


DECEMBER 23, 1964

Herald of Holiness

"IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT"

Official Organ
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the Nazarene



And the angel
said unto them
Fear not....



The Topmost Star
See Page 6

... unto you
is born this day
in the city of David
a Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

CHRISTMAS!

SOME DAYS could perhaps be dropped from the calendar as special days and the year not be damaged, but not Christmas.

When one stops to think of it, the really important days of the calendar are connected with events in the earthly life of Christ and their subsequent importance in the affairs of men.

When we think still further, we realize that all other days celebrated for the good of men would never have been worth remembering if it had not been for Jesus.

It is Christmas again and we are glad!

A host of children are glad. They enjoy the decorations, music, and excite-



*General
Superintendent
Lewis*

ment of Christmas. And they should. But let us all who cooperate to make this a time of real pleasure for our children lead them to the true mean-

ing of this birthday of our Lord. The story of Christ is more beautiful by far than the myth of Santa Claus. And it causes the joy of the child to be good and positive, for it is the true story.

They must learn that the act of God in giving His Son to the world makes all Christmas gifts meaningful.

It is a good time for the parents to convey to their children their deep desire to have them receive the true Christmas Gift—Jesus Christ—Lord and Saviour.

We must not allow the commercialized world to cheapen Christmas and leave the child with only a bit of fading tinsel in his hand.

We adults are glad also. This is the day of the year when the Saviour, Church, salvation, integrity, kindness, music, cheer, all come closer to us. We are lifted, encouraged, strengthened, and driven to deeper devotion to Christ. He is the Lord; He came to earth, and all life is dignified by His sojourn here among us.

Ring out, Christmas bells, with your meaning for men!

It is good to have Christmas again!

Glad Tidings to All People

By **D. I. VANDERPOOL**

General Superintendent Emeritus

And the angel said unto them, 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 (Luke 2:10-11).

LUKE'S inspired New Testament story of the Saviour, born of a virgin and cradled in a Bethlehem manger, has its roots in the declaration of the Old Testament prophets who looked at the world screen through prophetic telescopes.

A Heaven-sent angel brought the glad tidings from the throne-room of the Heavenly Father. To insure that the angel did not forget, misquote, or appear to be on an unauthorized mission, a strange glory attended the news flash of the ages. An unnumbered heavenly host chanted the content of the glad tidings, which was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

This was the best news that God ever gave to the world. An age-old promise was fulfilled. The "Proclamation of Emancipation" was good news and brought an end to the chains of slavery in the United States. The signing of the Armistice was good news to the millions of the Allied nations in world conflict. The war was over! A grand homecoming for our boys was just around the corner.

But that a Saviour was born and that God extended goodwill toward all men through Christ was the most wonderful news that the sound waves ever carried to the ears of a blighted race. Sin's guilt could be erased! Sin's pollution could be cleansed! Sin's retribution could be cancelled and eternal life assured! All of this offered through the goodwill of a Heavenly Father!

From the clean straw in the stable manger where He was laid with gentle hands, to the rugged Roman cross where He died a shameful death, Jesus was rejected by wicked men whom He came to save. What venom, hate, and depravity of the human heart are revealed by man's rebellious response to the God-sent glad tidings!

The eloquent announcement of the angel at the empty tomb assured the world of a living Redeemer. The outpoured Spirit and the flashing tongues of Pentecostal fire were the Father's announcement that the glad-tidings mission of His Son was finished in glorious triumph! The Spirit-filled disciples went forth with power to herald the glad tidings to all people.

In every century and every case where men have embraced the good news, God's Gift has been forthcoming, bringing life and hope.

In every century and in every case where men have rejected the glad tidings, the gathering shades of darkness have been inevitable. Man's attitude toward that good news determines the spiritual benefits he receives from it.

Today, as in the past for nearly twenty centuries, Christ stands at the heart's door, knocking for admission. His arms are full of precious gifts—ointment for blinded eyes, food for the hungry soul, tried gold to make one rich, white robes for the ragged garments. His gifts are yours for the taking.

Christ, the personification of glad tidings, is at the door! Receive Him! Don't reject Him!

The of Christmas

By **ROSS W. HAYSLIP**

Pastor, First Church, Whittier, California

MATTHEW 2:10 says that when the wise men "saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." This feeling of great happiness was a motivating force in guiding their response to this great event. The joy was that of anticipation brought on by the sight of the unusual star.

The first step in the fulfillment of this anticipation took place when they went into the house and saw the young Child with Mary, His mother. To see Jesus is the greatest experience that can come to the human heart. The wise men saw Him with the natural eyes. We can behold Him with our spiritual sight.

Many great masterpieces of Christian art have sought to give us a physical image of the Saviour, but all of these leave us more or less unsatisfied. It is only when His personality bursts in upon us in the presence of the Holy Spirit within our hearts that we are able to see Him as He really is—not the



Christmas Beyond Bethlehem

ONCE AGAIN we travel back across the centuries and eastward to Bethlehem. There in the life of the Christ child we behold the divine significance of things—God's love giving that which in turn would be given back as an atonement for our sin.

Time contains but a small part of the Christmas meaning. We must go beyond Bethlehem—even to the court of the eternal God. There we behold the eternal Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. So our human longing has its hope realized in eternity.

So let the angels sing, let the shepherds go now even unto Bethlehem. Let the wise men leave their seeking footprints in desert sands as they follow the star to Him. For "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). No, not created by God, but begotten by Him!

The mystery of the eternal—redemptive and glorious! This is the meaning of Christmas.

By **FORREST W. NASH**, Pastor, College Church, Kankakee, Illinois

historic Jesus of the past but the risen, radiant, spiritual Christ.

