

Herald of Holiness

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

December 10, 1952

“God Was in Christ”

General Superintendent Benner

WE LIVE in a day of “high pressure” promotion, and this technique has invaded the field of religion. It is interesting to speculate on the probable developments if human promotional interests had determined the situation when Jesus came. Doubtless there would have been wide publicity, influential sponsors, a reception committee, a palatial setting, and all would have been accompanied by “pomp and circumstance.”

But Jesus Christ came with none of these. In fact, from the human standpoint, everything seemed unfavorable. The prophecies concerning Him were misunderstood. His place of birth was a stable and His first cradle a manger. In the announcement of His birth the angel-messenger passed over all who “rated” and gave His message of glory to frightened shepherds. The king in the palace plotted His death.

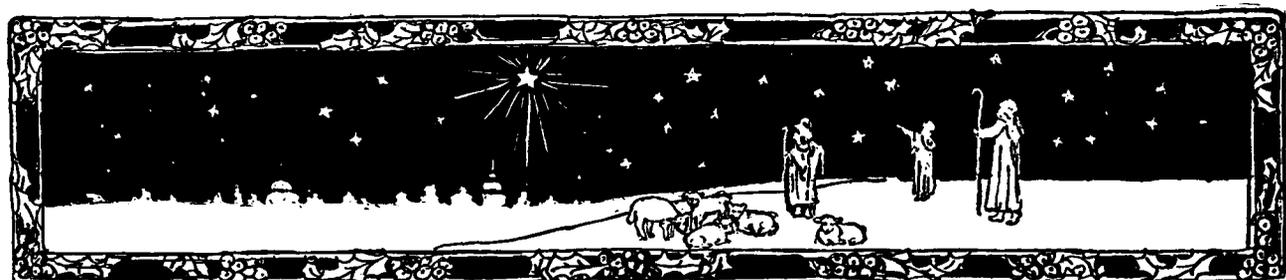
Furthermore, in His ministry Jesus deliberately turned away from human and material aids. He never received official approval. Apparently He never owned anything, and left behind nothing tangible. Even the ma-

jour places connected with His work remain uncertain as to location.

Depending wholly on things spiritual, Jesus Christ came, ministered, and established a Kingdom that has driven its way around the world. It has crossed all boundaries of languages, nations, races, and colors. He needed no “high pressure” human promotion. His was a divinely supernatural movement, for “*God was in Christ.*”

In this fact is the strength of the Church. Our call is to a spiritual vision and message. “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, . . . and *hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*” We may or may not have human talent and material equipment, but we must have spiritual reality and spiritual power.

And in personal experience, I can trust God’s ways for me. Strange and unfathomable as they may seem from the human viewpoint, in God’s good time a star will shine, an angel voice will reassure, and heavenly choristers will sing their “Gloria in Excelsis” to my soul.



TELEGRAMS

Nampa, Idaho—Fifty-thousand mortgage-reduction campaign becoming mortgage-liquidation campaign; \$57,000.00 subscribed by little more than half our zone; \$15,000.00 of it in cash. Early reports indicate Thanksgiving offering up despite mortgage campaign. Northwest Zone enthusiastically for Northwest Nazarene College. Under God our best days are ahead.—**B. V. SEALS**, *Chairman of Board of Regents, Northwest Nazarene College.*

Lakeland, Florida—Organized Ortega Church in Jacksonville; purchased church building for \$7,500.00; Rev. T. J. Giddens appointed pastor. Organized North Miami last Sunday; four lots purchased for future church home; Rev. F. D. Cline appointed pastor. Home-mission fields are white unto harvest. Florida District accepts the challenge, pastors and people co-operating.—**JOHN L. KNIGHT**, *superintendent of Florida District.*

Lucille Taylor, hospital, operated, broken arm. Prayers requested.—**IRA TAYLOR**, *Peru.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dr. and Mrs. H. Orton Wiley of Pasadena, California, send this word of thanks: "We would like to express our appreciation to our friends, at Pasadena College, in California, and all over the country, for their many letters and telegrams of greeting on our golden wedding anniversary. It would be an impossible task to answer all of these personally, and we do want to say 'thanks' to one and all for your many kindnesses, which are appreciated from the depths of our hearts."

Rev. J. E. Stephenson writes that, after four years of evangelistic work, he is re-entering the pastoral field, and is now serving First Church in Kannapolis, North Carolina. If you have friends in that area you'd like to have him contact for the church, write him at 3235 Leota Drive, Charlotte 6, North Carolina.

Word has been received from Red Deer, Alberta, Canada: "God graciously blessed the ministry of Evangelist Bernie Smith in Red Deer. Attendance outstanding; Christians praying; new contacts made; almost unanimous response in college student body. Closing day veritable Pentecost; nearly 150 adults at altar. Pastor MacDonald and church greatly encouraged."



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**You Promote the GOSPEL
When You Promote the HERALD**

These churches, according to the district campaign managers' reports, made or exceeded the quota of 60 per cent of the church's membership:

OVER THE TOP!

Church	Percentage
Richmond Hill, New York	130
Paterson, New Jersey	85
Newman Grove, Nebraska	63
Omaha, Nebraska, South	63
Dresden, Ohio	97
Fredericktown, Ohio	67
Fremont, Ohio	97
Oatsville, Indiana	57
Odon, Indiana	106
Patrickburg, Indiana	60
Merrill, Wisconsin	73
Milwaukee, Wisconsin,	
Hampton Avenue	76
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	
McConnell	95
El Reno, Oklahoma	89
Helena, Montana	340
Landar, Wyoming	59
Missoula, Montana	69
Laramie, Wyoming	63
Iowa City, Iowa	61
Leon, Iowa	86
Columbus, Ohio, Parsons Ave.	79
Galena, Ohio	265
Loudonville, Ohio	69
Gallipolis, Ohio	400
Moorehead, Ohio	107
Princeton, Indiana	66
Necedah, Wisconsin	63
Nashua, Montana	129
Seagraves, Texas	85
Owego, New York	63
Norma and Pleasant View,	
North Dakota	88
Point Rock, Ohio	100
Valentine, Nebraska	115
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa	62
Waukesha, Wisconsin	72
Rutland, Ohio	74
Jackson, Ohio	146
Sunnyside, Kansas	70
Waverly, New York	83
Larimore, North Dakota	76
Milton, Iowa	60
Muskogee, Oklahoma,	
Memorial	117
Cincinnati, Ohio, Friendly	100
Hamilton, Ohio, Millville Ave.	79
Indian Lake, Ohio	69
Logan, Ohio	63
Obetz, Ohio	111

THAINE F. SANFORD

Sales Manager

The First Christmas Carols

By Fletcher Spruce*

MATTHEW relates the disappointments of the first Christmas. Joseph was disappointed to find that his bride was with child. Joseph and Mary were disappointed to learn that they must flee to Egypt to save the Child's life. Herod was disappointed that the wise men mocked him. Many parents were disappointed when Herod signed the death sentence for Bethlehem's children.

But Luke sings the carols of the first Christmas! No sooner have we passed through the vestibule of this Gospel than we find ourselves within a circle of harmonies. Let us open our Bibles to Luke's account of the Christmas story, not to analyze, but to sing!

I

The whole canticle of the song of Elisabeth (Luke 1:42-45) is one mighty salutation to Mary and to her coming Child. Elisabeth's Christmas carol hails the Virgin as one hails the morning star, not so much for its own light as for its promise of the greater light to come. "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. . . . mother of my Lord." This is Elisabeth's ode to the Virgin, a salute of the Christ who is to be. Her musical beatitude is the first prelude to the unceasing anthems which are to follow.

II

Mary's Christmas carol, the "Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-55), is poetry of a higher order. But it is more! Elisabeth's loftiest reach is Mary's starting point. Mary's is a sweeter song than Miriam's or Hannah's because the Subject is more sublimely real. This has been called the "swan song of Hebraism," for it seems to couple the past with the future in a mighty present-tense event of the Babe who is born. The song of Mary is a song of rejoicing and exultation, not only for Mary, but for all women of all ages. Wherever the gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached womanhood has been lifted. Mary's is a song about mercy, strength, plenty, and goodness. Yet she is humble in her hour of honor. Not even David sang so sweetly!

III

The Christmas carol Zacharias sang (Luke 1:68-80) tells how God through Christ will redeem His people by lifting up a horn of salvation in the house of David. This time-honored

"Benedictus" shows us how we can be saved and delivered out of the hands of our enemies, so that we might serve God "without fear, in holiness and righteousness" all the days of our lives! The old priest also sings of the Dayspring from on high that has visited us, bringing light to those who sit in darkness (even the shadow of death), and guidance for our feet into the ways of peace. His is a song of a salvation higher and broader and deeper than anything known before, reaching to the profound depths of the human soul and sounding its heavenly jubilee there in the remission of sins and the deliverance from sin!

IV

But the song of Simeon (Luke 2:28-35) seems to be more of a prepared carol than the previous three. He knew whom he sought and his song was ready, so he sang it from a higher Pisgah and with pointed meaning. Here was salvation and he was willing and ready to die in peace. This Light for the Gentiles made him forget boundaries and prejudices. His was a world picture of a world Redeemer! Simeon dedicated the last verse of his Christmas carol to Mary: "This child is destined for the downfall as well as for the rise of many a one in Israel; destined to be a Sign for man's attack—to bring out the

secret aims of many a heart. And your own soul will be pierced by a spear" (Moffatt). And who will deny that He is the Child of destiny? The overtones of the other carolings suggested as much, but Simeon says so flatly. The Christ of Christmas was Israel's destiny, for all her history hinged here. The Child was the destiny for all civilizations, for all progress: material, social, political, economic, educational, and religious. And this Child marks the destiny of every man's soul. His grace is also the secret aim of many a heart! Truly He is the Sign by which the forces of righteousness attack and batter down the gates of hell, which cannot prevail! And of course, at His death, His mother felt as though a sword had pierced her own soul.

V

The angelic chorus (Luke 2:13-14) was heaven's response to earth's serenade. It was the way the angels had of throwing roses to the singers of these first Christmas carols.

*Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
Good will toward men.*



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*Pastor, First Church, Texarkana, Texas

Christmas as I Have Observed It

By George Frame*



MY ASSIGNED title has two equally relevant meanings. It could mean as I have seen other people observe it or as I have personally celebrated it. As my editor is unable to impose upon me his hierarchical interpretation, through being 5,000 miles away from me, I am going to indulge in some personal reminiscences of Christmas.

My earliest recollection associates Christmas with disappointment and disillusionment on the one hand, and love and sacrifice on the other. When I was ten years of age we lived in historic Warwick in England. Adversity had struck my home and prosperity had changed into poverty. On Christmas Eve after my younger brother and two sisters were

in bed my mother took me to the market place to do her pathetic Christmas shopping. At one of the toy stalls she turned to me and said, "George, I've only got enough money to buy a small toy each for Jack and Mamie and Gladys. You won't mind doing without, now that you know that there is no Father Christmas."

I gulped and swallowed hard. The mechanical engine looked more attractive than ever. I had to fight hard to hold back the tears that flooded to my eyes. But when I looked up and saw the tears glistening in her eyes and felt her hand grip mine more tightly I managed with some equanimity to blurt out, "Yes, Mother, let them have their toys; I'll do without."

The thoughtlessness of childhood thought only in terms of personal sacrifice. But in the light that has come with the understanding of the years those humble toys have become the symbols of a mother's love that was fighting for our welfare and happiness with an abandon that led her to an early grave.

Shortly after this our brief sojourn in England ended and we returned to our native Scotland. The next nine Christmases were spent in the typical Scottish fashion. There was no holiday, no Christmas Eve, and no Christmas dinner. All our festivities were reserved for the New Year. A Christmas morning service was unknown, but the watch-night service on New Year's Eve was a revered institution. Commercialization and oth-

er factors have served to brighten the Scottish Christmas since those days. The priority of New Year is in no wise endangered and visitors are impressed with the austerity of the Scot's way of celebrating Christmas, when compared to those countries where more religious significance is attached to it.

The facetious may explain away this austerity by associating it with the Scot's legendary trail of meanness. The real explanation lies in the radicalism of the Scottish nature, that in the Reformation swept away everything that was associated with Roman Catholicism, including religious festivals.

