives should be of primary importance to each of us.

Question Time: What was Herod's reaction when he heard why the Wise Men came? (v. 3) What did the Wise Men do when they found Christ? (vv. 10, 11) Why didn't they return to King Herod?

Tuesday, December 24

Read: Galatians 3:26-29; 4:1-7

Learn: "When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son...to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4, 5).

For the Parent: The Christmas story is more than a story of a manger, of angels, of shepherds, of Wise Men. It is the story of God sending His Son, who came to die for our sins, that we might become members of the family of God. Because of this we are heirs of God, and God is our Father.

Question Time: What is included in the true Christmas story? (See above) What privileges are ours because we have been adopted into God's family?

Wednesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Read: Matthew 1:18-25

Learn: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

For the Parent: Review the Christmas story, emphasizing why Jesus came, v. 21. Have a "What I Am Giving to God This Christmas" time in your devotions where each person makes a fresh consecration to God.

Question Time: Why did Christ come to earth? (v. 21) What two names of Christ are mentioned and what do they mean?

Thursday, December 26

Read: Luke 2:25-40

Learn: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

For the Parent: (Additional material on "Simeon and Anna: The Pure in Heart" will be found on Sunday's Lesson page) Review the story of how Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, and of the adoration by Simeon and Anna. Point out the value and importance of following God and obeying His Spirit.

Question Time: What had the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon? (vv. 25, 26) How did he know when to come to the temple? (v. 27) What did he do when he found the Christ-child? (v. 28)

Friday, December 27

Read: Matthew 3 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

Learn: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

For the Parent: Review the ministry of John the Baptist. Then point out (1) how Jesus came to be baptized of John, v. 13; (2) John's comment, v. 14; (3) the reason why Jesus was baptized, v. 15; (4) God's declaration, v. 17. Jesus is the Son of God and has the right to rule our lives.

Question Time: What did John say to Jesus when Jesus requested baptism? (v. 14) Why did Jesus submit to John's baptism? (v. 15) What did God declare concerning Jesus at this time? (v. 17) How should we live so God will be with us?

Saturday, December 28

Read: Psalm 23 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

Learn: "We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3).

For the Parent: After reading this psalm, have the group repeat it from memory. Show how God cares for us, lovingly and tenderly, just as a shepherd cares for his sheep. We belong to God, and He will take care of us. Read also John 10:11, 14.

Question Time: What are some of the blessings that come to the Christian because the Lord is his shepherd? (Psalm 23) What has our "Good Shepherd" done for us? (John 10:11) What is true of the relationship between shepherd and sheep? (John 10:14)

The Bangalore School

Helps Shape Assemblies of God Future in East

Suppose that you are a young person in India with an above-average education, some of it taken in English. You feel the call of God on your life and you want to attend a school that is both spiritual and scholarly, a school that will enable you to take advantage of your knowledge of English in library research work, a school that maintains a spiritual, Pentecostal atmosphere. There is only one such school in Southern Asia. It is the Southern Asia Bible Institute in the city of Bangalore, India.

Sometimes called the *Central Bible Institute of the East*, S.A.B.I. is accredited for the transfer of credits to Union Biblical Seminary, Yeotmal, and is a member of the National Christian Council Board of Theological Schools. It is also a member of the Southern Asia Association of Theological Schools and is associated with the Evangelical Fellowship of India by virtue of the membership of sponsoring districts.

Upon writing to the registrar you receive a copy of the prospectus. Because of the support of Christians in America you find a scholarship available. After being accepted as a student you arrive in Bangalore and S.A.B.I. to find yourself in the midst of a cosmopolitan group of students who represent many parts of India and a few countries outside India.

A friendly warmth pervades the dormitories, and soon you feel at home under the care of "Mama" Snugg, the matron. Then you start to work. Four years later, after "mountains" of assignments backed by practical experience, you hear your name called for the cherished G.Th. (Graduate in Theology) diploma. Behind you are the friendships and fruitful hours of study; ahead, ministry in a land of need and opportunity. There is in your heart an awareness that God has graciously provided this opportunity for you through the interest of His people, and perhaps a sense that this glorious moment is being shared by others.

During your stay at S.A.B.I. you

By **CARL A. MALZ**, South India

have met, among other students, some who have transferred from vernacular schools for a year or so of Bible study in English. Member schools of the Southern Asia Association of Theological Schools are accredited for the transfer of credits to S.A.B.I. This is especially significant with the adoption of the new four-year G.Th. curriculum by S.A.B.I. This association of our Assemblies of God schools in India is co-ordinating efforts in the field of theological education. One of the results is standardization of curriculum; and another, transferability of credits.

Consider further the fact that in all five Assemblies of God vernacular Bible Schools in India, one or more members of the faculty are S.A.B.I. graduates. Another graduate is a faculty member of the staff of a large independent Pentecostal Bible School.

The Home Study Division of S.A.B.I. now has an enrollment of 3000.

Two S.A.B.I. graduates are on the staff of this school. One of the two, John Varghese, has just returned from Kerala, where he supervised the printing of the recently translated "Life of Christ" course into Malayalam.

Maynard Ketcham states concerning two graduates, Paul and Daniel Munshie, who are now doing an outstanding job in East Pakistan, "If S.A.B.I. had done nothing more than to train these two boys, it would have justified the investment made in it." But there are others who join the outstanding Munshie boys in the roll call of S.A.B.I. graduates. Other alumni are in the ministry, opening new churches or pastoring established works. The church at Poona, Marathi District, for example, has been pastored for over forty years by missionaries. However, Mervyn Swain, a S.A.B.I. graduate of a year and a half ago, was chosen as its pastor and is doing a fine work. In the Marathi District, the youngest district in South India, Brother Swain is joined by four other S.A.B.I. graduates.