We are further told that they fell down and worshipped Him. Nothing is said about any worship or adoration of Mary. Only a reverent respect is implied by their attitude. It was to Christ that they directed their worship.

Worship is man's efforts to communicate with his God. It takes place in dedicated sanctuaries, around family altars in homes, or even in the place of daily toil. It can be prayer, song, or sermon, but it must be rooted in a heart reaching up to contact the God of the universe.

We worship in spirit and in truth. It is a rich experience after which the child of God constantly seeks. It is not a dull duty to perform. It is rather a priceless privilege to pursue. We will enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

The third step occurred when they opened their treasures and presented gifts unto Him. Christmas brings us an opportunity to enjoy His presence day by day in our hearts; to worship Him in reality and to complete our joy is to give unto Him of our treasures.

In the activities of exchanging gifts, we often forget whose birth we are celebrating. Try giving to Christ on Christmas! To carry on His work here on earth, He needs both us and ours. A special

Christmas offering to your church will bring special blessing to you. The offering for the Ministerial Benevolence Fund opens the way for our active participation. The joy that we will feel will amply prove again to us the truth of our Lord's statement that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

The Cover . . .

The season during which we recognize the birth of the Saviour should be a time of great joy for all who know Him. To the uncomprehending masses, it may be a time of pleasure seeking connected with physical and material things. But joy has rightly been called "the echo of God's life within us." It belongs to the heart, the soul, the spirit of the redeemed.

**Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.**

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CHRISTMAS POETRY

Security

By ALICE HANSCHÉ MORTENSON

*Above the din of a frightened world
And dread of the atom bomb,
There is peace on earth, for Jesus has come,
And the heart of the Christian is calm.
Yes, Jesus was born and He still lives today,
And the light of His love will endure
Forever! No power can extinguish that flame
Shining on—so steadfast and pure!
No missile at all can affect in the least,
In the air—on the land—or at sea,
The souls who are trusting in Bethlehem's King,
The Light of eternity!*

Christ, the Unspeakable Gift

By OVELLA S. SHAFER

*'Twas in a stable old and worn
God's Gift "unspeakable" was born;
A radiant star gleamed in the sky
As angels sang His lullaby.
'Tween God and man sin caused a rift.
Christ volunteered as Heaven's Gift;
Thus Virgin-born, this Son of God
Came down to earth—to humble sod!
This "Prince of Peace" in Bethlehem
Received three gifts of costly gem;
But later men were rough and rude,
And hung this Christ on cross so crude.
At Calvary His life's blood flowed
To pay the debt of sin we owed.
What shall we do this Christmastime?
Give Him our hearts in thankful chime
For God's great Gift to every clime!*

Our Christmas Gift

By TRESSA C. HANSEN

*The Christ Child . . . the manger . . . The Star
of Bethlehem . . .
The sheep on the hillside . . . The shepherds
tending them . . .
The journey of the wise men on camels
through the night . . .
Guided by the angels' song . . . and the heav-
enly light . . .
Bearing gifts of gold . . . frankincense . . . and
myrrh . . .
For the Holy Babe . . . the blessed Saviour . . .
Splendor . . . Humility . . . A light upon the
way . . .
Glimpses of glory . . . Learning to pray . . .*

*Pausing on life's journey . . . Hearing His
voice . . .*

*Searching for guidance . . . Making Him our
choice . . .*

*King of Kings . . . Lord of Lords . . . We our
voices lift . . .*

*In praise and adoration . . . Our hearts, our
Christmas gift!*

With Friends at Christmas

By PEARL BURNSIDE MCKINNEY

*My life is blessed with Christian friends,
Though some are far away;
Their paths and mine were parted
In some yesterday.*

*Our labors in the barrest fields
Have led through joys and tears;
The Master works His wondrous plan,
And swiftly pass the years.*

*At Christmastime we meet again,
Though far our paths have led;
We meet to worship and adore
Beside a manger bed.*

Arise

By JACK M. SCHARN

*Arise, ye sleeping shepherds;
The skies are all ablaze.
The heavens tremble with the theme
Of eternal praise.*

*Arise, ye sleeping shepherds;
Angelic choirs sing—
"Glory in the highest to the
Everlasting King!"*

*Arise, ye sleeping shepherds;
A star shines through the night
Directly o'er the manger where
Dwells the world's great Light.*

*Arise, ye sleeping shepherds;
Come see the infant Boy.
He turns despair and sadness
To peace and hope and joy.*

With Peace

for Those Who Want to Know

By ALICE HANSCHÉ MORTENSON

*Again the Christmas message
Is ringing sweet and clear
Across the many centuries
For any who will hear!
And heaven itself is bending low
Above a troubled earth,
With peace for those who want to know
About the Saviour's birth!*

By JOHN W. MAY
Pastor, Weirton, West Virginia



The TOPMOST STAR

NO CHRISTMAS TREE
is really complete
without a star

on its topmost bough. Towering over the tinsel, baubles, strings, and other decorations, the star heralds the real message of Christmas. It gives the answer to the question, Why do we celebrate Christmas?

When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem, Christ was already born, but they had followed the star, and were faithfully following it the night the heavenly visitors brought the message to the shepherds on the hillside. That star also has a message for the modern-day celebration of Christmas.

It was a *leading* star. It could not have been a falling star, for it would have travelled too fast and soon burned itself out. It was a star created for a specific purpose, to lead men to the Christ child. According to the Scripture it was "his star."

The star is still leading. As every Christmas dawns, the attention of men is brought into focus on the Gift from heaven, God's great Gift of His Son. In a day of rank commercialism, a day when the story of a reindeer may be more familiar than the story of the Redeemer, we need to be led. The star, symbolic of spiritual illumination, needs to shine as never before on a world that has lost its way.