My second pastorate brought me back to the smaller of the two Nazarene churches in England at that time. I like the warmth and color of an English Christmas. There is a friendly, homey touch in the long preparations, including the making of the Christmas cake, plum puddings, and mince pies, and the family reunion for the Christmas dinner. There still echoes in my memory the bands playing in the hour that welcomed in Christmas, such tunes as "Hail, Smiling Morn" and "Christians, Awake," and the voices of carol singers singing "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night," and many others that are intimately associated with the birth of our Lord. I am afraid, however, that, outside of a small minority, joviality and feasting sums up an English Christmas.

I observe Christmas now although I still remain very much a Scot. Heaven recognized it and brought the shepherds and the wise men into its celebration. My love for my beloved Lord fastens on its history to remind me of His incarnation, that I might learn to love Him more.

First and foremost it is to me a love feast—a time of adoration and worship. A more recent Christmas was spent on one of the great Atlantic liners crossing to New York. There was a sumptuous and traditional Christmas dinner, a group who went around the ship interspersing their carol singing with drinking, a meaningless and ritualistic Christmas service, and high revelry. I spent that Christmas night alone upon the deck, strangely detached from the world of bright lights, music and dancing, gambling and drinking that was below me.

The loneliness of the silence and the darkness of the night, the immensities of the sky and ocean reminded me that the Christ child was none other than Immanuel (God with us), who left the friendliness of heaven to bear the loneliness of the stable, of Gethsemane, of the judgment hall, of Calvary, and of the tomb to redeem me. The stars seemed to speak to me as they had spoken to the wise men, challenging me to follow to the

(Continued on page 11)

*Superintendent, British Isles District

What of the Night?

By R. B. Oliver*

WATCHMAN, what of the night? . . . What are the portents from thy trammelled ramparts? What of the light on the hills? . . . What of the anthems in the lonely shepherds' camp? . . . What of the star, shining in the land of the wise men of the East? . . . Watchman, what of the night? . . . The portentous night?

Israel, what of the night? . . . Israel, what of the promise? . . . When doth Shiloh come? . . . For four centuries thy prophets have been silenced! . . . The serpent is loose in the world! Where is the "seed of the woman" that shall bruise his head? . . . Hath the love of God run out? . . . Israel, what of the promise? . . . Israel, what of the night? . . . The dark night!

Shepherds, what of the night? . . . Shepherds, what of the Lamb? . . . Hast thou yet found a lamb without blemish that can make an enduring sacrifice? . . . Where is the sacrificial Lamb that can take away the sin of the world? . . . Where is the Lamb of God? . . . Shepherds, what of the Lamb? . . . Shepherds, what of the night? . . . The long-hoped-for night?

Prophet, what of the night? . . . Prophet, what of the prophecy? . . . Where is the promised King? . . . Where is the great Light that shall be seen beyond Jordan? . . . The people sit in darkness! . . . Where is the virgin that shall conceive and bring forth a son? . . . When shall the Babe be born? . . . Prophet, what of the Babe? . . . Prophet, what of the prophecy? . . . Prophet, what of the night? . . . The long night!

Caesar, what of the night? . . . Caesar, what of the tax? . . . Hath thy coffers been emptied? . . . Doth thy bread threaten to fail thee, in far-off Rome, that thou must require every man and woman to be enrolled and taxed? . . . Or is it so that a certain devout man and his espoused wife, a virgin heavy with child, of Nazareth, will be in Bethlehem, this night? . . . Caesar, what of the tax? . . . Caesar, what of the night? . . . This night!

Innkeeper, what of the night? . . . Innkeeper, what of the inn? . . . Hast thou a royal suite in reserve? . . . "No room!" . . . No room for guests of the royal lineage of David, and parents-to-be of the King of Kings? . . . "No room!" . . . No room for a woman heavy with child, with labor already upon her? . . . "No room!" . . . But, Innkeeper, canst thou not see that her delivery is at hand, as she leans heavily upon the comforting arm of her

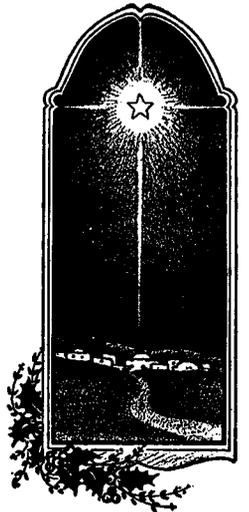
husband? . . . Ah! But thou dost hesitate, Innkeeper! . . . Thou returnest to thy quarters—there is hope for lodgment, after all? . . . But, Innkeeper! . . . Thou bringest a lantern instead of news of a room! . . . What! To the stable? . . . Not so fast, Innkeeper! Seest not thou that the woman walks only with great difficulty? . . . A manger for a bed, Innkeeper? Fresh straw for linen? . . . Only the kine in attendance in her travail? . . . The light of thy lantern is dim, Innkeeper! . . . It doth not reveal thy guests! . . . It doth not shine into the manger! Innkeeper, what of the manger? . . . Innkeeper, what of the night? . . . The historical night!

Wise Men, what of the night? . . . Wise Men, what of the star? . . . What of the star in the west that will go before thee until it stands over a house in Bethlehem. Wise Men, what of the omen? . . . Who told thee of these things to be? . . . From whence cometh thy wisdom? . . . Wise Men, what of the star? . . . Wise Men, what of the newborn King? . . . Wise Men, what of the night? . . . This eventful night?

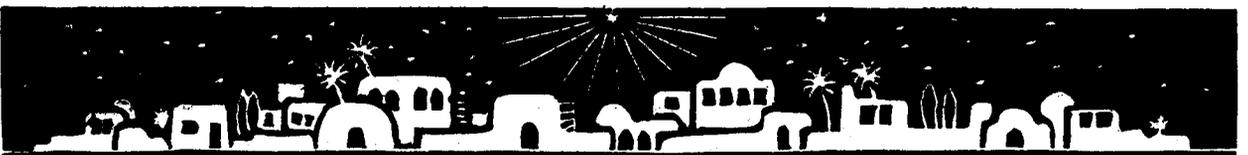
Mary, what of the night? . . . Mary, what of the Babe? . . . What of the prophecy? . . . What of Israel, and the world, and the promised Messiah? . . . What of Gabriel's visitation? . . . Mary, what of the secret thou hast carried in thine heart? . . . What of the singing angels? . . . What of their "good tidings of great joy"? . . . What of their "Glory to God in the highest," ringing in the Judean hills? . . . What of the hurrying shepherds? . . . What of the wise men, coming from afar to worship, with precious gifts? . . . Mary, what of the Babe? . . . Mary, what of the night? . . . The joyous night!

Reader, what of the night? . . . Reader, what of the Babe? . . . Has He been born in thy heart? . . . Hast thou crowned Him King? . . . Dost He rule thy heart and life with His scepter of love? . . . Reader, what of the Babe? . . . Reader, what of the night? . . . The long, dark eternal night!

Conceit is a putrefying virus that will ultimately destroy one's influence.—HENRY T. BEYER.



*Tucson, Arizona



My Christmas Candle

By Harold Kline*

When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness (Job 29:3).

STANDING on the desk before me is a small Santa Claus candle. My friends think it strange that I should have a Christmas candle on display so long before Christmas, but, actually, it has been there since last Christmas.

I received this candle as a gift at the annual Christmas banquet at Canadian Nazarene College. With the candle was a small Christmas card, which read: "To lighten your office work, from the 'Chief.'" I stood by the table for a few moments and wondered who the "Chief" could be. From the corner came a familiar, hearty chuckle. I turned, and there stood the "Chief" with his wife. He shook my hand, wished me a very merry Christmas, and told me to enjoy my vacation. Little did I realize that would be the last time I would talk to him. He passed away on Christmas Day.

As I look at my candle each day, many happy memories come to mind of my associations with him.

I remember him for his love of life. We traveled many thousands of miles together on deputation work for the college. You cannot do this kind of work without getting to know what a person is really like. He knew how to get the most out of life, and to relate each happy incident would fill a book. As we covered the miles, he would tell us of his hunting and fishing episodes, and these stories and his famous birdcalls have given many young people a greater appreciation of God's outdoors. He loved a practical joke, and knew how to create one. He arose a few hours earlier one morning to brush a dust mop under my chin and growl like a cougar when we were in the cougar country of British Columbia. Referring to himself as the "Chief" is a good illustration of his good nature.

I remembered him for his love for young people and Christian education. He had a way of winning the hearts of young people. In our weekly prayer meetings, on numerous occasions, without much singing or preaching, young peo-

ple would rise and make their way to the altar when he gave his testimony. If a rebellious young fellow could not get along with anyone on the campus, a talk with the "Chief" would melt the fellow's heart. Many of the students felt free to talk over their problems with him, and his fatherly counseling always made the problem so much smaller. He dictated hundreds of letters to me, and through them all I caught a glimpse of his burden and desire for young people and the college. How well do I remember the times he stopped while dictating a letter and called upon God for guidance!

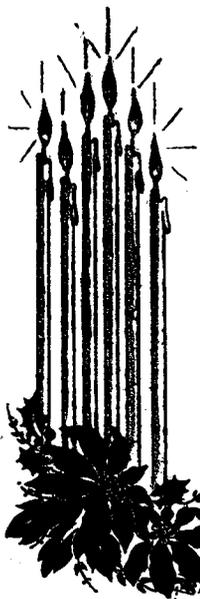
Most of all, I remember him for his love for God. He lived his religion. When he prayed, I knew that he knew God in a very intimate way. Although he loved a good time, there was depth and dignity in his living, and the sincerity with which he gave his testimony left no doubt as to the reality of a living Saviour. He served God well, and wanted others to know the peace he felt within his own heart. Each night before our college service, we gathered before the altar of the church for prayer, and not only did he pray for the success of the service, but for the pastor and people of the church. Whenever he was in a community he felt that he was personally responsible for each and every person. He prayed for the entire community, and talked to people he didn't know. I should like to change the wording of St. Matthew 5:16 to read: "He let his light so shine before men, that they saw his good works, and glorified his Father which is in heaven."

The "Chief" gave me a candle to "lighten" my office work, but it has also helped "lighten" my pathway from day to day. He let the light of his life shine, and a spark from his light has kindled within me a desire to be at my best for the Master. My Christmas candle is a reminder of Christ's birthday, He who came to bring us light. The "Chief" is an example of what Christ can do with a man who is entirely consecrated to Him. The "Chief" let his light shine so men could see Christ in him, and I, too, want that my light shall become a lamp post on the dark road of life, so lost men may find Him who is the Light of the world.

My Christmas candle looks like a very simple, insignificant piece of wax; but to me it is a monument to the memory of the "Chief" of the saints, Dr. E. E. Martin.

*Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Our "alabaster" boxes of love and tenderness should be emptied upon our friends. We need to fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear and their hearts be thrilled.



The First Christmas Service

By R. Newman Raycroft*

THE ACCOUNT of the first Christmas service is found in the Gospel of Christ according to St. Luke 2:8-15. We could count ourselves honored if we had shared the seats of those shepherds on the Judean hillside that night, and saw what they saw and heard what they heard. Let us reverently journey back in our thoughts and imagination and attend that wonderful service. Notice four things in connection with it, namely, *the setting, the speaker, the sermon, and the sequence.*

THE SETTING

The sun had set, the dark shadows of night had gathered, and much of the troubled world had been kissed into restful slumber. It was, however, not only night on those Judean hills, but it was a dark, dismal night in the world's history. Men's faith and hope had gone down like the setting of the sun. The purest religion of that time was the religion of the Jews, and it had degenerated into a lifeless thing which brought no peace to the hearts of men. Rome had bound the world with the shackles of oppression. Her eagles had spread their black wings over the world and, like a strangling octopus with slimy tentacles, was sucking the heart's blood out of the nations. Yes, it was an awful night of sorrow and suffering in the world, but suddenly the bells of God's eternal purposes started ringing and the time had come for the first Christmas service! "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid."