Southern Asia Bible School where missionaries Carl Malz (Principal), Kenneth Weigel, Martha Kucera, the John Wrights and the Carl Hollemans labor together.



One of them, Brother Tribhwan, came to S.A.B.I. as a college graduate and a public school teacher. After his graduation he started his own work, combining public school teaching with pastoring. He has just been elected an officer of the Executive Committee of the Assemblies of God of South India.

Another graduate is serving as assistant to the registrar at Union Biblical Seminary, Yeotmal, while continuing in studies that will lead to his receiving the Bachelor of Divinity degree. This union school at Yeotmal is the outstanding fundamental seminary in the East, and it now has eight S.A.B.I. graduates in attendance for advanced work.

S.A.B.I. is co-educational. Consider the sacrifice of Dorothy James, who gave up her secretarial job in the Burmah Shell Oil Company, where she was making twelve rupees a day, to come to Bible School. Her classmates have honored her by electing her twice to the Student Council. Then there is Sister Arculli, a college undergraduate. Her husband is in Hong Kong, and she is preparing herself to be of greater help to him. Babukutty Mathew is exceptional—also a college undergraduate, she leads her class consistently in grades. These young people comprise part of the “new” India, an India that is struggling out of the past and building for the future.

The story of S.A.B.I. and its graduates continues on with chapters yet unwritten. You can help to write a bright future by:

1. Supporting a student, at a cost of only \$10.00 per month. (Support is needed for about twenty-five students.)

2. Sponsoring a Yeotmal U.B.S. scholarship for advanced studies, for \$15.00 a month. (Six S.A.B.I. students are at Yeotmal at present, taking advanced studies on scholarships; all need to have their scholarships underwritten.)

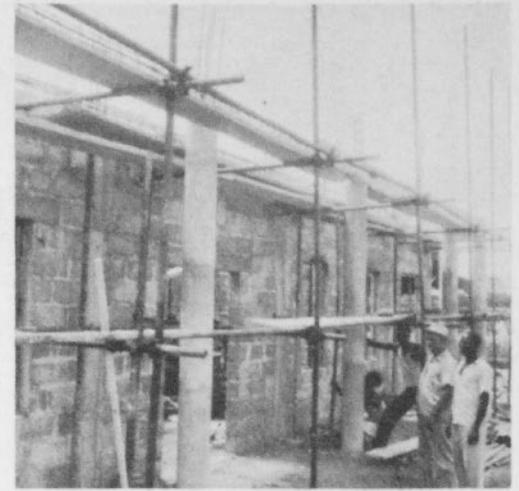
3. Donating books for the school library. (S.A.B.I. at present has the finest library of all the Pentecostal schools in the East, but more volumes are needed now for a developing research program.)

4. Giving to the building fund. (Building needs are urgent. A combined library and office addition is needed now! One thousand dollars will launch this program, that has been approved by the Board of Directors.)

Offerings may be sent to the Foreign Missions Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield, Mo., designated for “Southern Asia Bible Institute.” ◀ ◀



The widow who gave the dollar



The Printing Shop under construction

JUST A DOLLAR

By MRS. HAROLD S. JONES

Upper Volta, French West Africa

Many of us have said, “That didn’t cost much—just a dollar.”

But an American dollar means much more here in West Africa than it means in the United States. It represents 200 francs, and anyone who can earn 200 francs a day is really approaching the skilled labor class.

For a woman to have “just a dollar” means days of sacrifice and hours of careful planning. Therefore when Timbila gave 200 francs to the work of the Lord she was making a great sacrifice.

Timbila lives at Kaya, where there is no resident missionary. It has been hard for her since her husband, a minister, was called to be with Jesus. Ten years of living first with one son and then with another had not been easy. She wanted to continue working for Christ, but what could a widow do?

The Kaya Red Cross asked for a woman to care for three tiny orphans. Timbila volunteered for this task, realizing it would mean hard work and many a sleepless night. But for Jesus’ sake she decided she would raise these little ones for whom no one else cared.

She had heard of our struggle to build a gospel print shop. She wanted to help, and for many weeks she saved some money out of her meager allowance. Then one day, at the close of the service, Timbila stepped forward. She had a tiny baby tied to her back, and held another in her arms. She stood before the African pastor, Brother Joseph, and carefully drew a piece of paper money from the folds of her skirt.

Holding it out to Pastor Joseph, she

said, “This is all I have, but I want you to give it to Brother Jones to help towards the completion of the print shop.” It was 200 francs.

“Just a dollar,” you say. No! The sacrifice that it represents, the love behind it, the prayers that will follow—these all combined will multiply it 200 times 200. In the Saviour’s hand it will meet a great need. It will help to establish the first Full Gospel print shop in French West Africa.

At Christmas time many Americans are buying gifts and saying, “That doesn’t cost much—just a dollar.” But let us realize what a dollar can do in the Master’s hand. It can be multiplied like the widow’s oil in Elisha’s day. The many drops of ink it can buy, when used in gospel literature, may bring eternal life to millions.

PARCELS FOR INDIA

Our missionaries have advised us of a new ruling in regard to sending parcels to India. Any parcel valued above \$10.00 will be confiscated by the government unless an import license is secured by the missionary for it, and it is quite difficult to obtain these import licenses. Therefore, anyone sending parcels to India should make sure that the total value of each package is not over \$10.00.