The sad picture is that many have become familiar with religion but are strangers to the Redeemer. Many have become familiar with the terminology of salvation but do not have the experience.

For some time many advertisements and greetings have wished us a "Merry X-mas." The X, I am afraid, represented the mathematical figure of the unknown quantity or quality. This has

largely disappeared, for which we are grateful, and we see it only occasionally now. But in reality men have left Him not only out of the spelling but also out of the heart.

Christmas greetings certainly are empty when the Author of Christmas is left out. His star illuminated the heart of Christmas, and may its light illuminate the minds and souls of all of us today.

The star speaks of *divine favor*. God is interested in His creation. His concern brought to earth heaven's brightest Star. When Zacharias was able to speak after the birth of John, he spoke of the tender mercy of God by which "the dayspring from on high hath visited us" (Luke 1:78). He was the love of God revealed in human flesh to the worshipful eyes of the wise men.

Looking through the telescope of prophecy, one had said, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matthew 1:23). God had not forsaken the world; He did not fail to provide for His creation.

The Babe of Bethlehem was not only the Child of man but the Child of God; He was God clothed in humanity. Surely the star speaks the same message today! We get just as excited as children at Christmas, and this is right! Let the giving and receiving of gifts never be objected to, as expensive and bothersome as they may be, for they speak of the greatest Gift of all.

The star is a star *to be followed*. The leadership of God is unquestioned. He will lead in safe paths. He will lead in sure paths. We need to take our places beside wise men today journeying to a spiritual Bethlehem.

At Christmas we need to fix our eyes upon the star and not allow earthly things to demand undue attention. Man needs to follow the star until he finds the Christ, and there present his gifts of self and sacrifice.

In our "getting" we must not forget our "giving." The Lord surely has been good to us. Have we returned anything to Him? Our gift may be money, but it needs to be more than money. In the words of the grand old hymn—

*Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

May the topmost star be a continuous reminder of the revelation of Jesus Christ to our souls during the Christmas season, and its memory be bright through the coming year!

"The parents of Jesus found Him in the Temple. We too can find Him there. We can always find Him if we will seek Him. Let us find Him now. They rejoiced. You will, too!"—Norman W. Bloom.

Joy to the World

Dr. Isaac Watts

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love.*

THIS GLORIOUS OLD HYMN of joy and exultation sings its surging message throughout the churches around the world during the majestic Christmas season, and its reverberation is heard from loudspeakers on nearly every snow-studded city street even in this most troublesome time. Who can help but be happy after hearing or singing such a hymn?

Isaac Watts, the author of this hymn and many others, was born, the eldest of nine children, in 1674 at Southampton, England. His father, a Nonconformist, was imprisoned twice for his Puritan beliefs; and his mother's Huguenot family had fled to England to escape the St. Bartholomew Massacre. Isaac Watts travelled a rough road, yet his saintly mother would stand near the prison gate during his father's imprisonment and sing psalms for the edification of her husband and the comforting of her children.

When Isaac was seven, he impressed his parents by forming many of his sentences into rhymes. In his teens one day, Isaac came home from the chapel and with a blunt frankness, very characteristic of him, found fault with the paraphrases of the psalms which were being used as songs in the churches. He went so far as to venture his criticism on the songs being sung in his own parish. His father then replied as bluntly to him, "If you do not like these, give us something better."

The lad decided to try, and before the next Sabbath arrived, he had written his first hymn, a part of which we quote:

*Behold the glories of the Lamb
Amidst His Father's throne;
Prepare new honors for His name,
And songs before unknown.*

His most famous Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World," is a free treatment of Psalms 98:5-9. If you read this passage, you can readily see where Isaac Watts gained the germ-ideas for his now famous hymn-poem.

This "singing bard" received a fair education as a youth in the schools of his native town, Southampton, England; but because of his extraordinary alertness and promise, some well-to-do parties from his father's parish proposed to give him a university education. But the English universities were then closed against Dissenters, and young Watts chose rather to suffer affliction among his Dissenting brethren than to enjoy the advantages of an English university for a season. By dint of hard work and practicing frugality, he became a Congregational minister, but was always dubbed "a patriarch among the Dissenting clergy."

Truly Dr. Isaac Watts lived in epochal times and the hymns he wrote were epoch-making. For he changed the psalmody of his day into expressions of dignity and beauty, and well earned the title "father of hymnody." We see his lyre of many chords: the solemn, the majestic, the tender, the magnificent. His highest theme is found when he is dealing with the work and person of Christ as revealed in "Joy to the World," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "Jesus Shall Reign."

In 1696 this hymnist became a tutor to Sir John Hartopp's son in Newington. He composed many hymns for children, his best being this delightful "Lullaby for Children," which is very fitting for the Yuletide season:

*Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber;
Holy angels guard thy bed;
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.*

*How much better thou'rt attended
Than the Son of God could be,
When from heaven He descended,
And became a child like thee!*

*Soft and easy is thy cradle;
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When His birthplace was a stable,
And His softest bed the hay.*

The year 1698 is the date when Isaac Watts started his preaching. He became pastor at Mark Lane, near the Tower in London, in 1702. Here, too, trouble followed him, because he was seized with a physical infirmity that left him practically an invalid for life. This is probably the reason he never married. Although continuing in the pastorate, he relied upon an assistant for most of the

church duties, and he gave his time to the writing and publishing of hymns and prose—fifty-two volumes in all.

As we sing this hymn and other Christmas carols this joyous season, may we cherish anew the heritage we have of Christian hymns at Christmas—with its music and meditation, its festivity and friendships, its wonder and worship!