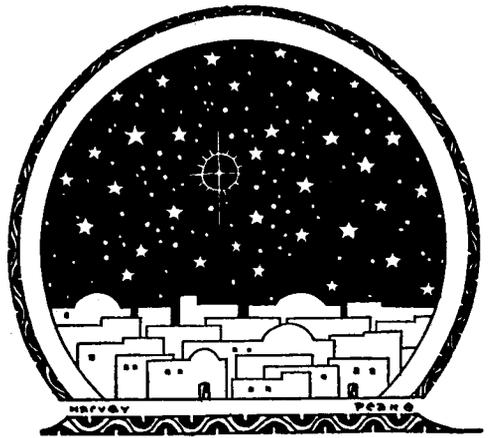
THE SPEAKER

An angel was the speaker that night. Regardless of what high and holy tasks this angel may have performed before that night or since (he may have had a part in sending whirling worlds into existence and hanging the earth upon nothing), I am convinced that he never had a more exalted privilege or mission than this one of preaching the first Christmas sermon. If you are a preacher, regardless of your problems or income, lift up your head and praise God because you are in a wonderful succession. The first Christmas and Christian sermon was preached by an angel. Someone has said: "God had only one Son and He made a Preacher out of Him." Another prominent person once said to his son, "If God has called you to preach the gospel, never stoop to be a king."

THE SERMON

Of course we want to know about the sermon, for it was worth while and it was preached by one from the land where knowledge is free from ignorance. This preacher was schooled in the Seminary of Eternity and took his theology at the foot of the throne. Therefore, he would not allow

*Evangelist, Goshen, Indiana



the essential truths of the gospel to be buried under the debris of notions and nonessentials. His message was, and is, God's eternal truth. Listen to his first words, "Fear not." So the gospel is not a thing of dread and horror. It is not hard to understand where this angel got his message, for these same words were used many times by the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry. He still comes with such words when the storms of life are raging. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." Glad tidings—good news—that's what the gospel is. News of salvation, which means deliverance from sin and preservation from future punishment!

Lord Tennyson once met an old Christian lady and asked, "Lady, what's the news?" She replied, "The only news I know worth telling is that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. That's good news and it's true news; it's old news and it's new news."

The news we receive in this world is not all good news. Life will never be the same again for the mother and father who received a telegram that their boy was killed in action in Korea. Every word of that wire was like a thief robbing them of the very treasure of their life. When we receive a long-distance telephone call we are not sure what kind of news it is bringing us; often it is bad news. Then, there is news that is good news for some while bad news for others. V-J Day was good news for us, but bad news for the Japanese. But the angel's sermon was good news for everyone—rich or poor, learned or unlearned. "Good tidings of great joy, which shall be to *all* people." Now what is this news that is good for everybody? Just this: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." That was wonderful news for everyone.

THE SEQUENCE

The sermon was ended and the choir rose and sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The music hushed, the light faded, and darkness reigned again on the Judean hills. What was the result of the ser-

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CHRIST OR HEROD?

By Mel-Thomas Rothwell*

THE LIGHTS of Christmas come on. What cheer they bring as they flame against the somber backdrop of war and human misery!

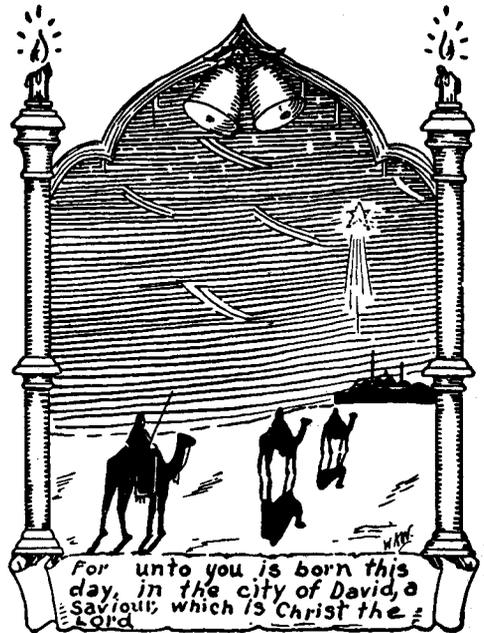
We, with our children, might ask, "Why can't it be Christmas all the time?" Clearly, the buying, giving, and effort as intense as it is at Christmas could not go on endlessly, but could not the spirit of Christmas continue? Why must this brief moment of joy, so long anticipated, end in a day and the world then return to its enmity and bad faith? The child's query, "Why can't it be Christmas all the time?" therefore sets forth one of the most fundamental concepts of the day.

Frankly, Christmas cannot continue. Not only because of the work and outlay involved, but owing to the very nature of the situation created. An old medical aphorism declares that "opposites are destroyed by opposites." Christmas brings together two non-merging opposites, virtue and vanity, the hemispheres of light and darkness, fidelity and falsehood, and holiness and hypocrisy. A spectral, fleeting relationship ensues at Christmas; but after a brief meeting the enmity flares again, and the union, which was only superficial, is broken.

According to Matthew, the wise men from the East sought the Christ child to worship Him, saying, "For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." These bona fide worshipers, philosophers, and astrologers, like the Jews, had been waiting the Consolation of Israel. When His star appeared they proceeded to Bethlehem to do homage to the King. The word worship here signifies humble obeisance. It was executed by crouching or fawning, prostration at the feet of the worshiped, and it was a movement of the body expressing deepest respect and reverence. In this act of worshiping, the worshiper kneels and puts his head between his knees, his forehead at the same time touching the ground. The humility of the King being born in the stable finds in the worship of the magi its close human parallel. "This shall be a sign unto you," is the divine approbation.

Herod, the earthly king, also expressed a desire to worship the newborn Christ. He instructed the wise men to "go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also" (Matt. 2:8). What exquisite hypocrisy! This is not humility prostrating itself at the feet of the Redeemer, but pride seeking its own. The motive was murder. There where the magi knelt are humility, sincerity, and fidelity; but where Herod would worship are pride, falsehood, and bad faith.

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We can learn a lesson from the two types of worshipers, the magi and King Herod. It is a lesson we must learn, for it is the only hope of lasting recovery for the world. The world wants peace and unity, but at the same time it wants sin. It wants Christ, but it wants Herod too. Man must choose between these two irreconcilable opposites; he cannot be perfectly indifferent between two objects which are forever incompatible. He is inclined to despise and hate that which he does not love supremely.

The artificial relationship experienced at Christmas between the worlds of Christ and Herod must become one in nature if lasting unity and peace are to be achieved. The worshiper must speak as the magi, not as Herod, and darkness and pride must yield to light and humility. The false, the hypocritical must dissolve in the pure flame of fidelity; then it can be "Christmas all the time."

The Babe of Bethlehem has become to man the Way, the Truth, and the Light. Beneath darkening skies, in the gloom of human failure and despair, there shines a steady light. If a weary, distraught world would see His star in the East and follow it to the stable of unconditional surrender, and there prostrate itself at His feet in true humility, peace, personal and world-wide, could come to earth.

O Christ of Bethlehem, of Calvary, of Bethany, of the open tomb, we greet Thee this Christmas. Help us this significant day to worship Thee as the magi, in humility and deepest reverence.

An exceeding rare product is a man who can think. The readiness of the crowd to conform to a passing notion, no matter how foolish, makes one wonder sometimes how progress ever has come about.—*Selected.*



Worshipping the King

By A. M. Quick

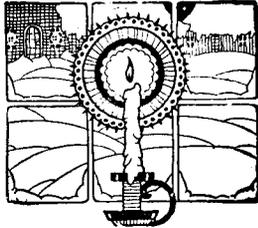
How Like Our Day!

By Grace Noll Crowell

How like our day was that far Christmas Day
 For Joseph and his Mary—even then
 The times were strangely troubled, and the way
 Was often rough and difficult for men.
 The tax was heavy as our tax is now,
 Their obligations promptly must be met,
 And men must leave their workshop or their
 plow,
 For not one farthing owed dare they forget.
 But man-made rules and man-made laws grow
 dim
 Before the great event of that far hour.
 His star is in the heavens, and to Him
 The whole wide world will bow, and through
 His power
 All men at last will come acknowledging
 The Christ as their just Maker, Lord, and King.

Christmas Means—

By Ovella S. Shafer



What does Christmas mean
 to me?
 Jesus . . . His nativity;
 Angel voices from the
 sky;
 Anthems . . . glory . . .
 halos high;
 Shepherds, wise men kneeling low;
 Homage only Christ could know.
 What does Christmas mean to me?
 Programs . . . plans . . . activity;
 Carol singers blending notes;
 Crackling hearth-fires—snow-capped coats;
 Mistletoe and holly bright;
 Greeting cards to cheer—delight.
 What does Christmas mean to me?
 Renewing family amity;
 Kringles, filled-full cooky jars;
 Christmas trees and gilded stars;
 Lefse, ludefisk, and rush;
 Names to draw and "Do not crush."
 What does Christmas mean to me?
 Jesus . . . His humility;
 Manger-born, our Saviour-God;
 Cross-crucified, He gave His blood
 To save a bleeding world of strife.
 He comes with peace—eternal life!
 This is what Christmas means to me!!

Have you traveled with the wise men
 From the ancient distant lands?
 Have you sought the King of Glory,
 Bearing treasure in your hands?
 Gold of value, gold of homage,
 Frankincense of reverent praise,
 Myrrh of fellowship in suffering
 Through life's consecrated days?
 Come and worship with the lowly,
 Meekly kneeling at His feet;
 Here the tides are deeply flowing,
 Tides of blessing, full and sweet.
 Still the guiding star is shining
 O'er the Christians' meeting place;
 Still the glory of Jehovah
 Is revealed in Jesus' face!

O Shepherds, Watch Tonight!

By L. M. Hearn

I see the flocks on Galilean hills
 Astir in restless, strange expectancy;
 The shepherds' hearts are touched by hushed
 thrills
 Of some unknown, mysterious thing to be.
 There is a growing glow of light above—
 A light like none that ever shone before;
 And then a glorious glimpse of God's great love,
 As singing angels fly through heaven's door!
 The song those angels sang shall never die;
 The light of Sharon's Star shall never fade.
 But where, tonight, do shepherds search the sky
 For faith to face the future unafraid?
 Blest Lord of Christmas, give us still Thy light,
 And let us humbly watch for Thee tonight!

Christmas Bells

(Tune: "Jingle Bells")

By Carrie E. Griswold

Christmas bells, Christmas bells,
 Oh, how sweet they chime!
 What a joy it is to hear
 Them ring at Christmas time!
 Christmas bells, Christmas bells,
 Hear them gladly ring!
 Hail the morn, Christ is born,
 Born our Saviour King!



Heralding Christ's Birth

By Fred S. Shepard

*A peaceful scene, calm and serene,
With shepherds watching near;
A sudden light illumines the night;
Their hearts are filled with fear.*

*A herald bright, to calm their fright,
Proclaims the Saviour's birth
While heaven rang, as angels sang
Of "peace, good will on earth!"*

*The Holy One, God's only Son,
Has left His throne above,
That He might show and men might know
The Father's wondrous love.*

*Exalt His name, with glad acclaim,
That peoples all may learn
How great their need—for mercy plead,
And to the Saviour turn!*

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

By Hazel C. Lee*

I HAVE a lovely ivory carving of St. George and the Dragon in my living room; it is perfect in detail and I never tire of looking at it. The flow of the cape, the rearing head of the doomed dragon, the intent expression of the rider, the spear piercing the dragon's mouth, the frightened shying of the horse, all express vivid action. Here is the thought of a legend caught and held in ivory.

The beautiful details of the life of Christ are carved into the pages of the Bible for as long as time shall last. But none other is so appealing as the story of Christmas with all its tenderness and simplicity. Not carved in ivory, but out of the heart of God, is that tender moment when He bent low and placed His only Son into the arms of a virgin. Included in this magnificent gesture were the unfamiliar limitations of humanity His Son must endure: rejection by His people, the starkness of Calvary, the fresh beauty of Easter, and the wonder of the Ascension.

The supreme giving of a Supreme Being is beyond our finite comprehension; but let us pause and look at this incomparable moment in new adoration. Its framing is exquisite with the singing angels and worshipping shepherds, shining star and swiftly moving wise men, the gentle Mary and her protecting husband, the rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Prophecy, long sealed in yellow parchment, shook off the dust of centuries and became alive on that starry night. Perhaps David, Isaiah, Micah, and others were allowed a glimpse of Him whom they had seen so far off. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: . . ."—to Isaiah and to me. Isaiah called Him, "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting

Father, The Prince of Peace." And now I may humbly add, "Lord."

My ivory carving may get broken or stolen or lost. But this divine moment, when God's love emerged from His great heart, is ours forever. We call it *Christmas!*

Then Jesus Came!