Send Foreign Missionary offerings to

**NOEL PERKIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOREIGN MISSIONS
DEPARTMENT**

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

REVIVALTIME'S

FOURTH NETWORK

ANNIVERSARY

BY STANLEY MICHAEL

DECEMBER, 1957, IS ANOTHER MILESTONE in the expanding world-wide ministry of REVIVALTIME. For four years REVIVALTIME has been released each week over the ABC network and some 150 to 200 independent radio stations. This year has been the greatest yet for broadcasting the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we stand in retrospect, many highlights come to mind to make us very thankful for this radio ministry. A man from Brooklyn, New York, wrote: "As you made the altar call, I got down on my knees and rededicated my life to God." . . . From Kansas we received this report, "My husband was saved last week. Praise God." . . . In Glasgow, Scotland, a woman was healed instantly of an affliction of five years' standing when she raised her hand for healing during the broadcast. . . . In Arkansas, a husband stopped drinking. . . . Two ladies in British Guiana, South America, were saved. . . . A backslidden preacher in Oregon was reclaimed and healed. . . . A missionary in India was encouraged. . . . A man in Alaska was delivered from alcohol. . . . Homes were reunited in Wisconsin, California, Missouri and Texas. . . .

These are but a very few of the thousands of testimonies that have come this year as a result of the REVIVALTIME ministry. The results are wonderful. Souls are being saved at every broadcast. Only eternity will reveal the great numbers of people who have received special blessing from REVIVALTIME's ministry in song and word. Letters of testimony average from four hundred to six hundred every day. Our EVAN-

GEL friends will receive a great reward for standing behind this great ministry during the past year. Your prayers are being answered—people are getting the message and miracles are happening every week.

With the new year dawns a new challenge. REVIVALTIME is not yet heard in every part of the United States, nor is it heard in every other part of the English-speaking world. What will we do in 1958? The REVIVALTIME staff feels that this coming year may be a very important year in the light of history, and doors may soon be closing for the preaching of the gospel.

At present REVIVALTIME is being released from 335 radio stations. Approximately 1,600 Assemblies of God churches are now supporting the broadcast regularly. In 1958 REVIVALTIME hopes to increase its number of releases to 500, endeavoring to get complete coverage *so that all may hear*.

This challenge requires great faith and much co-operation. We will need your prayers and faithful support. REVIVALTIME would appreciate knowing whether you can hear the broadcast clearly in your community. If not, make it a matter of real prayer. Radio has a way of getting into homes which are not reached by the church, and can be of great influence and blessing to them. *You* can be of great help and blessing as you help forward the world-wide ministry of REVIVALTIME in 1958.

REVIVALTIME
BOX 70
SPRINGFIELD, MO.

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

Delivered From Sin and Sickness

This is my testimony of God's marvelous healing power in my body, with praise to Him for the grace He has shown to me. My nerves had collapsed, and I was sent to the hospital here. It was then I turned to God, and He saved me and healed me not only of my nervous condition but also of asthma. It is wonderful to breathe easily again.

The Lord Jesus also delivered me from a great fear that would sometimes sweep over me. While I was praying, a brightness shone around about me, and the power of the Lord went through my whole body; after that experience all my fears were gone. It has been three and a half years since I was delivered, and my healing still stands today. I give the Lord all the praise.—Mrs. J. E. Lawson, Hannibal, Mo.

(Endorsed by Pastor Glenn Renick, Hannibal, Mo.)

Two Stars

(Continued from page five)

We need a new dedication. The hour has come when we must stand up and be counted. Neutrality plays into the hands of evil. It must never be said that the dedication of the Hungarian people to freedom was greater than that of the church of Jesus Christ to righteousness.

I watched as literally thousands stood in line for three or four hours in order to march past the embalmed remains of Lenin and Stalin, and to seek to draw from this their pilgrimage what strength they might need for their journey.

In my mind I made my way back again to that little village outside Jerusalem, and climbed down the stairway of the Church of the Nativity to the crypt marking the place of our Saviour's birth. As I knelt there alone I felt afresh the presence of the Prince of Peace steal over my soul, and I heard again His reassuring words, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. . . . Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." And in the birth of Christ and the peace which He has wrought all men everywhere will find the answer to their seeking souls.



Your Questions

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

Why does the Bible say the shepherds found Jesus in the manger, while the wise men found him in a house?

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

* * *

Was there special significance in the kinds of gifts brought by the wise men—gold, frankincense, and myrrh?

It is possible that the wise men saw no special significance in the choice of their gifts, other than that they had brought what they believed to be suitable gifts for a king. God, however, may have seen in their gifts more than the wise men saw; for in Scripture gold stands for deity, and frankincense stands for that which is especially fragrant or acceptable to God, while myrrh is a symbol of suffering. What we give from our hearts to the Lord may have greater meaning and value than we realize.

* * *

Where did the wise men come from who went to Bethlehem to see Jesus?

Some believe they came from Babylon, and others say it was Media. Tradition tells us they were descendants of Abraham through Keturah, according to Adam Clarke and the *Cyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. See Genesis 25:1-4 and 1 Chronicles 1:32, 33. These writers advance the opinion that the sons of Keturah had been taught by Abraham concerning the promise in the covenant of God, which hope had been handed down by tradition. It is thought they were also informed concerning the prophecy of Balaam (Numbers 24:17). When they saw the star they believed it to be a sign that the great King of Israel had been born, and this caused them to go to Jerusalem to pay homage to Him. These writers also say their homes were probably in Arabia, or regions nearby.

Whether the wise men were from Babylon, Media, or Arabia is not im-

portant. The important thing is that they believed the prophecy and went in search of Him who was "born King of the Jews."

* * *

Does not Jeremiah 10:1-6 condemn putting up Christmas trees?