BE YE ENLARGED

By **HARDY J. POWERS**, *Pastor, First Church, Richmond, California*

Increasing in the Knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10)

THE APOSTLE had just prayed for the Colossians that they might be “filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,” and further still, that they might continue “increasing in the knowledge of God.”

God has not fenced us in, nor cooped us up, nor put a roof over us. If there be restrictions on us in a sane enlargement of the divine life, they do not come from Him. It is to the “enlarged life” that God calls us.

Over the whole living creation is written legibly, for all who can read, “Be ye enlarged.” To every seed the Divine Master says, “Be ye enlarged”—become a flower or a tree. To every rivulet He says, “Be enlarged”—become a river and never rest until you have rejoined the sea. To every babe He says, “Be ye enlarged”—become a man or a woman. To every spiritual babe He says, “Attain unto the full-grown stature of a man in Christ,” and then go on “increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Men hear this heavenly call, but yield only partial obedience to it. They enlarge their eyes by means of a telescope and microscope, their minds by means of science. The only thing they resolutely refuse to do is to enlarge their souls. But what is all other enlargement if this supreme commandment be ignored?

Horticulturists tell us of a kind of tree which is a full-grown tree in every respect except in size. It grows only a few inches in height. It has a trunk, limbs, leaves, just like any other tree. The reason for its lack of growth, is that, while it is still young, its taproot is cut, and the normal amount of nourishment necessary for its growth has been reduced. Such trees bear no fruit and give no shade. They are merely ornamental. Too many of us have cut our spiritual taproot. No longer are we of use to God's kingdom. We bear no fruit, give no shade; we have become ornaments.

There is a childhood in entire sanctification. But he who ceases to grow in holiness soon ceases to enjoy heart purity. Purity of heart is a stepping-stone to religious development. Nearly the whole of growth is beyond heart purity, as growth in grace belongs preeminently to the sanctified state. All obstructions to growth being removed, there is no reason why the pure in heart should not make more rapid progress than when in a lower state of grace.

Unless the soul pants for more of God, more of that fullness; unless faith seeks and secures enlargement, and has increase in intensity, the grace already given will not be retained, but there will be absolute loss. We shall have missed connection, and immediately move on a downward plane until we have passed the point of beginning.

Let us, then, not only “stand fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free” (Galatians 5:1), but “add to . . . faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Peter 1:5-8).

The Psalmist tells us, “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing” (Psalms 92:12-14).

Hence, the only safe course for any Christian, however young or old, is to leave his conversion, his sanctification, his past experiences, his former victories and triumphs, and press on to new revelations of grace and higher altitudes in the life of faith. Let's not cut our spiritual taproot, but let's be enlarged in the knowledge of God!



CHRISTMAS IS FOR EVERYBODY!



By JOHN J. HANCOCK, *Pastor, First Church, Dunbar, West Virginia*

IT'S HERE AGAIN . . . the season of toys, tinsel, and turkey.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly while we dream of a white Christmas climaxed by the stealthy midnight visit of Santa Claus and his gift-packed sleigh propelled by red-nosed Rudolph and seven other rocket-powered reindeer.

Inevitably, though, the festivities will be "marred" by some *killjoy* who suggests that between purchasing parcels and parading to parties we should "keep Christ in Christmas." Happens all the time—those church people bringing religion into everything!

But the wonderful, awe-inspiring, ever-mysterious, yet sublimely simple fact announced by the heavenly "gazetteer" nearly twenty centuries ago is this:

"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" (Luke 2:10-11).

The joyful rhythm of unselfish sharing which gladdens the lives of young and old at Christmas-time comes from the heartbeat of God, who "so

loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

The Heavenly Father's great big Christmas Gift still stands out among all the glorious glitter and glow and the spectacular sights, sounds, and smells of the smaller packages His children have happily heaped around the Prince of Peace.

That is why a worried world can forget for a season its sorrows, sores, and strivings, and share in something which belongs to all. Yes, Christmas is for everybody!

"Whosoever believeth," the promise proclaims. Not white or black, American or European, African or Indian, but "whosoever." God's Christmas Present is for all the world. We can't afford to lose it among the tinsel and trappings of lesser gifts.

The shepherds heard a song that first Christmas Day. The wise men saw a star. The sound and the sight drew them all to the place of the Christ child. The good news still touches every level of life. The message reaches out to the average and the astronomer. Songs and stars are still very much with us at Yuletide. May the sounds and the sights of this Christmas draw us once more to Him, too!

Serving Jesus in Hard Places

*Serving Jesus in hard places
Brings a rich and sweet reward—
Just to feel His presence with me,
And to know He is my Lord.
What a blessed, rare contentment
Comes from Christ enthroned above!
When my load gets, oh, so heavy,
Then He lifts me with His love.*

By EDITH ROBERTS

*Serving Jesus in hard places,
Though the road seems rough and long;
But I ask the Lord to help me,
And His Spirit makes me strong.
Souls are lost in sin and darkness,
Waiting for a helping hand;
Then I whisper, "Lord, I'm willing,"
And I know He'll understand.*

*Serving Jesus in hard places
Where no others want to go
Gives me love and deep compassion
For the lost that He loves so;
Makes me search the Scriptures often
For His promises galore—
Serving Jesus in hard places
Only makes me love Him more!*

The Soon Coming of

By **JAMES MACLEOD**
Pastor, Ballynaris, Dromore, N. Ireland

CHRIST

ALL WHO BELIEVE the Bible agree that the Lord is coming back again to this earth—the same Jesus, and in like manner as He went away. The writers of the Epistles take it for granted He is coming, simply stating it as something beyond all argument. There is thus no difficulty in a Christian holding this doctrine, since there is no dissension about the fact itself in any church group. This is indeed valuable!