By J. C. Wallace*

MANY MEN have entered the pages of time, left their mark on the lives of men, and departed, to be called indispensable to their generation. But Father Time has draped his tattered garments across their memory and drawn from the minds of men the last vestige of their presence.

Down across the span of years from Genesis to Matthew, there is a blood-sprinkled pathway that came to focus one day in the city of Bethlehem. There, while a restless world was wrapped in fitful slumber, a manger that was created to contain hay for the cattle became a cradle to contain the Divinity of Heaven; and a stable that was built to shelter the sheep became a place to be occupied by an eternal King.

While Mother Earth was sprinkled with heavenly dew and wrapped in quiet darkness, an angel of deliverance came from yon celestial clime, stood by the rough board manger, and with scepter upraised, waited to carry to faithful shepherds in the Judean hills the message of hope: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

But even as the angel left the manger to go to the shepherds, a great host of the heavenly chorus left the star-studded choir loft and came marching triumphantly down across the Milky Way to file into place above the treetops and join glad voices in the chorus: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The world may lose sight of Caesar, of Napoleon, and of Shakespeare—they may be only names on the pages of history. But the name of Jesus will everlastingly vibrate and pulsate, resound and re-echo across the pathway of man's daily life, transforming his shadows into the dawning of a new day. Great men have appeared upon the stage of life to make their meager contribution and exit once again to take their place among the memories of the past. But Jesus came into the world in a most unusual manner, lived a most unusual life, died a most unusual death, then went to take His place at the right hand of the Father, there to make intercession for me forever.

The chief motive of life today seems to be to extract from the world something which will enrich the individual. The chief aim of Jesus while

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on earth was to bestow upon the world something from His own life—something that would enrich the receiver rather than the giver. He was rich, yet He became poor that we through His poverty might become rich. His earthly life was a thing of beauty; yet He was willing that it should end in deepest shame that we through His shame might be delivered from the shame of our sins.

The angel said, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Pilate said, "Behold your King!" But Jesus himself said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

Christmas as I Have Observed It

(Continued from page 4)

ends of the earth if need be, that I might lay at His feet the trophies of His grace in me and through me, the only gifts worthy of His greatness and His love. My soul was called to worship Him, my spirit to adore Him. I bowed in nothingness before Him, and my being cried out for the help of the angelic hosts to lead me in my praise of Him.

The First Christmas Service

(Continued from page 7)

mon? What was the response of the listeners? The hour of decision for the audience had arrived. They had heard the message; what would they do with it? Would the light which they received lead them to greater light or would they, by neglect, allow it to become darkness? What did they do? They said, "Let us now go . . . and see." In other words, let us put the gospel to the test; let us seek the Saviour. And what happened? They found Jesus, and that was better than hearing angels sing or preach. In finding Him, hearsay was transformed into experience.

My friend, have you found Jesus as your living, vital, personal Saviour? If not, my prayer is that you, like the Judean shepherds, will seek the Saviour and find the Christ of Christmas this year as your very own. Then you can go forth into the new year, and the days that lie ahead, with an experience that will bring righteousness, peace, and joy to your own life, daily, and enable you to shed light to others who sit in darkness.

FAITH:

A little girl in Sunday school was asked, "What is faith?" and she said, "Believing what God says without asking any questions."—*Selected.*

CHRISTMAS:

The Promise of Permanent Peace

By John W. May*

THESE WERE the words on a billboard that attracted my attention as I drove into a shopping center some time ago. I have since wondered about the truth and pertinence of the saying. *What is the meaning of Christmas?*

To some it means nothing more than the giving and receiving of gifts, liquor drinking, feasting, and no spiritual application whatsoever. I have long been astonished and disappointed at hearing the strains of a beautiful Christmas song emanating from a saloon. It is not surprising that many children are more familiar with popular Christmas myths and tales than the birth of Jesus. In some manner Christ has become dissociated from Christmas. A psychology professor asked forty students to write the word "Christmas," then write the next word that came to their minds. Not one wrote the word "Christ."

Is Christmas a time of joy? This is as it should be. There can be no genuine "Merry Christmas" without putting Christ into Christmas and into life.

Is it a time of thanksgiving? It is estimated that twenty-two million people in this country are disabled or have chronic diseases. Have we thought to manifest a spirit of thankfulness for what we *have* in the way of health and this world's goods?

Is it a time of worship? This was the picture of the first Christmas. The shepherds went with haste to worship and returned glorifying and praising God. Is it a testimony against us that so few Protestant churches have worship services or open the church for worship at Christmas?

In what sense can Christmas become the promise of permanent peace? It cannot mean a political peace before the second advent of Christ. It does not promise an end of wars before that time. It does not promise an immediate financial or economic peace.

It *does* promise the peace of God in the soul, the privilege of having God dominate and bless the life. It *does* promise the millennium and eternal peace. It *does* promise that on the merits of Him who graced the first Christmas we may live a peaceful, well-balanced, happy life. We may be at peace spiritually as concerns our relationship with God, socially as concerns our relationship with our fellow men, and mentally and psychologically as concerns our own personality.

Our privilege is to bare the troubled breast before the Christ of Christmas for the application of the healing balm. Thus Christmas is the promise of permanent peace!

*Pastor, Marmet, West Virginia

ASA BELIEVES!

"Asa, did you find the inn?"

"Yes, Sarah, but there are no rooms."

"What can we do? We must stay long enough to be enrolled, since Caesar Augustus has so decreed."

"I finally decided to take the only stall that was left at the inn," replied Asa.

"How can we stay over night in a stall? We are not animals," Sarah remonstrated. "Besides, it will be filthy and full of unsavory odors." However, tired with the journey and worried with the waiting, Sarah was persuaded to accept their only hope of shelter, and returned with her husband to the inn.

The small city of Bethlehem was overcrowded on that significant occasion. Asa and Sarah were descendants of David and must be counted in their own city, that is, the city of their forefathers. So they had come from Cana of Galilee to Bethlehem to be enrolled.

The inn, a quadrangular court having a well in the center, and with rooms around the sides for travelers and stalls for cattle, was crowded to the limit that night. All of the rooms were filled with transients, and some of the stalls were housing cattle, while several were occupied by people who could find no other place to stay.

Asa and Sarah were along in years but, after they had accommodated themselves as best they could, they went out into the court to meet and mingle with the people gathered there. They became acquainted with another couple who had arrived late and, like themselves, were forced to lodge in a stall. It was more difficult for them to put up in such uncouth quarters, for the wife was expecting her first-born. Nevertheless, it was take the stall or else spend the night out in the open; and this they could not think of doing under the circumstances.

Soon after Asa and Sarah had left the court and gone into their stall for the night, they heard a voice at the door. It was a call from the husband of their newly made friends, who were not only in a stall, but in the one next to them on the left.

"My wife is in labor, Sarah. Will you come and help her?" he urged.

"Indeed, I'll come and do what I can." And Sarah went to the assistance of the midwife whom they had hurriedly secured.

Asa waited alone in his stall during most of the hours of the night—interested, of course, in what was happening, but not especially excited—for to him it was just the birth of another baby. In fact, the same might be said of Sarah, except that no woman can quite isolate herself from the birth of a baby to the same extent that a man can.

At last the first-born Son of Mary had arrived and was lying in the manger. Sarah was thrilled, as every true woman is at the birth of a baby, but she was not yet aware of anything unusual about Him who had just been wrapped in swaddling clothes. So far, that memorable night, she had neither seen nor heard anything which had

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especially stirred her curiosity. Even the coming of the shepherds made but little impression on Sarah. Although their coming did seem unusual, and they looked on the Baby with marked awe, they had little to say to those in the room during their short stay.

When the shepherds left the stall where the Baby lay in the manger, they began at once to tell the wonderful story. Then "they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." Their first stop was with Asa, and the leader of the shepherds said: "While we watched our flock by night, suddenly the glory of the Lord made it light all about us, and an angel appeared and comforted us with these words: 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' Then a multitude of heavenly beings joined the angels in singing, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' So we decided to go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves what it was that the messenger from the Lord had told us about.

"We started out as quickly as we could, and soon found ourselves with Mary and Joseph and the Babe. Our hearts were filled with joy, for we knew that the Messiah of God had come. Shout aloud with us, Asa, for surely you must believe what I have told you."

"But, my friend," said Asa, "do you really believe that the One who has been promised for so many years, the Hope of Israel, has been born? How could He who is to be a King be born in a manger in a lowly stall?"

"Ah, Asa, if you could have seen what we saw and heard what we heard, you could no longer doubt. Think of all this—the angel, the shining glory of the Lord, the angel's words about the Saviour which is Christ the Lord, the news as to where and in what condition we would find the Babe, and the singing of the heavenly host. Could anyone have all of this thrust upon him and not believe?"

As the shepherds left the stall, Asa followed them with this thoughtfully spoken sentence: "I'll study our prophecies again; it may be that He is the Christ who was to come."

Back at home in Cana of Galilee some days later, Asa asked his wife this question: "When you were with Mary in the stall, while we were in Bethlehem, did she tell you that her newborn Baby was to be the Messiah? Did she say or do anything which would make you think that she thought the Child was to grow up to be an unusual Person?"

"Asa," Sarah said, "nothing from her lips in-

Stephen S. White

icated anything of that kind. I do remember now, however, that there was a strange gleam in her eyes—especially while the shepherds were there. I paid but little attention to this mysterious look in her eyes then, but maybe it meant more than I thought. Anyway, why do you ask me about this now?”

“Don’t you recall, Sarah, the story I told you as we came back from Bethlehem, how the shepherds visited me just after they came from the side of the manger? I was there alone, and they spoke very freely to me. Surely you remember that—the story of what had moved them to come to Bethlehem and hunt for the Baby.”

“Yes, all the strange things you told me about the words of the shepherds are still with me; but what of it?”

“My reason is just this, Sarah: since coming home I have been reading again the prophecies given to us in the book of our fathers, and I am convinced, at least for the present, that what the shepherds said was true. The tale which they brought to me was not mere fancy. It had to do with the fulfillment of what had been prophesied. Listen, Sarah, to this passage from Micah 5:2: ‘But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.’ It was to Bethlehem that the shepherds were directed by the angel. This passage, as well as others, fits into the account that they gave. Besides my reading in the Scriptures, there is something within which in some strange way moves me to accept what the shepherds said. The God of our fathers calls on me to believe that this Child will grow up to be the Saviour and Messiah.”

“Asa, my husband, this Messiah is to be an earthly Ruler. When He grows up and leads an army against the Romans, our oppressors, and defeats them and makes Jerusalem the capital of the world, then, and not until then, will I believe that He is our Saviour and Messiah. Let Him save Israel and restore the kingdom of David, our father, and then I’ll know that He is what the shepherds claim that He is.”

“Sarah, I can’t understand you. Still, I must remember that you did not hear the story of the shepherds as I did, even though you were in the stall where Jesus was born and saw the shepherds when they came to find the Baby. In order to find out more about this, Sarah, let’s go to Nazareth and talk with Mary and Joseph. Perhaps they can give us some light about the Baby. I would like to find out from Mary herself what she thinks about her newborn Child.”

“I’ll go, but I don’t believe she can convince me that He is our Saviour and Messiah. She can’t tell us now what He is going to do when He be-

comes of age. How can she know now that the tiny Baby when grown will lead a revolt against Caesar and restore again the kingdom of Israel? Even though I do not feel it will do any good, I’m ready to go at once and see Joseph and Mary.”

After a slow and tiresome journey, Asa and Sarah found themselves in Nazareth. It took some time for them to locate their friends, Joseph and Mary, but finally they did. Immediately they began to question them and learned that the story of the shepherds was only a part of the many strange events which had happened in connection with the birth of their Child. Mary told them many things she had not revealed to anyone, except to Joseph. She had pondered them in her heart, and decided that her Boy was no ordinary Child. She could not help but believe that He was to be the Messiah and Saviour, because of what she had seen and heard from without and felt within.

The account given by Mary and Joseph brought to Asa and Sarah much that they had not yet heard. Here are Mary’s words: “In the sixth month after my cousin Elisabeth, the wife of Zacharias, had conceived him who was to be John the Baptist, the angel Gabriel came to me here in Nazareth and said: ‘Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.’ When all this happened, I was very much frightened, but the good angel spoke again with these words: ‘Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.’”