It is not my purpose either to commend or condemn the use of Christmas trees. I do wish to call attention to the fact that when Jeremiah wrote this there were no Christmas trees, since Jesus had not yet been born. Jeremiah was denouncing the idolatry which had been introduced into Israel. He showed that the idols, however much they were adorned, had no ability to speak or act. See also verses 10, 12, 13, 16.

* * *

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

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

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

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 (if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.)



Born of a Virgin

BY R. G. CHAMPION

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

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

Now compare the genealogy in Luke with the one in Matthew, and notice that some of the names recorded compare with those recorded in Matthew. But notice that Nathan appears as the son of David in Luke (instead of Solomon, as in Matthew). Further investigation reveals that Luke calls Joseph the son of Heli, while Matthew plainly says that Joseph was begotten of Jacob. Is this a contradiction in the Bible? No, for the explanation lies in the difference between the words, "begat," and "the son of." The first actually means "born of," while the second merely indicates a relationship. Sons-in-law in Hebrew records of genealogy are mentioned as sons. Therefore, the obvious conclusion is that Heli was the father-in-law of Joseph and the father of

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

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

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

Notice in the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 that Messiah was to be the son of a *virgin*. The Hebrew word here is "almah" meaning a maiden, and it is never used to refer to a married woman. Certainly this prophecy could be fulfilled in no other but Christ. Matthew quotes this passage from

Isaiah as referring to the birth of Christ (Matt. 1:23). So, if the doctrine of the virgin birth is untrue, the Bible is in error in this thing. If the Bible is in error here, how can we be sure that it is accurate in any other place—including the plan of salvation? The denial of the virgin birth is a most serious charge. There are several arguments which we should consider as ways of proving the virgin birth.

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

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

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



N. C. B. I.

NORTH CENTRAL BIBLE INSTITUTE

For twenty years two signs have marked the entrance of what originally was the Asbury Hospital at 910 Elliot Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The smaller of the two, cut in stone and worn with age, appropriately reads: "Not to be ministered unto but to minister." The second, a 16-foot neon sign, has proudly told passers-by that the building is now a school. Christened "North Central Bible Institute" in the fall of 1937, the school is now known as "North Central Bible College." The change was approved by the Board of Directors in its annual meeting last April in order to keep abreast of present-day terminology for post-high school work.

The basic reason for the change of name was for the purpose of listing the school in various governmental and other official publications. Similarly, the change appeared advantageous because foundations and industry, both a source for scholarships, more readily understand the term "college."

Regardless of the change in name, the school abides today by the conviction expressed in its first catalog:

North Central Bible Institute stands for "sound doctrine" as outlined in the fundamentals of the Assemblies of

God, and emphasizes the Scriptural experience of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit-filled life, and Spirit-empowered service.

"A school is the lengthened shadows of a man," so it is said. It is here that North Central has acquired a sense of permanence, for President Frank J. Lindquist has served the school in that office since the opening day of classes, October 6, 1930. Brother Lindquist has also figured largely in the progress of the school, and in the first issue of the school Annual, 1933,



F. J. Lindquist

he spoke prophetically of its growth: "I am sure the Institute will outgrow its present quarters in the Minneapolis Gospel Tabernacle. It makes us happy that 19 students will graduate this year."

Brother Lindquist was then (and still is) pastor of the Tabernacle. It was not long until the school had outgrown the accommodations of that building and moved to larger quarters—and President Lindquist has now signed diplomas for approximately 1300 graduates.

Two other members of the staff and faculty who have contributed to the

stability of the school are Ivan O. Miller, Executive Vice-president, and Herbert R. Snyder, Treasurer. Both have been with the school since its inception. Brother Miller has served the school in a variety of administrative positions, and thus has gained a wealth of background and know-how for his present supervisory position of Executive Vice-president. Brother Miller has also instructed regularly in the Department of Bible. In his position as Treasurer, Brother Snyder has given careful accounting of school receipts and expenditures. For several years he has also served as an Instructor in Missions.

T. J. Jones, through his summertime ministry as a camp meeting speaker, is probably as well known to the Assemblies of God constituency as any member of the staff. Brother Jones, Dean of the school since 1946, is responsible for the spiritual life of the college and is affectionately called the "school pastor." He is also responsible for most of the Old Testament classes.

To further provide that North Central will perpetuate the vision of its founders, the school has constantly sought to employ graduates for many of its instructional positions and administrative offices. Of the remaining eighteen full-time members of the staff and faculty, all but two have attended or graduated from North Central. Like their former instructors, these second-generation teachers are serving the Lord and their Alma Mater with constancy—there has been but one change in the faculty in the past seven years.

—by Marvin C. Nelson, Registrar

is full of proofs of His divine attributes.

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

At one time a critic stood before one of Turner's pictures in the artist's

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

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

Aim For Souls

Christian, make the most of your life. Go after souls. Go after them the best way you know, but go after them. Do not listen to those who warn that you will offend and drive away by your persistence. Go after souls. Go after them by public and private testimony. Go after them by service and by prayer. But go after them. Go after them with love and a burdened heart. Go after them by kind deeds. Go after them by song and praise. Go after them when they are bereaved and in sorrow. Go after them when they are especially favored of God and men. But go after them. This soul-winning life is your life—make the most of it.

—J. B. Chapman.