There is wisdom in the divine strategy that no one can possibly know the time or the date of the sounding of the trumpet and the appearing of the Lord. It is true that some have set a time and a date and have hurt many souls; but were it within our power to ascertain when Jesus will come, the evangelistic program of the Church would suffer damage.

The recognition of signs of His coming is not of mathematical precision, and “uncertainty of the time” has remained down the centuries. Some say, “I don’t think the Lord will come today,” but that proves nothing, for the Lord said repeatedly, “In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:44).

Jesus said that if the householder knew when the thief would come he would watch and not let his house be broken into. He told of the nobleman who went away to receive for himself a kingdom, and said to his servants, “Occupy till I come.” On another occasion He said, “The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of” (Matthew 24:50). Uncertainty is definitely a part of the Lord’s strategy.

The early Christians, with the pressure of plain teaching and persecution unto death upon them, daily looked for their Lord’s return, and believed earnestly that He *could* return any moment. Later

on, as the zeal of many waned, although the uncertainty still was held, the sense of the nearness of Christ’s coming was lost. The chief incentive to all-out evangelism dropped from the Church and the establishment of a great Church on earth was begun. Watchfulness and prayerfulness almost disappeared, and churches became worldly and given to factions and strife, pride and selfishness, with little or no urge to righteousness and evangelism.

After Pentecost, the fervor of passionate love for the Lord Jesus and the consciousness that time was uncertain and short produced throughout the Church a wave of Christian generosity never since surpassed or equalled. Many slaves accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, and to supply their temporal needs the brethren who were comfortably placed sold all their possessions and laid the proceeds at the feet of the apostles. Distribution was then made unto every man as he had need.

Besides this, supplies were sent to those who were evangelizing afar off, and brotherly love has never reached such a high standard in the Church, although individual Christians have since then embraced the same level of consecration of life and property. The early believers realized that precious souls were going out into eternal darkness, without God and without hope, and, with a burning love for Jesus the Crucified, determined on an all-out effort to save all they could.

After two thousand years of long-suffering on the part of our Lord, who is not willing that any should perish, it is surely in order for all Christians, whatever the denominations may do, to emphasize as never before the fact that the Lord *could* come any moment now. The getting and holding of property and possessions, the desire of all who have not been to Calvary and Pentecost, is out of place altogether for anyone who wishes to meet the coming Lord joyful and unashamed.

Hunger for His appearing is better than all other satisfactions! Cultivation of the soul in grace is greater than all riches! Love neither the world nor its things! Set your affections on the things above! The Lord cometh! The time is uncertain! But it might be today. Hallelujah, He is coming!

There are many today who have gods that will fail them in their time of greatest need. To the scholar it might be intellectual pride; to the businessman it might be money; and to the young person it might be popularity. These afford only a measure of immediate joy. Let Christ be the Lord of your life. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
—Selected.

EDITORIALS

By W. T. PURKISER

"The Fringe Benefits of Christmas"

David Read has spoken of "the fringe benefits of Christmas." It is a phrase picked up from modern life and applied to the miracle of the ages, the incarnation of the Son of God.

Fringe benefits form an important part of contemporary economic life. These are the indirect values in a given relationship. The fringe benefits of a particular position in industry or business may include such items as a pension on retirement, hospitalization, paid vacations, life insurance, paid sick leave, and severance pay.

Many people tend to take fringe benefits lightly. They sometimes operate on the principle that the bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, and the extra dollar in the paycheck is worth two in the form of indirect or deferred payments.

The prudent, however, always weigh the fringe benefits. They realize the importance of the future. They are able to plan beyond today and provide for tomorrow.

Not all workers in our society receive fringe benefits in the ordinary usage of the term. The self-employed or those working only by the hour may be deprived of many such collateral values. But it is safe to say that any work worth doing carries some sort of remuneration which cannot be measured merely in terms of the cash involved.

JUST AS THERE ARE fringe benefits in work, there are "fringe benefits" in Christmas. The "take-home pay" of Christmas, if one may so speak, is of course the good news of redemption in Christ.

Included is the forgiveness of sins. The angel's word to Joseph was, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Included also is holiness of heart and life, for this birth, like that of John the Baptist, which preceded it, was the fulfillment of an ancient promise: "The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life" (Luke 1:73-75).

Beyond the "take-home pay" there are a number of "fringe benefits" in the coming of the Saviour. Not only do multitudes in our day fail to accept the "take-home pay"; they are also utterly ignorant of the fringe benefits.

What many do not see is that most of the light

we find in the darkness of our day is "indirect lighting" from that true Light which lighteth every man. After all is said and done, freedom and democracy are created and conserved by the values best taught by Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem almost twenty centuries ago.

There has never been a true democracy anywhere which did not have its roots, directly or indirectly, in the religion of the Bible. The democracies of ancient Greece and Rome were built on a vast slave society in which millions of human beings were nothing but pieces of property.

HISTORY WAS REBORN when Christ came. Newspapers today may fill their pages with attacks on everything Christ and His gospel stand for, yet in the date that appears at the top of each page all men unconsciously recognize the event which divides the centuries into B.C. and A.D., the birth of Jesus.

The great reforms that have done so much to soften the harshness of man's inhumanity to man have not generally been started by atheists and humanists. They have come from hearts touched by a love of God that had to find expression in love for man.

The main business of the Church throughout the Christian era has been proclaiming the good news of salvation through Christ. But among its by-products have been hospitals, schools, orphanages, and homes for the destitute and aged.

Christmas means Christ, and all that Christ has meant in history in addition to personal salvation may be considered among the "fringe benefits" of Bethlehem's manger-cradle. A Christless Christmas, if such were possible, would be like counterfeit money. It might have the appearance, but no value.