Sarah broke in at this point and said to Asa: “See, I told you that He would set up the throne of David again, and I can’t believe that He is our Saviour and King until I see Him do this.”

But Asa, impatient with his wife’s interruption, said, “Be quiet, Sarah, let’s hear the rest of Mary’s story.”

Then Mary continued to tell them of the visit of the angel Gabriel—how she inquired of him how she could become a mother without ever having known a man, and the angel’s answer that the Child would be conceived in her by the Holy Ghost, that God would really be His Father. Then she was reminded by Gabriel of the miracle God had performed for Zacharias and Elisabeth in giving to them a child, in spite of the latter’s long barrenness and age. In conclusion, Mary humbly told them of her final words to the angel: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.”

“Then I visited my cousin, Elisabeth,” Mary said, as she went on with her account, “and she—filled with the Holy Ghost—shouted to me, ‘Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’”

And immediately after this I began to shout the praises of God because of the mercy and favor which He had bestowed upon me and because of His mighty power and greatness [Luke 1:46-55]. After staying three months with Elisabeth, I went back home, and in about six months Joseph and I journeyed to Bethlehem to be enrolled."

But Asa was also eager to know if Joseph had had any unusual experiences in connection with the birth of Jesus, and so he asked him to speak.

"After Mary and I were engaged and before we had come together," Joseph answered, "I found that she was with child. I loved Mary very much and, therefore, I decided that, although I must put her away, I would do it privately and not make a public example of her. But before I had time to do this, an angel appeared to me and said: 'Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from

their sins.' As a result of this message from the God of our fathers, I took Mary to be my wife."

Soon Asa and Sarah bade farewell to Joseph and Mary and started their homeward journey. As they went along, Asa broke the silence:

"Sarah, don't you believe now that this Jesus is to be our Saviour and King? You heard the story of the shepherds as I gave it to you, and also now the accounts of Mary and Joseph. They all tell us that this Baby is the One who has been prophesied for centuries—you surely cannot continue to doubt."

"Asa, I wish I could believe as you do, but I cannot," Sarah answered. "I must wait until He delivers Israel—this is the one thing that the Messiah and Saviour means to me."

"I can't understand you and your unbelief, Sarah. I believe, and there is in my heart this very moment a strange and wonderful joy, something which I have never felt before. I know that our Messiah and Saviour has been born!"

(To be continued)

Home Missions and Evangelism

Roy J. Smee, Secretary

Our Evangelists And Home Missions

A NUMBER of our evangelists are among the most enthusiastic home-missions boosters we have. Sometimes it is not easy for them to give of their time in home-mission campaigns, but they do it anyway and it would be difficult for us to get along without them.

Evangelist N. M. Israelson is one of our outstanding home-mission evangelists. In the past year and a half he has been instrumental in organizing five new churches. He recently wrote to us: "It was a pleasure to get in touch with the pastors of all five churches on my way across the country. East Liberty, Ohio, had a rally with 265 in Sunday school. Pastor Don Freese is doing a fine work there. Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, is averaging 110 per Sunday and Cadiz, Ohio, is likewise doing a splendid work. Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, has had a good revival and Brother Airhart, their able pastor, is doing a good job. The newest of all five churches is Bowness, Alberta. Pastor Tom Gillespie reported 65 in Sunday school and was worried because more were coming. The average attendance for the five churches is more than 500 per Sunday and their total giving amounts to nearly \$500.00 per week. It was a pleasure to make a tour of western Canada in the interest of home missions. Dr. Edward Lawlor is an able

leader. I like home-mission work. It is hard work, but pays blessed dividends."

We have a letter from Dr. L. T. Wells, superintendent of the Kentucky District, about another evangelist: "Rev. C. C. Burton is one of our fine evangelists here on the Kentucky District. His ministry has been a bit different in that he has organized 121 Nazarene churches during his thirty years as an evangelist. I call that 'stringing the fish.' Brother Burton has held revivals in forty states in the Union, has traveled nearly a million miles, and has seen more than fifty thousand people bow at his altars. He has held these meetings in churches, brush arbors, halls, school buildings, courthouses, and gospel tents. He is a man with a rugged message; yet he is sane, has good judgment, and is in demand today probably more than at any time in his life."

"We believe with Dr. Bresee, the founder of our church, that 'we are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure that we have received it.' The growth of the Church of the Nazarene is largely the result of its evangelistic missionary program. There was an earnest desire on the part of our early Nazarenes to evangelize and to organize churches. Possessed with this intense desire, our evangelists conducted revival meetings in schoolhouses, brush arbors, and tents—all of these with

an aim to get people saved and sanctified and organized into churches, where they could continue to propagate the blessed doctrine and experience of entire sanctification, for which our church came into existence. Many of our now strong congregations are the outgrowth of such effort on the part of our evangelists.

"The age in which we live is a crashing challenge to holiness evangelism. A radio evangelist said that a lady was standing in front of a store window in which the Bethlehem manger scene was portrayed. As she gazed at it, she said, 'It looks like even the church is trying to "horn in" on Christmas.' Millions of people in America do not attend church. There are thousands of foreign-born people in America who need Christ. If we do not evangelize them, they will paganize America.

"The evangelist for a home-mission campaign must be a good, wise, sensible, and Spirit-filled preacher of the Word. He must have a clear understanding of sin and its defiling, degrading, and damning effect upon the hearts of men. He must have an unquestioned faith in Christ's ability to save completely. Unless he is careful and wise in his presentation of our church and its message, he will prejudice the people against the church and message he is endeavoring to sell to the community. He will need to be a man of faith and of an optimistic spirit.

"We have the field; we have the evangelists. With proper support, many new churches can be established. May God enable us to meet the challenge and perform the task."

—from a paper by EVANGELIST FRED W. FETTERS.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Remiss Rehfeldt, Secretary

Thank You

We wish to thank our many, many friends who remembered Mrs. Beals in prayer during her recent illness and serious operation, and those who sent "get well" cards and messages. Your prayers have been wonderfully answered. Thank God! Our address is 310 E. Clarendon, Gladstone, Oregon.—REV. AND MRS. PRESCOTT L. BEALS, *India*.

Visit in Lisbon

The Portuguese Airways flight from London arrived on schedule at 4:30 p.m. on November 2. Dr. Powers and I were comfortably entertained in Lisbon's Hotel Aviz.

What a pleasure it was to meet Rev. and Mrs. Armand Doll and Miss Lorraine Schultz, who have been in language study for approximately one year preparing for missionary work in Portuguese East Africa! They have been busily engaged, however, in gospel work as well as language study. Opportunities for preaching and singing have been numerous. They are anxiously waiting for permits to enter Portuguese East Africa.

Contacts with Dr. Tucker, forty years a missionary in (Portuguese) Angola, were heartening. He is helping to train missionaries of various denominations. Lecturing to them on Portuguese customs and other vital subjects, the advantages of his experiences are passed along to these new recruits. In his office we also met Brother Silva, who has helped our missionaries on numerous occasions.

Rev. Jose Tlidio Freire, an evangelical pastor in the city and a friend to the Howards and Mostellers as well as all other Nazarene workers who have passed through Lisbon, was present to see us off for Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 4. It was a joy to meet another warm friend of Nazarene workers.

Twenty-eight hours of flying time will take us to "Jo-berg" with stops in Dakar, French West Africa; Monrovia, Liberia; Accra, Gold Coast; and Leopoldville, Belgian Congo. The first events of the four-week stay in Africa will be the European Assembly (with Brother Charles Strickland) November 6-8, Dr. Hardy C. Powers presiding.

DR. REMISS REHFELDT

Colored Work

On Sunday, November 9, it was our high privilege to participate in a rally at the Mary Forsythe Memorial Church which serves the Newclare and Coronationville locations near Johannesburg, South Africa.

During the morning and afternoon services there were two messages, two altar services, a healing service, workers' conference and people's meeting. Rev. W. C. Esselstyn, superintendent of the mission work in South Africa,

presided very efficiently and directed the activities of the day.

When one considers the fact that there are approximately one million colored people on the reef, it is apparent that this work is tremendously important. Seven churches were represented by splendid delegations as follows: Newclare, Albertsville, Klip-town, Ferriertown, Noordgesig, Protea, and Davidsonville. Such national preachers as Godfrey Beck, Albertus Pop, Albert Sawyer and others were an inspiration. Rev. Morris Chalfant is to be commended for his outstanding success with these people. Their circumstance is most difficult, but the gospel is effective in such situations. In fact, it is the supreme hope and only means of salvation for earth's millions.

DR. REMISS REHFELDT

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON

By Norman R. Oke

Topic for December 21: Emmanuel—God with Us Scripture: Matthew 1 (Printed, Matt. 1:18-25)

GOLDEN TEXT: *And thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins* (Matt. 1:21).

The gospel story is a strange mixture of the simple and the profound; and the Christmas story is the best proof of it.

None has been more delighted with Christmas than children; the Babe in the manger, the adoring mother, the star in the sky, the simple shepherds, the choir of angels—these are readily appreciated by the child and also the adult. All these emphasize the fact that at the heart the gospel story is a simple one, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." There is one thing sure about the Christmas scene—you don't have to explain the meaning of the various actors—they are all simply presented and take their parts with no pretense of mystery. That is why children relish the Christmas message.

But after having said all this, I insist that the Christmas story is also the most profound truth ever to attract the mind of man. You haven't begun to dig beneath the surface of this Bethlehem drama until you stand face to face with the almost-awful truth of the Incarnation, and questions jump out at you from all sides. How can God still be God and at the same time be man? How can the Creator identify himself with His creation and still be separate from it? Was the Babe in Mary's arms really God? Before the Incarnation the Son had enjoyed eternal fellowship un-

hindered with the Father. What happened to the fellowship between the Son and the Father while the Babe was being carried near the heart of Mary, and when it was a helpless little thing in her arms?

Well, we could ask many other questions that have made the brows of great thinkers furrow deeply, for Christmas presents some of the most profound mysteries that man has ever contemplated. But still we all gather, children and adults together, each year around the Christmas manger and forget the profound aspects in the utter enjoyment of the simple joys that radiate out from that manger scene. So again this year let us bow—philosopher and fool together—while we hear the whish of angel wings and the beloved old song from the skies. Let us bow in the hay of the stable, and adore the Babe of Bethlehem. Tomorrow will be soon enough to concern ourselves with the mysteries of the Incarnation; today we will join the thousands who sing, "Glory to God in the highest."

Lesson material is based on International Sunday-School Lessons, the International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and is used by its permission.

Remember, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin," but that Christ wants to become your Master and thus save you from the slavery of sin. Who is your master?—*Exchange*.

Religious News and Comments

Edited by Delbert R. Gish

IN THE AREA around Louisville, Kentucky, a survey of Protestant pastors revealed that Sunday evening church services have been suffering approximately a 10 per cent reduction of attendance because of television stay-at-homes. In response to a questionnaire sent out by a Baptist minister to 476 other clergymen, some 190 replies were returned. Suggestions were made for remedying the trouble, all the way from ignoring it to taking an immediate stand against it. One pastor had tried the plan of scheduling services at an earlier hour, but found it unavailing and changed back to the original time.

We think this problem will fade out somewhat like that of radio. Remember when people used to stay home and listen to radio rather than go to church? And when some ministers would hurry the service through so they could hear the Amos and Andy program (in the tense days when Andy was about to marry Madam Queen)? Those who desert the services of the church for television are in the same class as those who used to do the same for radio; and this class includes all those who stay at home for any light reason that takes their fancy. They are not fully convinced Christians, and are not so loyal to God and the church as they ought to be. They would be inwardly no more loyal even if television were not the immediate attraction that keeps them away from public worship, for the world is full of pleasurable and interesting and even instructive programs: forums, addresses, even special church services which take one away from his own church. The situation will fall out in two main results: some of the stay-at-homes will continue the habit and finally break with the church entirely; others will become conscience-stricken, see the error of their ways, and break the television (or other) habit.

The disturbance over the prayer room at the United Nations Building has finally been settled; the room was completed out of regular United Nations funds and was ready to be used on the opening day of the current sessions, October 14. The room is not large enough to serve more than a small part of the people who might want to use it at any one time, and hence its existence is justified chiefly by the things it symbolizes. The assembly of nations observed one minute of silent prayer in its opening session.