Fagots From the Torch of Evangelism

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

► **FARMINGTON, MO.**—Evangelist D. C. Ogden of Tulsa, Okla. conducted two weeks of meetings here in the month of September. The Lord met with the congregation in every service. Souls were saved and believers filled with the Holy Spirit, and the church as a whole was greatly blessed through the ministry of Brother Ogden.
—*J. W. Allen, Pastor*

► **McPHERSON, KANS.**—The first two weeks of October were memorable weeks for the First Assembly of God here. Evangelist Bob McCutchen of Austin, Tex. conducted an old-fashioned evangelistic campaign during that time. There were several healings. Although the weather took a change for the worse, the total attendance held steady. A number of new people visited the meetings and enjoyed the enthusiastic presentation of the gospel each night.
—*Raymond R. Chappell, Pastor*

► **KANSAS CITY, MO.**—The Blenheim Assembly of God was recently privileged to have evangelistic meetings with Evangelist and Mrs. Bill Sharp. The meetings continued for two weeks, and the church profited in all departments as a result. Night after night the crowds increased. Everyone enjoyed the Biblical paintings of Christ by Brother Sharp and the talented vocal artistry of Sister Sharp. One of the special features of the revival was the portrayal of "A Road of Life" drama, directed by the evangelist, in which the young people participated. One of the great high lights of the special services was a city-wide youth rally.
—*Milton Beckett, Pastor*

► **YUMA, ARIZ.**—The First Assembly here has enjoyed a good revival with Evangelist and Mrs. Glen Shinn. There were a number saved, and God's presence and blessing was very precious in each service. There were several outstanding healings. A young mother who was addicted to dope (and in her depressed condition had considered suicide) came for prayer and was saved and delivered from the dope habit. The Shinn's are fine Pentecostal evangelists.
—*O. W. Killingsworth, Pastor*

► **MANASSAS, VA.**—The Full Gospel Church here just closed a most glorious series of meetings with Evangelist and Mrs. J. E. Winstead of Winter Garden, Fla. Many of the members of the church had never seen a revival like this one. The anointed preaching and the power of the Holy Spirit moved the church forward for God. Many were refilled, filled, healed, saved, and delivered by the power of God. The church is still rejoicing in the spirit of revival.
—*H. V. Spruill, Pastor*

► **INDIANA, PA.**—Some time ago the church here enjoyed some great revival meetings with Evangelists John and Olive Kellner of Geneva, N.Y. Souls were saved and some received the baptism of the Holy Spirit during or immediately following the meeting. The Lord also graciously touched many who were sick. A goodly number of people from the Greek Orthodox Church visited during the revival. Several of these families now attend the meetings regularly in the church, and contribute greatly to the services through their sincere faith in the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

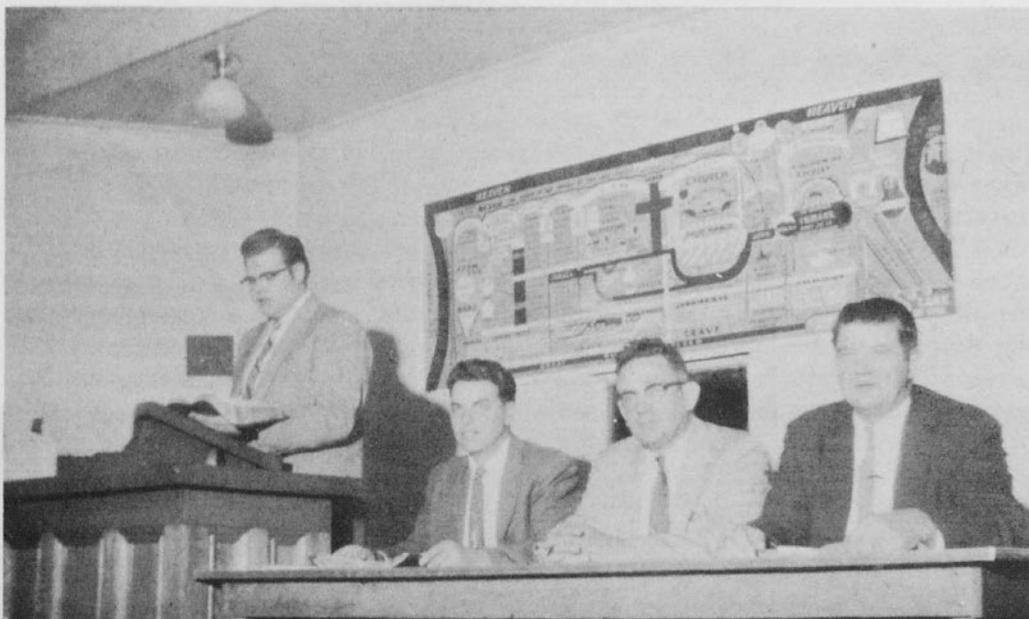
Many of the people who were saved are still attending the church and going on with the Lord faithfully. One family who had been away from the church most of their lives gave their hearts to Christ and were able to receive definite healings and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Many were healed of various diseases, such as deafness, a broken arch, detached retina, arthritis, and other aches and pains. One man had an injury, of about 15 years' standing, that affected his arm so that he could not raise it more than halfway. After he was prayed for he was able to raise his arm above his head normally. Sister Kellner exercised great patience with the people until their faith was able to reach out and grasp the things of God.
—*Richard J. Barriss, Pastor*

► **KNOXVILLE, TENN.**—The blessings of God were felt in a real way during recent services at the Island Home Assembly of God under the ministry of Evangelist and Mrs. Don George of Hobbs, N. Mex. Their anointed ministry will long be remembered. A number were saved, and the church was greatly blessed. The attendance was the best ever.
—*Roscoe Oxendine, Pastor*

► **MARYVILLE, ILL.**—The church here recently enjoyed two weeks of revival with Evangelist John Barton and his co-worker, Jim Green of Madison, Ill. Souls were saved and believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. There were also several healed of various afflictions. People from other denominations came seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The evangelists not only were used of God in preaching the gospel and singing, but were tireless workers around the altar with a burden for the revival, the church, and for souls. About 25 teen-agers consecrated their lives to the Lord, and 30 older members prayed and received a special anointing on their lives. On the closing night of the revival the evangelists took up pledges for a new organ, which the church will soon purchase.
—*George Ankarlo, Pastor*