Let us put first and central during this season the direct and immediate values in the coming of Him who gave His life as our ransom from sin. And let us be grateful for the "fringe benefits" we also receive through Him. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

Content or Contentious

The pity of so many who claim the name of Christ today is that they are contentious rather than contented. They would "earnestly contend for the faith" at the drop of a hat. Yet what they contend for, all too often, is far short of "the faith . . . once

delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

This is seen most clearly in the spirit with which they contend. There is a bitterness born of basic insecurity in their contention. They lash out with the blind unreason the natural man shows when his foundations are threatened. They contend for faith with a human fear that denies the very meaning of faith.

On the other hand, there is a loyalty to truth and right that is born of inner serenity. In the area of personal experience it does not need to argue because it can witness. Its basis is the strong conviction that, while evil may seem to have a temporary advantage, in the end it is self-destructive. As James Russell Lowell described it:

*Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne--
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own.*

Here is the foundation for confidence and contentment. We may with greater effectiveness contend for the faith if we are contented with it ourselves, and not contentious about it in such a perverse way as to deny its very meaning.

On Being Friendly

The talk around the camp meeting breakfast table drifted to the problem of the apparent unfriendliness of the church toward its visitors. Almost everyone had some experience along this line to relate.

One young woman told of her husband's reaction when he first attended a Church of the Nazarene. He came from another religious background. His first contact with the Nazarenes was in a large midwest city. The members were so friendly and seemed so interested in him, he made a mental note to see more of these people.

His next contact was with a smaller church, and here he found himself almost completely ignored. No one spoke to him. He could have just as well

been quite invisible, for any evidence that anyone knew he was there.

His reaction was understandable. He decided he would find another church. But before he did, he thought he would give the Church of the Nazarene one more try.

The third visit, fortunately, confirmed his first impression. Again he found an interested and friendly people. He continued to attend this third church, was converted and sanctified, and later became a member.

In telling the story, his wife said, "Just think how close he came to being lost to the Church of the Nazarene by the unfriendliness of one congregation."

WHEREVER WE LIVE, and in whatever size church we worship, there is food for thought here. People, we think, should be interested enough in God and salvation to come to church regardless of the human factors involved. But the facts are, the love and concern of God for the souls of men and women has to be demonstrated by His people before it makes much of an impression on those outside.

The Bible standard for Christian conduct is so simple that many have missed it. It is the principle that as God has treated us, so we should treat others. It applies not only in the situations where there is strain and tension—the need for forgiveness. It also applies to the more general relationships of life—showing interest and concern. Christian love grows by the giving and not getting.

It all boils down to the truth of the statement, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24). "Make to yourselves friends," said Jesus—in a setting which shows that human values are more important than silver and gold.

Few if any have ever been won to the Lord who have not first been won to some of God's people. The chill of indifference must give way to the glow of sincere interest if our churches are to fulfill their destiny in the world.

THE CHURCH AT WORK

WORLD MISSIONS

E. S. PHILLIPS, Secretary

Moving Missionaries

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Forster are in Japan for their first term. Their address is 2301 Karuizawa Machi, Nagano Ken, Japan.

Rev. and Mrs. Darrell Spoon, home on furlough from Guatemala, are living at 807 Cedar St., Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

Dr. and Mrs. William Sedat are on

furlough from Guatemala. Their address is 6355 No. Oak, Temple City, California.

Rev. and Mrs. George Hayse, in Africa, are moving in a few weeks to Mondeor, Box 70, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa.

Needed: Outdated "Nu-Vu" Materials

Rev. Paul Wire of Italy has requested any outdated *Nu-Vu* backgrounds and figures that local churches can send

him. They are just getting Sunday schools started in many of their churches in Italy and have no Sunday school materials available, in the Italian language. With the *Nu-Vu* materials the teachers can tell the Bible stories in their own language to the boys and girls.

This is a new venture, as the people are not used to Sunday schools in Italy. Most churches do not have them. He will be grateful for any of these *Nu-Vu* materials that the churches can send.

Mail them to:

Rev. Paul W. Wire
Via Micinesi 5/D
Florence 7, Italy

Send as "Printed Matter: no value."

With Our African Youth

The hostel provides a great opportunity to work with the younger Africans. A few weeks ago one of the boys from the Swaziland Teacher Training College and a member of a gospel quartet was under conviction. He left school during the day "sick," and returned to the hostel, where he went to the prayer room. During evening devotions with the students after supper, I heard loud praying coming from the prayer room and knew that some of the boys had gone there instead of coming to devotions. Soon he found forgiveness for his sins, and after prayers he told me of the experience. He made restitution for his sins and soon was a changed boy. Pray for these boys.

We Are Moving Ahead

By DONALD REED

We are having a good year here in Lebanon. It seems to me to be the best year since we returned. We have a fine increase in the day school (from 120 to 170), have started the kindergarten class in Sim-el-fil with 25 students, and have a good group in the Bible school. The churches are doing fairly well. Our new work in an area called Jededieh is very promising. There are some really converted people in the area and no evangelical church. We often have around forty adults in the morning service and about the same for prayer meeting. The Bible school students have set 2,000 Gospels of John as their goal in the distribution program. It looks like they are going to reach their goal. The people of the churches have been helping them.

Revival Fires Burn in Swaziland

By MARGARET BEDWELL
Swaziland

We are in the midst of a revival in which my husband is the speaker. We have four meetings a day, three with the school children and one in the evening. God is blessing and there seems to be a real move in the school. Africa can be saved only by a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We must save our children and young people. So please pray for us.