A number of U.S. seminaries are making progress in physical equipment and assets and in enrollment. Faith Theological Seminary has purchased a new campus—the Widener Estate at Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. The estate cost originally about \$8,000,000.00 and would cost three times that today, but was purchased by the seminary for \$250,000.00. The president of the board of trustees of Faith Theological Seminary is Carl McIntire, who is also leader of the International Council of Christian Churches.

San Francisco Theological Seminary at San Anselmo, California, recently

dedicated a new chapel and two new halls, and made improvements in its library equipment. This brings to mind the building program of Nazarene Theological Seminary and the proposed move to the beautiful new campus within a few months. With over 230 students enrolled, Nazarene Theological Seminary ranks among the larger institutions of its kind.

In the official publication of the Soviet youth organization, called *Komsomol*, the head of this organization is quoted as troubled because too many young people in Russia fall under the influence of religion. Religion is permitted in Russia, but those who worship are under suspicion and are watched by secret police. Soviet leaders are attempting to stamp out religion by discouraging young people from practicing it.

THE QUESTION BOX

Conducted by Stephen S. White

Q. Should the pastor of the church have the church doors opened by the time set for the services to begin?

A. Whoever is caretaker of the church should have the doors open, as a rule, thirty minutes before the time for the service to begin, and sometimes even earlier. The pastor is not the caretaker in most of our churches, and that is as it should be. In fact, I doubt if the pastor should be the caretaker of any of our churches. Our pastors are not too good to do such work, but their time is needed for other things. If a pastor has to do it because he cannot live without the money he gets from it, then the church ought to raise his salary. On the other hand, if he has to do it because

the church is not able to pay anyone to do it, then some good layman, or laymen, should relieve him of the job. Give your pastor every chance to do the work God has called him to do.

Q. Mr. White, will you please tell me what the "Manual" is and where in the Bible you find anything about it. Please give me chapter and verse where it is referred to in the Bible.—A reader of your paper.

A. I am delighted that you are a reader of the *HERALD OF HOLINESS*. I am glad to tell you about the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*. Nothing is said about it in the Bible. It is the book in which we as a church outline our beliefs, standards of con-

The Manger in My Heart

By Pearl B. McKinney

*I've heard the wondrous story
Of the travelers, lone and cold,
And how they longed for shelter
As the sheep within the fold.*

*'Twas found all space was taken
At the inn, and for the night
The stable door was opened
With its peace and warmth and light.*

*The Saviour now is longing
For a place where He might dwell,
And by His holy presence
Every doubt and fear dispel.*

*There's a manger in my heart, Lord,
Yours for all eternity;
It is an humble dwelling,
But I've swept it clean for Thee.*



duct, and methods of operation. It would cost you only \$1.00 to buy one of our *Manuals*. You can send to the Nazarene Publishing House (P.O. Box 527, Kansas City 41, Mo.) and get this book. It will give you a lot of information about our church, and I am sure that you will be interested in reading it.

Q. Will the five foolish virgins be lost?

A. The story of the five wise and five foolish virgins is a parable—an imaginary story told to bring home to you and me a gospel truth. It certainly means that anyone who is not ready when Jesus comes will be lost. The story of the foolish virgins brings to all of us a very solemn truth. He who reads Matt. 25:1-13 will not be able to escape this fact.

Q. What is your opinion of a Nazarene preacher who appears to be unable to deliver a gospel message in a church without turning it into a political propaganda rally before he is through? We have had a series of such mixed discourses the last few weeks. The members of our congregation are about evenly divided between the two major political parties, and I think that it is not an overstatement to say that these discourses did not do any good. I am not opposed to political rallies if they are announced as such and held on the courthouse square or other public place instead of in the church. I should add that this preacher was not our pastor.

A. The election is over, and I feel free to answer your question frankly. The preacher, to say the least, was unwise—regardless of what side he might have been on. Further, I should say out of fairness to all of our preachers that I do not believe that the most of them made this mistake.

Q. My husband and I are saved and sanctified and both are members of the Church of the Nazarene. Because of serious illness in our family we have been unable to tithe. We tried to tithe, but just could not make it without letting our debts run over too much. I consulted a preacher that I had a lot of confidence in, and he said that if my husband and I did not tithe we would go to hell, even if we were saved and sanctified. We have not been extravagant, and we have not spent our money on worldly things. Do you think that we are hell-bound?

A. I think that your preacher friend was a little hard on you. However, you should remember that your tithe is a debt you owe to God. Which is

worse, to fail to pay God what you owe Him or to fail to pay man what you owe him?

Q. How should a minister and wife sign their names to birth announcements, Christmas cards, etc.? Should

they write Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, or Rev. and Mrs. John Doe?

A. Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. You do not sign your name as Rev. John Doe. Reverend is a title of honor, and we should not bestow honors on ourselves.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

THANKS

To our dear friends across the nation; to Seminary faculty and students; to the clergy, whom my husband served through the *Preacher's Magazine*; to the missionaries around the world; and to all of you, so many, who have been so thoughtful to remember us with flowers, telegrams, letters, and cards, we want to say thank you a thousand times. We have read every one and loved your messages; they have been such a comfort to our broken hearts. Only God's wisdom controls such events in one's life, so difficult to understand. Our darling husband and father has gone from us, but still he continues to live in the hearts of his loved ones, his friends, and many who preach the gospel around the world.

MRS. L. A. REED AND FAMILY

Arpelar, Oklahoma—We are enjoying a wonderful revival with Rev. R. F. Lindley preaching the old-fashioned ways of truth and stirring our hearts with the Word of God. Lost souls are stirred and praying through and finding God. Brother Lindley carries a burden for lost souls and a desire for the building of the Sunday school.—Olen Emory, Pastor.

Huntington Park, California—Our church recently closed a revival meeting with Rev. E. D. Wolfe as the evangelist, and our own minister of music, Mrs. Orval Wright, in charge of the music. Our people who have been in the church since its beginning say it is the best revival the church has ever experienced. The meeting was preceded by much prayer and fasting, and truly God came in an unusual way. The anointing of the Holy Spirit was upon our special workers and old-fashioned Holy Ghost conviction was evident in every service. We came to this church fourteen months ago and during this period we have also had meetings with Dr. Weaver W. Hess and Rev. Andrew Edwards. Our Sunday-school attendance is averaging 30 per cent over last year at this same time. Our people have a mind to work and we have an organized visitation group. The spirit of revival prevails in our church and folks are praying through to victory in our regular services.—Kenneth V. Barnett, Pastor.

Guthrie, Oklahoma—We came here September 2, and God has blessed in every service. The people seem to love us, work in co-operation, and are always ready to follow. Our Sunday-school people stay for preaching on Sunday morning. We just closed a good week-end meeting with Rev. J. W. Sneed; he did some good preaching, and the people were blessed. He and his family have united with our church. We have a good outlook for the church and our Sunday school is growing; we have reached 145 since coming here. We had a wonderful day last Sunday, and at the night service there were nine people seeking the Lord, and most of them prayed through, including four fine men.—E. L. Looman, Pastor.

Stanford, Kentucky—This church enjoyed a gracious revival, October 1 to 19, with Rev. Bruce Foley of Lexington as the evangelist. His messages were wonderful, preached under the anointing of the Spirit, and our hearts were stirred each night. We want to do more for God and the upbuilding of His kingdom. We also enjoyed the fine singing of Miss Ollie Perkins and Mrs. Lillie Adams and her accordion. We thank God for our new pastor, who came to us recently, Rev. Harrison Wafford. He is a fine preacher and loves souls, and the work is moving forward.—Reporter.

Owosso, Michigan—Fourteen months ago we came to this fine church to serve a people who were ready to launch an aggressive, spiritual, holiness program. God has poured out His Spirit upon us with a continuous revival atmosphere. During our last assembly year we received 46 new members into church fellowship, making a net gain of 40. We led the Michigan District in church membership gain. The Sunday school averaged 41 people per Sunday more during the year than it did the previous year. Among the wonderful workers who came our way were Rev. and Mrs. M. S. Cooper; Rev. and Mrs. O. L. Maish, our splendid district superintendent and wife; Dr. Paul Updike, of the Northeastern Indiana District; Rev. Elic Wainwright; Dr. George Franklin, superintendent of the Northwest Indiana District; and Rev. Earl Mosteller, missionary from the Cape Verde Islands. Each of these made a wonderful contribution to our work. Recently we sold the old parsonage and bought a very commodious,

seven-room, modern home two blocks from the church. Since our assembly in July we have received 11 members into the church. Most of all, God is with us and we are happy in the service of the Lord in this city of 16,000 population. We are now in a very profitable revival with Evangelists Eddie and Ann Burnem. God is answering prayer and many are finding Him in the old-fashioned way.—Oliver Morgan, Pastor.

Dr. E. O. Chalfant lately spent fourteen days in Tennessee and Kentucky, having had sixteen services in Tennessee and nine in Kentucky. We had a great time in the Lord. Rev. D. K. Wachtel, district superintendent of Tennessee, had things going great down there. The theme was soul saving and home missions. Brother Wachtel has the record of having organized twenty-seven new churches in the last quadrennium. I saw the new buildings—the congregations are well housed in splendid new churches and chapels. We had a very wonderful retreat with the pastors. He has a wonderful group of preachers, and is going on to get twenty-eight new churches this quadrennium. God and sanctified passion, plus a wide-awake human being, does the job any place. It was a great pleasure to speak at the Trevecca College chapel to the students, and to meet with President

A. B. Mackey and Dr. A. K. Bracken. A great student body, splendid new buildings going up, and marks of progress everywhere! I had the splendid opportunity of being in the Sunday-school class of Dr. C. E. Hardy, and meeting the pastor, Rev. Cecil Ewell, also Rev. Ralph Schurman, pastor of Grace Church, and many other good pastors in Nashville and over the Tennessee District. Then we had a great time on the Kentucky District with Dr. and Mrs. L. T. Wells and Mrs. Norah Heslop. We stressed foreign missions, prayer, and devotion. God was there. I gave two services at Lexington First Church with Brother and Sister Thrasher, all-day zone meetings at Georgetown, at Science Hill, and Somerset. We could not have been treated better and we take courage in the battle."

San Diego, California—University Avenue Church had a wonderful mortgage-burning service on October 12. Our district superintendent, Dr. R. J. Plumb, brought the message for this service. He warmed and challenged our hearts with his keen insight into God's Word. God helped our people in such a marvelous way in paying off our debt in less than a year. We now have a property valued at \$225,000.00, debt free. We are making plans to build another Sunday-school unit to house our growing Sunday school; also, in the near future we must enlarge our auditorium again. God is blessing, and our visitation evangelism program is the secret of our progress. Our people are calling all over this great city each Tuesday evening and God is giving results. We are witnessing some of the most outstanding cases of old-time conversions seen in any age. Visitation evangelism is the answer for our day. It is Crusade for Souls Now or never.—Nicholas A. Hull, Pastor.

Lancaster, Kentucky—This church just closed what many said was the greatest revival in the history of the church, with the Holso Evangelistic Party in charge of the music and Rev. C. B. Hail as the evangelist. We broke all attendance records with 245 in Sunday school the first Sunday, and then broke that record on the last Sunday morning with an attendance of 285. Better than 500 new people attended our services, most of whom had never been in the Church of the Nazarene before, and we are convinced the effects will be far reaching for our church and the cause of Christ. A generous love offering was given the pastor, and the meeting closed with a great evangelistic service with every seat in the auditorium filled. God is blessing the Lancaster church. We have been here since August last year, and are now serving a three-year unanimous call. We have a fine group of loyal Nazarenes that believe in praying, paying, and working for God and the church.—D. F. Hail, Pastor.

Indianapolis, Indiana—Westbrook Church recently closed a very successful revival with Evangelist Ellis Lewis and the Singing Salvadors. The ministry of these good workers was greatly appreciated by the church. The attendance was very good throughout the entire meeting. Several young married couples were among the many seekers at the altar. God came in mighty conviction upon the people. The workers have been slated for a return engagement. A wonderful spirit prevails in the church; no better crowd of Nazarenes could be found anywhere. They stood by the revival with their prayers, attendance, and finances. A love offering of \$100.00 was given to the pastor and wife. We are now in the process of erecting our educational building, which is valued at \$50,000.00. It is 42 x 72 feet, with two floors, masonry construction throughout, baseboard hot-water radiant heating. There will be 18 classrooms, and 4 auditoriums. It will accommodate 300 children. We count it a real privilege to pastor such a fine group of people.—E. L. Wilson, Pastor.