► **CABINS, W. VA.**—The Assembly of God here recently experienced a blessed revival under the anointed ministry of Evangelist James A. Griep of Watertown, S. Dak. One especially beneficial service was an Open Forum. The people were invited a week in advance to send in any question they would like to have discussed. On the designated night, a panel of four ministers endeavored to answer the questions from the Word of God. The questions fell into three general categories: Doctrinal, Practical, and Holiness. Many outsiders were contacted for the first time, and many expressed their appreciation for this type of service.
—*David A. Lewis, Pastor*



The four ministers who participated in the Open Forum at the Assembly of God in Cabins W. Va. Left to right: David A. Lewis, pastor; James A. Griep, evangelist; W. C. Blewitt, former pastor of the church; and Ernest Nelson, evangelist.

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REVIVAL ACCOMPANIES DEDICATION OF CHURCH ANNEX

TACOMA, WASH.—On Monday, October 28, the Glad Tidings Assembly of God in Tacoma was host to a gathering of friends from the Tacoma Section as well as other sections of the Northwest District, for the dedication of a new annex to the church. This is the second addition to the church in three years, made necessary by increased attendance. The Sunday School average has increased from 86 in January 1953 to 174 for the year just closed on September 30, and the average for October was 187.

The new structure contains a choir loft, additional classrooms, a baptistry, and a prayer room. On the Sunday evening preceding the dedication, in special meetings with Evangelist Phil Eldred, four received

the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The following Sunday evening two more received the Baptism, and another one during the week.

We do thank the Lord for His blessings upon the church during the past five years. Many souls have been saved. In answer to our prayers for a "Day of Pentecost" outpouring this wonderful refreshing came at a most opportune time—in our new prayer room. Brother Eldred's ministry was of deep and permanent value to our church. —A. R. Mattson, Pastor

NEW ASSEMBLY BUILDS CHURCH

MARION, IND.—We thank God for the way He is helping us at the Westside Assembly. God sent A. W. Thomason to be our pastor at this pioneer church. After much prayer and searching, he found 3½ lots and bought them. Then he pitched a tent and held a two-week revival. On the fourth Sunday there were 35 for Sunday School, and all 35 stayed for the worship service which followed.

The footings for a church building were poured in August, and in less than three weeks the roof was being put on.

—By Mrs. William B. Price

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOME COMING at First Assembly in Marshall, Mo., Jan. 1. David Hastie, District Superintendent of Southern Missouri, speaker. All day services; dinner served by local church.—by Ward Popejoy, Pastor.

MINISTERS' INSTITUTE—Jan. 7-12 at Camrose, Alberta, Canada. Jan. 14-19 at Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Peter Jepsen, Seattle, Wash., speaker. (S. R. Tilton is Superintendent of Alberta, Canada.)

NEW ADDRESS

Eastern District Council Office, 19th and Chestnut Sts., Camp Hill, Pa.

WITH CHRIST

LORAN D. HOFFMAN, 81, Creswell, Oreg. went to be with the Lord October 17, 1957. Brother Creswell was ordained in 1929 and labored as a pastor and evangelist.

Tidings of Great Joy

(Continued from page three)

to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

TIDINGS OF HEALING

Have the power and blessing of the gospel passed away? Some seem to think so. But the good tidings are meant to remain. After His resurrection the Saviour said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." The good tidings which began at Bethlehem will continue to the close of the age. Its blessings overflow the soul and make provision for the body as well, for Christ promised, "These signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Multitudes have felt the healing touch of Christ in their bodies as they have in their souls. He is the Great Physician who gently encourages us to come to Him with the tender promise, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

TIDINGS OF THE BAPTISM

That the tidings of the gospel might go forth as they ought, and that men might know the wealth of communion with God, the promise of the gospel includes the baptism in the Holy Spirit, without which no Christian experience is complete. It was the Saviour who said, "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The disciples to whom these words were spoken were obedient to the commandment; and suddenly, as they were seated in worship, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

It is as much a part of the good tidings that we be filled with the Spirit as it is that we receive, through Christ, salvation from sin.

The writer's wife had heard of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and began to ask the Lord to bestow this upon her as a Christmas gift. She was at that time attending a church where the Pentecostal power was unknown.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Calif.	Biggs	A of G	Dec. 25—	Edwin Kramer	Ray C. Oliver
	San Bernardino	First	Dec. 29-Jan. 12	Watson Argue	L. H. Hauff
	Sunnyvale	First	Dec. 29—	Wendell Reed & wife	Ralph Hillegas
Fla.	Jacksonville	Calvary Temple	Dec. 29—	Christian Hild	Harold Schmitt
	Key Kest	First	Dec. 29—	Jimmie Mayo, Jr.	Wayne Pitts
Kans.	Sedan	A of G	Dec. 16-22	Zelma Argue	James Rowton
Nebr.	Norfolk	A of G	Dec. 29—	Ronald & Ida Snider	Nolan Christian
Ohio	Niles	A of G	Dec. 31-Jan. 12	Singing Segesmans	Carl E. Ladd
Okla.	Eufaula	* A of G	Dec. 29-Jan. 5	N. B. Rayburn	H. D. Stockton
Pa.	Lebanon	A of G	Dec. 31—	Jim Collins	Jack Ferguson
S. Dak.	Gregory	First	Dec. 31—	Gene Jackson & wife	W. H. Rudnik
Tex.	Barger	Keeler Heights	Dec. 31-Jan. 19	Ken & Patsy George	J. C. McCluskey
	DeKalb	First	Dec. 29—	Raymond Grimes	B. O. Smith

* 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.