One woman came to the altar and confessed that she had stolen clothes from her employer. She said God had spoken to her and she was going to make it right with this person. The next day she came again to the altar and said she had gone to this person. Satan had tried to hinder her but she said, "Jesus was there." She had confessed and her employer had forgiven her. Her face was radiant, for she really had gotten

through. This has been repeated many times these last few days as people repent and make things right. Surely this is a sign of coming revival! Pray for us!

Baptismal Service

By BOYD SKINNER, Chile

In the afternoon, after a morning of worship and prayer and fasting, we journeyed to the Lluta River in two pickup trucks to administer the sacrament of baptism to seventeen of our faithful believers. Some of these have been attending our services for ten years, one for nine months, but all have passed the approval of the church board; so with rejoicing they went under the waters of baptism. Some attend the Asbury Chapel; others attend First Church in Arica—all are one in Christ.

AND A NEW

BUILDING PROJECT IN CHACA

Our one-room chapel in Chaca Valley was built in 1957. It is called the Miller Memorial, dedicated to two good friends who sacrificed to build it. During the years since 1957 we have felt the need of rooms for Sunday school and vacation Bible school, as well as a place to stay when we visit the valley for services. The construction of this addition was made possible by the Winchester, Indiana, Church of the Nazarene.

In the early part of 1964, with six young men and Brother Correa, our Sunday school superintendent at Juan Noe First Church, we traveled to the valley to haul mud bricks and stones to begin the construction. We spent three days moving the bricks. After each day's hot, dusty work we had a good dip in the "Ole Swimming Hole," a pool that was fed by a spring. Each weekday we shared a good noon meal together.

Finally the main part of the building was completed. Brother and Sister Ira Taylor came with us to see the work and to hold services in the chapel. We have a regular Sunday school going there now, and preaching as often as we can get down there. There are many spiritually needy people in this Chaca Valley.

SERVICEMEN'S COMMISSION

PAUL SKILES, Director

MEET OUR CHAPLAINS

Major Clifford E. Keys, Jr.

Born 1 July, 1928, Burbank, California, the son of a Nazarene minister. He earned letters in athletics in both junior and senior high. Cliff received an A.B. from Eastern Nazarene College, and then came to Nazarene Theological Seminary, from which he received a B.D. in 1953. His pastoral work includes two years at a community church in White Cloud, Kansas, while attending seminary.

He began his military career in January, 1951. During his tour as chaplain with the 101st Airborne Division, he entered his amazing "jumping" days—with a total to date of 314 parachute jumps (military and sky-diving). Chaplain Keys spent one year in Japan, and a recent duty assignment was with the Military Advisory Group in Korea, 1962 to 1963. He is now assistant staff chaplain, Headquarters, Army Materiel Command, at the Pentagon.

The Keyeses live in Alexandria, Virginia; and he and wife, Lois, and their children—Debbie, nine; Michael, eight; and Kelly, six—attend First Church, Washington, D.C.



Pushing Pencils and Shuffling Papers

My first nine and one-half years in the U.S. Army chaplaincy were ideal. I enjoyed every day of my work with the paratrooper units to which I had been assigned. Getting up at 2:00 a.m. for a parachute maneuver; breaking the ice in my steel helmet to shave; slogging through the mud on a twenty-five mile hike; shooting the breeze with men ranking from private to general—these routine episodes provided unlimited opportunities for a fruitful ministry and I loved it!

Then it happened. I received orders in Korea stating that, upon my return to the States, I was being assigned as the Assistant Staff Chaplain at Headquarters, United States Army Materiel Command in Washington, D.C.

Instead of wearing fatigues and boots every day, my daily duty uniform would be blouse with tie. Instead of working in the field with the troops, I would be sitting at a desk *pushing a pencil and shuffling papers.*

My initial reaction was one of apprehension and disappointment. In ten more years I might be ready to settle down to a desk job—but—not yet!

After surviving a year in the administrative game, my outlook has been changed 180 degrees. My feelings must be akin to those of our ministers who move from the pastorate to an "office job" at our denominational headquarters. I have learned that the pencil can

wield a tremendous influence by imposing parameters and establishing requirements. To approach maximum effectiveness, any organization must have continuity. The directives and guidance disseminated by any headquarters or business, department of the army, or the church, provide that continuity. It is sobering to realize that the things you write will either help or hinder the work of individuals and groups whom you may never meet. Their success or defeat, their progress or floundering, their cooperation or independence, their contributions or parasitism, all that they do—or fail to do—will be related to the endless parade of paperwork that marches across your desk, and passes in review before your eyes. Enterprising business has translated those principles into increasing profits and decreasing losses.

We are also in business—the business of bringing God to men, and men to God. Our profit and loss ledgers do not portray costly, obsolete inventories or fast-selling commodities, but rather the spiritual status of immortal souls.

As I spend hours poring over graphs, computing statistical deviations, reviewing the analyzing program implementation, and writing guidance directives, I sometimes question the investment of my time—but not for long!

Benjamin Franklin said he could conquer the world with twenty-six soldiers—the alphabet. We can win the world for the Master with the same army!

CLIFFORD E. KEYS, JR.

United State Army Chaplain

GENERAL INTERESTS

Guatemala-El Salvador Council Meeting

The fortieth annual council meeting of the Guatemala-El Salvador District got under way on last October 13. From the morning chapel service to the last bit of business, each day was marked by a gracious spirit of unity and cooperation.

God met with us daily as we gathered in the small chapel. Midst tears of joy we searched our hearts, renewed our determination, and broadened our vision as the Holy Spirit quietly taught us again the way of the Cross.

El Salvador, our new field, became more than a name as the Larry Bryants gave their report. We must go now with men and money into this new field, giving them the Christ. As a mission council, we claim El Salvador for God and holiness.

Rev. James Hudson and Rev. Federico Guillermo each received a unanimous vote to the office of council president and district superintendent respectively. Brother Guillermo begins his second year as national district superintendent.