Ottawa, Kansas—Recently we closed a revival that has done more good for our church than any other meeting. The Jantz family singers won the hearts of the people with their Spirit-filled music. Rev. Ray Geren, pastor at Cherryvale, thrilled the crowds each night with his evangelistic preaching. Our people boosted these meetings better than ever before. Largest attendance at services, many seekers, and hands raised for prayer. Finances came easily. Many new people and young couples were reached. All Sunday-school records of the church's history were broken on November 9 with 177 present. A new day is dawning for the Ottawa church, for which we thank and praise God.—David Ellsworth, Pastor.

Dublin, Georgia—Our church closed a week's revival meeting on Sunday, October 19, with the Rev. Clifton Hutchinson as the evangelist. He brought strong messages each evening and we had good crowds. Mrs. Hutchinson had charge of the children's meeting each evening, also of the morning prayer meeting. She also brought good messages. We also had special singing each evening. Our church is moving forward with our good pastor, Rev. W. P. Smithson.—Glenn Ladson, Reporter.

Atlasburg, Pennsylvania—This church has had a very fine revival with Rev. and Mrs. Albert H. Lewis as the special workers. Brother Lewis is a Spirit-filled preacher of the Word. He and his wife present a very fine vocal and instrumental music program also; they play the marimba, accordion, and piano. They travel in a trailer and therefore can go anywhere the Lord leads and can entertain themselves.—R. E. Phelps, Pastor.

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Science Hill, Kentucky—We recently closed a revival with Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Peck as evangelists. God blessed Brother Peck richly and Sister Peck sang beautifully. Brother and Sister Peck are among the finest evangelists and really carry a burden for souls. Finances came easily. The morning prayer services were blessed of God and there were from fourteen to twenty every morning in the ten o'clock services. Much prayer and fasting was offered to God and, as always, God came and honored the prayers of the faithful. There were seekers at the altar at every invitation but one. Three new members were added to the church, and a nice love offering was given to the pastor. The revival spirit is still on. This was considered the best revival for some time. We have been at Science Hill only eight months, but God has blessed, and we certainly love and appreciate these fine people.—Roy Wells, Pastor.

Evangelist Cloyce Elsea writes that he is now making up his slate for the spring of 1953, and has some open time in January, February, March, and April. Write him, Box 18, Van Buren, Ohio.

Ann Arbor, Michigan—We have recently closed a three-week meeting with Rev. L. J. Scherrer and Rev. Dorothy Brumigan as the special workers. Both of these ministers were anointed of the Holy Spirit while laboring with us. Sister Brumigan took time from a busy pastorate to assist us, and Brother Scherrer came as our evangelist. He is an outstanding, anointed preacher of the rugged holiness gospel. Several sought the Lord under His preaching, and all of our people and friends were challenged to a deeper piety and firmer faith.—Deane Starr, Pastor.

Philipsburg, Pennsylvania—On November 2 we closed a two-week revival with Rev. E. E. Taylor as the evangelist. During these two weeks souls were saved and sanctified, others established, and still others made more aware of their Christian responsibilities, especially in regard to personal soul winning. This has been a time of harvesting, for which we are grateful. Brother Taylor believes in preaching the rugged gospel without fear or favor. His emphasis is on personal soul winning; and this gospel he preaches, practices, and urges others to practice if they would make heaven their home.—Alfred Davis, Pastor.

Newburgh, New York—We recently enjoyed a good revival with Rev. and Mrs. Albert Lewis. Their special music each night was inspirational, and Brother Lewis preached soul-stirring messages strictly from the Bible with the unction of God. The services were very well attended, the best that the church has witnessed. Our Sunday school has increased, and we were

able to make many new contacts. New people attended each night. We thank God for His presence with us during this entire revival.—Edith Shields, Reporter.

Neodesha, Kansas—This church recently enjoyed a great revival meeting with Dr. and Mrs. U. E. Harding. Dr. Harding's preaching in both the morning and evening services was timely and inspiring. There was a wonderful spirit each night and those who sought God found it easy to move to an altar of prayer. We feel that our people have been strengthened in their own experience, and many sought God in His saving and sanctifying power. There were a good number taken into the church the last night of the meeting. Mrs. Harding's singing was blessed of God each evening. Dr. and Mrs. Harding are great boosters for the total program of the Church of the Nazarene, and gave our people a vision of the greater things in God's provision for those who will be obedient to Him.—Preston J. Theall, Pastor.

Peoria, Illinois—North Side Church is happy to report a very successful revival with Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Geeding, evangelists. The Lord is blessing our church. The meeting has brought us encouragement in many ways. The attendance was very good, and we were able to pray through to victory some of the friends who had not sought holiness. Three Roman Catholic women sought God, one for sanctification, and two for salvation. We broke our Sunday-school record with an attendance of 180 in our little 20 x 45-foot auditorium. Brother and Sister Geeding are outstanding and of the old-fashioned line, bringing some of the best in good messages. We look forward to a third campaign with them.—J. Russell Gravvat, Pastor.

Roanoke, Virginia—This is our tenth year to serve the spiritually aggressive people of First Church, and we humbly thank God for His manifold blessings upon us. Sunday, October 26, was a peak day, when all previous Sunday-school attendance records were broken, with 555 present, giving us a monthly average of 402. It was the closing day of our fall revival conducted by Evangelist J. A. McNatt, with 125 responding to the invitation to seek salvation or sanctification. A marvelous spirit prevailed throughout the campaign. The fire of holy love generated a heavenly atmosphere conducive to commitment to the will of God. The well-rounded ministry of this faithful, yet fearless, evangelist was superb. The Rev. H. W. Meadows, pastor of our new church at Harrisonburg, made a distinct contribution to the revival with his inspiring singing. This is a remarkably active church, as was beautifully evidenced throughout this campaign, and especially in the "Over the Top" Rally. It is a delight to serve such a loyal people.—C. E. Winslow, Pastor.

Pastor Kenneth P. Smith reports: "Three and one-half months ago we began our work at Canon City, Colorado, after serving three years in San Fernando, California. We have become acquainted with a responsive people who have manifested their love both to their pastor and in every phase of the work of the church. We have recently closed a very successful revival under the timely and anointed preaching of Rev. F. H. Beeson of Lancaster, California. The people were able to enjoy an unmeasured manifestation of the divine, for which they prayed and believed Him, who answered their prayers."



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Evangelist J. W. South writes: "Since July we have worked in two camp meetings and five revivals. God is blessing, and He has opened doors beyond my expectation. I have some open time in 1953. We have lived in Louisiana for two years, and have now moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are enjoying the blessings of God and the fellowship of the good pastors and people; happy in Jesus, and His work."

Franklin, Indiana—The Walters Chapel Church recently closed an old-fashioned revival meeting with the glory and blessing of the Lord on the services. The revival fire is still burning. Our pastor, Rev. Harry Salisbury, was the fine evangelist who preached the old-fashioned gospel under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. God also honored the ministry of Clinton Callons and wife, special singers, as they sang the songs of Zion. The presence of the Lord was there and blessed in a special way in every service. We were rewarded with sev-

eral souls seeking God at the altar to be saved and sanctified. The Chapel Church is moving on and encouraged to press the battle.—Reporter.

Evangelists Glenn and Vera Slater report: "The Lord is blessing us in the field of evangelism and giving some good revivals. We will be in Idaho for a revival the last two weeks of April and have some time before and after this meeting we would be glad to slate in that section, if anyone desires our services. We carry the entire program of preaching and singing. Address us in care of our Publishing House."

Caruthersville, Missouri—November 9 was one of those unusual days for our church; God's Spirit was upon the congregation in a wonderful way. For the past six months we have been in an extensive building program; the brick work is almost finished, and we have installed a new automatic gas heating system. We are now completely remodeling and redecorating

the interior of our church. On Sunday morning of November 9 our pastor, Rev. Curtis F. Cook, told the church we needed \$500.00 to finish the inside of the church and started to take an offering. The people gave spontaneously, testified, shouted, and the pastor didn't get to preach. At the close of the service he did give an altar call and as a result six people prayed through to definite victory. Caruthersville church is enjoying God's blessings.—Reporter.

Evangelist B. W. Murphy reports: "God is keeping me busy in His great harvest field. His hand has wrought many victories and I have seen Him bring in the lost, sanctify believers, as well as bless pastors and churches, and solve their many problems. I need your prayers that God will give wisdom in this great work of the Kingdom. It has been my privilege to labor on seven districts this past year and boost pastors, local churches, superintendents, and general interests of the church. I am at this writing with Rev. E. J. Osborne at Franklin Street Church, Clarksville, Tennessee, and God is giving precious souls in the fountain. We go from here to be with Rev. Oren D. Thrasher at Owensboro, Kentucky; then to Walnut Hills Church at Huntington, West Virginia, with Pastor Graham. Calls are coming in for next year, but I have some open dates in the spring; write me, 406—31st St., Huntington 2, West Virginia."

Robinson, Illinois—We have recently closed a successful revival with Evangelist E. L. Carter. God was manifestly present throughout the services, and seekers became finders at an old-fashioned altar of prayer. Brother Carter has the ability to preach close and effectively, without antagonizing the sinner by embarrassing him. The church feels this was definitely a worth-while revival.—Marshall H. Gregory, Pastor.

Columbus, Ohio—On Sunday, October 19, the members of the Warren Avenue Church extended to Rev. Harris B. Anthony his sixth three-year call as its pastor by an overwhelming vote; only three negative votes cast for one year and four negative votes for three years. It was a pleasure to have with us for this occasion Dr. W. M. McGuire, superintendent of the Eastern Michigan District. During the fifteen years Brother Anthony has been pastor here, 684 members have been received into the church; the income has increased from \$6,036.00 to more than \$50,000.00 annually; a mortgage of \$5,000.00 on the old church building has been paid; our old parsonage was renovated, moved, and sold, and a new, modern, four-bedroom brick parsonage valued at \$45,000.00 was built. A new all-stone church edifice of modified English Gothic architecture, valued today at nearly half a million dollars, has been built on the sites of the old parsonage and church property. The



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mortgage indebtedness on the church and parsonage at present stands at \$65,300.00. A wonderful spirit of unity prevails in our church, and all departments are showing splendid increases. In October our Sunday-school attendance average was 444, second highest on the Central Ohio District for the month. We thank God for all His wonderful blessings upon our church, and look forward to accomplishing greater things for Him under the fine leadership of Pastor Anthony. —John S. Manley, Secretary.

Pastor Frances H. Causey writes: "After pastoring the Atlantic City church for eighteen months, a new church building and parsonage being completed in that time which is appraised at \$20,000.00, I have resigned said pastorate to join my husband in the pastorate in the new work he started in March at Northfield, New Jersey. Northfield is eight miles from Atlantic City, eight miles from Ocean City, and six miles from Pomona Naval Air Force Base, there being no holiness work of any kind in this

vicinity. I would appreciate it if all pastors, parents, and friends of men stationed at this government station would notify us of any men we might contact there. Address us, 1021 New Road, Northfield."

Darbyville, Ohio—Sunday night, November 2, marked the close of a gracious revival in our church. Under the anointed, pungent preaching of Evangelist W. W. Loveless, the church received a vision of a real revival; and through prayer, faith, and works, God came on the scene. Thirty-four seekers bowed at the altar; some were reclaimed, some saved, and some sanctified. Shouts of victory and tears of joy were common as the seekers prayed through. This was the second revival Brother Loveless has conducted with us in less than two years, and our people love this dear man of God so well that by a unanimous vote he was given a call to return in 1953. At the close of the revival the church remembered the pastor and family with a love offering of \$47.00.—Lawrence Martindale, Pastor.

Evangelist E. C. Tarvin reports: "God is giving great days of victory, and we have been kept busy for Him. During recent weeks we have labored at Fisher Camp, and at Cynthiana, Kentucky; at Hagerstown, Indiana; at Catlettsburg, Kentucky; and at this writing I am at College Corner, Ohio. God has blessed and we have seen many souls saved and sanctified in these meetings."