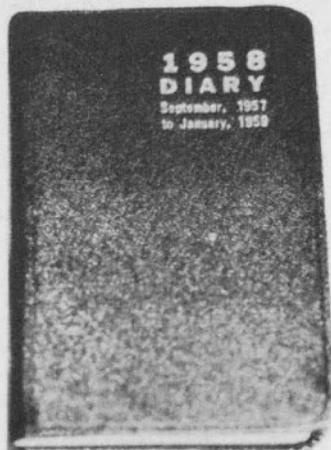
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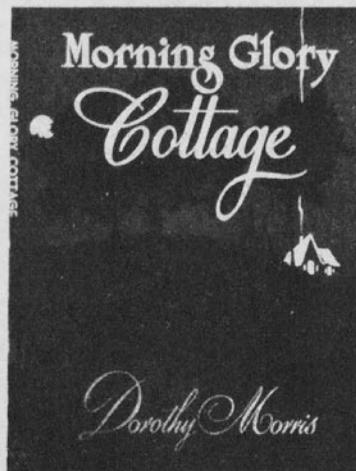
by Dorothy B. Morris

It was the cutest, most attractive little place you have ever laid eyes on! Irene thought so, as did Fern and Carol and Marguerite. There was no end of fun for all of them. Yes, that was Morning Glory Cottage.

But it wasn't only fun they had at the cottage; they learned many lessons there that were to help them all their lives.

Besides the good time they had, the girls learned from Virginia (just returned from the mission field) about the boys and girls of far-off India.

And it wasn't until the young ladies began sharing their happiness with this new member that they found out the greatest secret of all. Cloth bound, 72 pages.



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Christmas came, and with it a fellowship meeting at the house of worship. As she sat, the power of God fell upon her and she rose to her feet. The power lifted and she resumed her seat. The power came upon her again, and again she rose to her feet; and as she did so this time she became gloriously filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave her utterance. It was a new blessing to those who were assembled at this place, but it was not long until they began to seek this same glorious experience. In a short while more than a hundred had entered with her into this blessing from God. May the blessed Saviour fill the hearts of all of us with the Holy Spirit, for the promise is to "as many as the Lord our God shall call."

TIDINGS OF THE RAPTURE

We enjoy thinking of the beginning of the good tidings of the gospel and of some of the blessings which it bestows upon us, but we must not cease our meditation without looking for a moment to the consummation of the glorious news. We have not yet reached the climax. We as yet see only in part. That which we now enjoy is but the earnest of our inheritance. Our Saviour is coming again, the same Jesus who was born at Bethlehem, who was crucified at Calvary, and who returned to heaven from the Mount of Olives. Friends, we are going Home.

For this Homegoing we are now being prepared. The good tidings of the gospel are being applied to our hearts. We are being washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. God seeks to cleanse away every spot and erase every wrinkle. It will not be long until our Saviour will say, "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." If He should come suddenly, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God, would we all be ready to go? Will it not be wonderful to be "changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye"? Mortality shall then be swallowed up in life, and death shall be swallowed up in victory. The angels announced the Saviour's birth and they will be present when His redeeming work is finished. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Somehow I think the angels went back with Christ to heaven, went with Him into the presence of the Father, watched Him there as He made atonement for us by sprinkling

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the Mercy Seat; and I am sure they will be present when He comes again.

But the blessedness of the angels cannot be compared with that of the redeemed. Oh, what an inheritance is ours! When Jesus comes to consummate the blessings of the gospel He will give us our rewards. The faithful ones who have believed the message, who have taken Him as their Saviour and Lord, who have shed their tears as they have passed through life's dark valleys of sorrow, shall be gathered out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. We now little realize what a multitude there will be, but we shall realize then. May our hearts be true to the gospel and our faith be firm until the trumpet shall sound and the dark shadows of earth flee away in the dawning of the everlasting morning. ◀◀

When the King Took Off His Robes

(Continued from page four)

salvation and redemption from sin.

Then in the fullness of time that grand event took place—"God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

The coming of a king must be announced, and it was a flaming army of angels who swept through the Judean skies to herald the advent of the Messiah, saying He would be found wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Strange place for a King! Strange *clothes* for a King! But the shepherds went, and found that it was true. The Baby was there in Bethlehem with His virgin mother and her husband, Joseph.

The King had taken off His robes of glory for a while. He had hung them in some celestial hallway while He went to earth to accomplish the mightiest mission in history—the defeat of Satan and the deliverance of mankind from sin. He could not wear His robes while He crushed the serpent's head. He must do it as a Man—a God-Man. He must enter the world through a miracle we call the Incarnation, thus preserving Himself from the stain of sin, but still being completely

human. He must put on flesh that became tired and hungry, flesh that would one day sweat drops of blood under a Passover moon, flesh that would stumble and fall from sheer exhaustion on the way to Calvary.

And so there He lay in the manger—the blessed and only Potentate, who had taken off His robes of glory. He did it freely and gladly, because He loved sinners. Here is what the Holy Spirit said about it through Paul in the second chapter of Philippians: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." How low He stooped when He took off His royal robes no human mind can fathom. He said of Himself, "I am meek and lowly in heart." At the end of His ministry He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Before His death He washed His disciples' feet—that was the task

of a common household slave!

One of the most amazing statements Jesus uttered to His disciples was this: "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." He said on another occasion, "I am among you as he that serveth." How can we ever doubt that God loved us? This universe has never witnessed such condescension as that of God's Son when He took off His robes of Kingship and put on the garments of a servant that He might become our Saviour.

I know of no instance in secular history when a king disrobed himself to save a man who had broken the laws of his empire. But that's exactly what God's Son did. He saw a human race wallowing in iniquity, trampling every divine law under foot. But as He looked, He loved (John 3:16). And He kept on loving sinners until He could not stay in heaven any longer. Casting aside for a time His flaming robes of divine majesty, He stooped down to a manger in Bethlehem.

All of His life He was stooping. He bent over tormented, demon-possessed souls to free them from Satan's bond-

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January, Workers' Training Month, is in the immediate future! Are plans formulated for the workers' training course in your church? The Sunday School which builds for the future will train its workers: "Every Worker Trained" is the motto of all Assemblies of God churches.

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age. He stooped down to lift up the lame. He bent low to touch the fevered brow. He stooped under a heavy cross and tried to carry it to the place of His death until His physical strength gave way under the suffering. He allowed the soldiers to nail His hands and feet to the cruel timbers.

The royal robes were still hanging in their place in the glory world, awaiting His return, but for now He must leave them there while He entered into the awful combat against sin and death and hell and Satan and the grave. The Saviour must bow down until He was covered with the dirt and filth and slime of a hell-bound race. He must become sin, though He *knew* no sin, and His robes of majesty must not get stained with the stuff. As a Man He must groan and pray and sweat and bleed and die. He must become God's sacrificial Lamb so that He might take away the sin of the world. Instead of robes, He must wear the plain Galilean garment that identified Him with us, and then—for the pleasure of gambling soldiers—be stripped even of that.

But now the battle is over. The mission is accomplished. And Jesus is victor! He dies, but He rises again! He walks back out through the dark gates of death with the keys in His hand, shouting, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Redemption is now available to every human soul who will repent and believe the good news. He has offered the one offering that will atone for every sin. And His resurrection proves that God has accepted the Sacrifice. It proves that He is all He claimed to be—the Son of God, the promised Redeemer.

And now that it is all over, He must return to His Father's right hand. On a memorable day He ascended into heaven while His disciples watched. And if you will read the twenty-fourth Psalm you will see a brief but thrilling picture of what happened when the Son of God came back to heaven: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."

What a victory march attended Christ's ascension into the presence of His Father and the angels! What a

glorious day when the King put His robes on again! But they are not quite the same, for they are now stained crimson with the blood of His sacrifice. He will not allow even the angels to forget the price of redemption. When He comes again the Jewish remnant will ask, "What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" (Zechariah 13:6). His robes forever bear the crimson hue of the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness.

Wondrous story! How sad that this gospel of Incarnate Deity has become so commercialized, so hidden by tinsel and gifts and Santa Clauses and parades and candy canes. How shall we celebrate Christmas this year? With selfishness and carnality? No, let us think again of the King who took off His robes that He might plunge into the pit where we were imprisoned by the devil. Let us praise God anew that it was not in vain. For His death meant our salvation. By taking off His robes for a time at Bethlehem, He made it possible for you and me to wear the robes of righteousness. ◀ ◀

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Born in Bethlehem

BY OSWALD J. SMITH

NEARLY TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO THERE WAS BORN, in Bethlehem of Judea, a Babe whose life was destined to affect countless millions. That Babe was Jesus Christ.

The time was ripe for His birth. Roman roads had been built throughout the civilized world in preparation for the feet of His future messengers. The Greek language had become almost universal in readiness for the proclamation of His gospel.

The people among whom He was born were poor and despised, having been conquered by the Roman power. In the heart of every man was a cry for deliverance.

The world knew not of His birth. Work went on as usual. There was no tremendous upheaval announcing a new order. Kings and potentates continued to rule as before. Only heaven appeared to be interested. In fact, God had to arrange a welcome Himself; and so legions of angels circled the skies and heralded His birth. Wise men from the East, studying the stars, and observing an unusual phenomenon in the heavens, came with their gifts from afar. Shepherds bowed in adoration and worship.

Rulers learned of His birth and became fearful and afraid. Anger filled their hearts. Murder was conceived and executed. Fearful of losing their power, they sought His death by every possible means. Every diabolical plan that satanic ingenuity could devise was used to destroy Him. Demons trembled. Satan became enraged. All hell was allied against Him. But God was watching, and the child lived in spite of all.

He did not come to a palace with marble halls and carpeted stairs. No luxurious bedchamber was prepared for His birth. Neither nurses nor doctors were in attendance. Cathedral bells failed to toll; bands were silent; no royal choruses burst forth in song. Only the music of heaven was heard. For He came to a stable, and He was laid in a manger. His mother had only the straw for a



—Courtesy Standard Publishing Foundation

bed, and animals were her companions. There was no room in the inn.

Little did Caesar know that this Babe, through His teachings, would one day destroy his mighty Empire, bring to naught the majesty and power of Rome, and overthrow all earthly governments—or that the day would come when His birth, His life, and His death would have a greater influence on humanity than the birth and death of any other man. For He was destined to be recognized by countless millions as the greatest of all the prophets, the mightiest of all the mighty, the Saviour of the world, God incarnate.

And now for nearly two thousand years His birth has been commemorated, for He is worshiped by countless millions. More than nineteen hundred Christmas days have come and gone since that never-to-be-forgotten night when “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” And today, after the passing of more than nineteen hundred years, He is worshiped by countless millions; and untold multitudes are looking forward to the time when He will reappear “without sin unto salvation.”

My friend, do you worship Him as your Saviour? Will you welcome Him when He returns? Have you accepted Him? If not, do it, and do it NOW.