Nashville, Tennessee—Grace Church recently closed a most blessed, two-week revival crusade with Evangelist Charles Lipker and Singer Paul Qualls. Brother Lipker's logical, convincing holiness preaching, and Brother Qualls's beautiful singing make a rare combination for these days in our Crusade for Souls Now. The closing Sunday brought us two gracious revival rallies with seeking souls in both the morning and evening services, and 315 present in Sunday school. Just recently a good class was received into church membership.—Ralph Schurman, Pastor.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the Christ of Christmas be very real to you during this season, and may His Spirit guide you throughout the year of 1953.

H. C. Powers

Roy F. Smee

G. B. Williamson

Remiss Rehfeldt

Samuel Young

M. Lunn

D. J. Vanderpool

Lewis J. Corlett

Hugh C. Benner

S. S. White

S. J. Ludwig

A. F. Harper

John Stockton

L. J. Du Bois

J. W. Willingham

Mary Scott



Make it "Merry Christmas" All Year—

GIVE BOOKS—

FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Facts We Hate to Face

By Russell V. DeLong. Radio sermons packed with inspiration and blessing. Read one of these sermons in the time of stress or trouble for a real "lift." A book to have handy all the time. **\$1.25**

Second-Hand Religion

By C. William Fisher. Five messages that plead for strong convictions in a time of world crisis. A wonderfully helpful book for young people who are struggling to become established in their faith. **\$1.25**

A Vessel unto Honor

By Orval J. Nease. Biography is what someone else writes about a man. Autobiography is what a man writes about himself. In his sermons a man reveals his innermost life, and in this book we get an inside look at the heart of a big man. **\$1.25**

Entire Sanctification Explained

By C. W. Ruth. There is nothing like good holiness reading to build up Christians in their faith. This book is one of the best in this field, and should be in every home and church library. **60c**

Holiness The Harmonizing Experience

By L. T. Corlett. Being human we face adjustments in life which are difficult to understand. In this book the author speaks from personal experience and observation to show how holiness is necessary. **75c**

FOR THE YOUNGER SET

Modern Gospel Song Stories

By Haldor Lillenas. Many books dealing with the authorship of the older hymns have been published, but this volume has to do largely with the present-day gospel songs. The author, being a successful song writer, is well acquainted with other gospel song writers of the last half-century and he brings us the best in the field in this book. **\$1.75**

Melody in the Night

By Mont Hurst. A moving fiction book telling the story of Margaret Sewell, who faced a struggle with a call to the Lord's service. God used a traveling tent show with a handsome, personable leading man to work out His will for Margaret and to bring romance into her life. **\$1.50**

In the Shadow Of the Big Horns

By G. Franklin Allee. A thrilling Western fiction story in which a young "toughie" from the city learns that a real Christian can also be a successful rancher and raiser of a special breed of palomino horses. Adventure and romance crop up in the pages of this book for young people. **\$1.50**

Egermeier's Bible Story Book

234 stories based on the chronological events of the Bible make this book invaluable to young people. It makes a suitable gift to give to the whole family where there are children.

Standard Edition, Style A **\$2.95**
Child Culture Edition, Style B **\$3.95**
De Luxe Library Edition, Style C **\$4.95**

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Evangelist Bernice L. Roedel reports: "Since the first of the year I have conducted revivals, or supervised vacation Bible schools, in the following churches: Spencer, Mt. Vernon, Odon, Mackey, Oatsville, Vincennes (First), Freetown, and Evansville (Bethel), Indiana; Neosho, Brunswick, and Dalton (Immanuel Methodist), Missouri; Baraboo, Wisconsin; and Newport, Tennessee. In most of these services I was assisted by Violet Coulter, singer and musician, who has traveled with me for the past two years. At the present Miss Coulter is enrolled at Trevecca College, so I am slating alone except through the summer months or for week-end meetings in the vicinity of Nashville during the school year. We have one open date we can slate together, December 28 to January 4, and I have some open time immediately following this date. Will go anywhere for freewill offerings. Write me, 423 East Maple Street, Boonville, Indiana."

Akron District N.Y.P.S. Convention

The eleventh annual convention of the Akron District N.Y.P.S. opened Friday morning, October 31, at the Ravenna, Ohio, church.

The morning session was devoted to convention business with Rev. Carl Hanks presiding. The afternoon session was devoted to the presentation of an Oratorical and Musical Contest for teen-agers with ten oratorical and twenty-six musical contestants participating. Duplicate prizes were awarded to the three highest winners in both contests as follows:

Oratorical Contest: first prize, \$25.00—Sarah Cleckner, Youngstown society; second prize, one week's free tuition at Institute—Ruth Kyer, Ravenna society; third prize, one year's *Conquest* subscription—Lily Mae Aikens, East Liverpool First Church society.

Musical Contest: first prize, \$25.00—Girls' Trio, Akron First Church; second prize, one week's free tuition at Institute—Nancy Froehlick, Cleveland Garfield Heights society; third prize, one year's *Conquest* subscription—Lois Duvall, Warren First Church.

Rev. Kenneth Pearsall, Eastern Nazarene College field secretary, spoke briefly during the morning and afternoon sessions. District Superintendent and Mrs. O. L. Benedum were presented with an electric toaster during the afternoon session as a token of love and esteem from the young people of the district in appreciation of their interest in the work of the young people.

Friday evening a fellowship banquet was held with 250 in attendance. Rev. Paul E. Baxter, Jr., East Palestine pastor, was the toastmaster. Rev. Carl Hanks, retiring district president, brought an inspiring address, and several musical numbers were presented by our teen-agers. Prizes of the contest were awarded to the winners by the new district president and former

supervisor of teen-age work, Rev. J. Donald Freese, pastor at East Liberty.

The following new officers were elected for the new year: district president—Rev. J. Donald Freese, East Liberty; vice president—Rev. Paul E. Baxter, Jr., East Palestine; Rev. Frank Brickley, Lisbon, was re-elected for his third term as district treasurer; and Miss Dortha Bass, Bellaire, was re-elected for a third term as district secretary. The following committee chairmen were elected: Literature chairman—Miss Ruth Barnes; Home Missions—Rev. A. E. Woodcock; Stewardship—Rev. Arthur Brown, Jr.; Evangelistic—Rev. John E. Maybury; zone presidents—Donald Lewis, Rev. William Parks, Ray Frazure, Rev. L. A. Baltz, Rev. James Kus, Rev. Allard Kuschner, Harry Greenwood, Ruth Barnes, and Rev. E. S. Barton.

The young people of the Akron District praise God for the many victories won on our district this past year, and for His presence in our midst. We are deeply appreciative of the work of our retiring district president, Rev. Carl Hanks, who has served us so faithfully and well for the past five years. Our prayer for our district and our young people is that, by His spirit, God will help us to stand, speak, share, and serve to win souls for the Master.

DORTHA BASS, District Secretary

Christmas Gift Ideas

ARE YOU LOOKING for inexpensive items for your Sunday-school class?

Here are a few suggestions from our catalog of Christmas Gift Ideas . . . and all under 45c.

	Pages
Bookmarks	45, 46, 49, 63
Rustic Mottoes	49
Text Plaques	53
Religious Puzzles	57, 66, 73
Pins	68
Calendars	74



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Colored Work Conference

The annual conference for the promotion of our work among the colored people will be held February 18 to 20, at Institute, West Virginia. For accommodations write Rev. E. E. Hale, Box 428, Institute, West Virginia.

D. I. VANDERPOOL
General Superintendent



SERVICEMEN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN Charles Crouch writes: "On a trip to a retreat of Protestant chaplains at mile-high Bagoito City, P.I., I visited with Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Pattee and daughter. I visited the site of the new Nazarene Bible College and was impressed with buildings and plans for future. I am satisfied that the Nazarenes do things on a permanent, sound basis. We should be proud of what the Pittssee and Patees have done.

"A little wave of homesickness hit me for a few days after I learned that it will be a total of eleven months (from the time we departed from the States) before my family can join me. The few Nazarene service people are one of my greatest assets. Most of them are steady, dependable Christians."

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the literature that you are sending to me. It has helped me in so many ways. I attend the First Church of the Nazarene here in Pensacola, Florida, where the Rev. J. B. Cook is pastor, and a wonderful pastor he is. He is wonderful to us servicemen who attend there and he preaches the old-fashioned religion just like I like to hear it.

"I haven't been a Nazarene very long but I thank God for leading me to the Church of the Nazarene. It means very much to me and it sure is a big help to me while here in the navy.

"I would like to be remembered in prayer, for as you know the old devil really gets after us at times. He does everything he can do to make us lose our faith in God, but I feel led to enter Trevecca Nazarene College and study for the ministry and be an evangelist. This is another reason that I ask for prayer."—OLIVER R. NORRIS.

"I'm writing you in thanks for the wonderful books and tracts which I've received and presented to the chaplain here on the post. He has accepted them gladly. We are starting a Christian literature lending library in the chapel with the books you sent, and plan on getting more soon.

"Our United Fellowship of Protestants has given approximately \$400.00 to the Japanese missions and orphans since our arriving in Japan in February. I went to these different places and they received the money with such thankful hearts. Our hearts bubbled over with joy as we looked on their faces. Although our language is different, our hearts are worshipping the same God."—JOHN ATKINSON.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

This is to recommend Rev. Doris V. Hendrick of Bad Axe, Michigan. Mrs. Hendrick recently returned from a visit to Jerusalem, which also took her to fourteen different countries. She has a most valuable display of curios and colored films on the Holy Land, Rome, etc. She will render valuable service in the Sunday school, N.Y.P.S., and regular church services in week-end engagements and conventions. She is also available for revival meetings.—W. M. McGuire, Superintendent of Eastern Michigan District.

Rev. G. R. Anderson has recently united with the Church of the Nazarene at Fremont, Ohio, and is engaged in evangelistic work in our church. Already he has had some splendid meetings with our folk in northern Ohio. I commend Brother Anderson to the consideration of our pastors and people. His address is, Box 76, Lindsey, Ohio.—Harvey S. Galloway, Superintendent of Central Ohio District.

BORN—to Rev. and Mr. Jack Lee of Kansas City, Missouri, a daughter, Jennifer Gay, on November 15.

—to Rev. and Mrs. Dave Hall of McPherson, Kansas, a daughter, Debby Lee, on November 16.

—to Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Dawson of Kansas City, Missouri, a son, Robert Ernest, on October 28.

—to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hines of Glendale, Arizona, a daughter, Martha Suzanne, on October 3.

WEDDING BELLS

Hazel Tweedy of Phoenix, and Raymond Duke of Glendale, Arizona, were united in marriage on October 19, at the Glendale Church, with Rev. Glenn A. Roberson, pastor, officiating.

Elma Kaufmann and Pvt. Donald Hegwood of Glendale, Arizona, were united in marriage on October 15, at Biloxie, Mississippi, with Rev. M. R. Sletcher officiating.

SPECIAL PRAYER IS REQUESTED by a lady in Wisconsin for the salvation of her family, who is having financial difficulties, and has convictions as to the right way, and also for herself;

by a friend in California for a lady in Oregon, that she may walk again—both she and her husband are unsaved and need God; also for herself and family, and several unsaved ones who specially need God;

by a mother in Arkansas for four children and their families—all unsaved—the healing of a son and daughter in poor health, also that a band of holiness people might come to that community so they might have a holiness church;

by a lady in Tennessee who needs help from God—she believes it is entire sanctification she needs, also that her husband may get the light on sanctification—she does want the will of God for her life.

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A Prayer for Christmas

By Kathryn Blackburn Peck

This Christmas, Father, we have urgent need
To draw more closely to the hallowed place
Where we can know Thy peace exceeds earth's greed,
And selfishness can be outweighed by grace.
We see the glitter, and we hear the din,
As thoughtless ones make merry holiday,
All unconcerned with sorrowing for sin,
Unmindful of the warning, "Watch and pray."
Oh, we would hear again through seraph host,
Deep in our hearts, the heavenly melody
Of peace—good will. No prize that earth can boast
Can meet the need of all humanity!
Bless Thou the suffering, the weak, the poor—
Comfort the hearts that mourn across the land.
Set Thy bright star above a stable door
Where love shines in a Baby's outflung hand!
Grant that we may be worthy of Thy smile—
A rarer gift than earth's most precious gem;
Meet with us as we pause to rest awhile
Beside the road that leads to Bethlehem!