Each missionary accepted his stationing with an attitude of "This is God's will for me—I will do my best."—CHARLES R. CHILDRESS, *Reporter*.

Argentina Council Meets

The Argentina Missionary Council met in the newly completed Bible school building, in Buenos Aires, on October 28. Members present were: Dr. and Mrs. John Cochran, Rev. and Mrs. Spurgeon Hendrix, Dorothy Ahleman, Rev. and Mrs. Don Crenshaw, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Say, Rev. Thomas Ainscough, and Rev. and Mrs. Norman Howerton.

A beautiful spirit of love, harmony, and concern for the Kingdom work was manifested in both the devotional and the business sessions. Plans are being made to enter the new area of Santa Fe as soon as possible. There are many open doors.

"The greatest need of the hour," according to District Superintendent John Cochran, "is for more national workers. We could open new work almost anywhere if there were workers."

Join us in praying that the Master will send forth more laborers into the harvest fields of Argentina.—NORMAN HOWERTON, *Reporter*.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Alabama District

Preachers' and Wives' Retreat

The annual district preachers' and wives' retreat was held November 3 to 5 at Camp Sumatanga, near Oneonta, Alabama, with Dr. and Mrs. Edward Lawlor as the special workers.

Mr. Elvin Hicks represented our Publishing House; Rev. Dean Wessels, the Department of Ministerial Benevolence; and Rev. Bill Anderson presented the interests of Trevecca Nazarene College.

Those present will long remember how God came in real revival atmosphere, in the singing, in the fellowship, and in the worship. Throughout the retreat, our souls were lifted by the messages of Dr. Lawlor to the preachers, and Mrs. Lawlor to the wives.

An old camp meeting atmosphere prevailed as District Superintendent Reeford Chaney and Rev. Roy McKinney brought the morning devotionals, and Mrs. Ruby Miller and Rev. G. W. Ball led in the fireside services.

Through the leadership and organization of our good district superintendent this was one of the best district retreats we have had.—J. W. (BILL) LANCASTER, *Reporter*.

North Dakota Workers' Convention

The North Dakota District workers' convention convened at First Church, Dickinson, on October 26, with a very fine attendance. All but three pastors attended the convention.

Dr. J. T. Gasset, special speaker, was indeed used of God. His messages were timely, educational, spiritual, and most inspiring.

Rev. Harry F. Taplin, our dedicated district superintendent, challenged all of us to face our task by prayer and fasting, making new contacts, and with a district program designed to inspire.

The missionary interests were presented by the district N.W.M.S. president, Mrs. Harry Taplin; the young

people's interests, by District President Runyon; and the church school work, by District Chairman Wilbur Dodson. Each one had a well-prepared, challenging program.

Pastor and people of the Dickinson church counted it a privilege to entertain the convention.—VERNON H. WILKARD, *Reporter*.

Abilene District Laymen's Retreat

The Holy Spirit anointed the ministry of our newest general superintendent, Dr. George Coulter, as he spoke to the second annual laymen's retreat of the Abilene District.

As we met at Camp Arrowhead on the first weekend of October, our vision was enlarged and our passion for souls intensified as Dr. Coulter challenged us to embrace the total program of the Church of the Nazarene. In the times of open discussion each layman present seemed to be challenged by the consecration and depth of devotion of other laymen.

Home missions, foreign missions, local church needs, district needs—all blended together into one great task of reaching the lost as Dr. Coulter probed our innermost thoughts. The Church of the Nazarene has been strengthened as a result of this retreat. It is no surprise that our district is developing a permanent program for an annual laymen's retreat.—*Reporter*.

New Church Organizations Reported

Swayzee, Indiana, August 16, 1964. Rev. Carlson Gollither, pastor.—Paul Upldike, *district superintendent*.

Mother Lode Church, Amador County, California, September 20, 1964. Rev. Ronald Grabke, pastor.—Kenneth Vogt, *district superintendent*.

THE LOCAL CHURCHES

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA—First Church recently enjoyed a wonderful revival in which God graciously came upon the people under the Spirit-anointed preaching of Dr. John L. Knight. There were definite victories at the altar, with six new members added to the church. We appreciated the fine special singing of Mr. and Mrs. James Carmickle. The presence and blessing of the Lord linger with us.—W. BLAINE DODD, *Pastor*.

SPARTA, TENNESSEE—Evangelist Joe Bishop was recently used of the Lord to promote a revival in our church. Brother Bishop is an old-fashioned preacher; loves God and loves people. Our people were inspired by his messages on holiness. Our Sunday school showed a good increase in attendance and our folks have been drawn closer to the Lord. We praise God for His blessings and for definite victories.—LILLIAN WILLIAMS, *Pastor*.

COUNCIL, IDAHO—Evangelist Howard Mansfield was truly God's man for the hour in our fall revival. The Lord used him graciously in our midst; prayers were answered and victories won. Fifteen souls sought God at the altar, and many others were helped. Four of these

were saved for the first time, and two were teen-agers saved through the Sunday school. One complete family found new spiritual victory. On the special Sunday school night we had sixty present—more than the yearly average Sunday school attendance. We thank God for the ministry of Brother Mansfield with us.—ROLAND M. BECKER, *Pastor*.

MULDROW, OKLAHOMA—Our church had a profitable fall revival with Evangelist W. E. Clark. He carried a burden for souls, and preached with the anointing of the Spirit. A number of souls found the Lord as Saviour and/or Sanctifier, and a fine young married couple was received into church membership. We thank the Lord for His blessings upon the work here.—JAMES M. STEWART, *Pastor*.

ST. MARYS, OHIO—First Church had a very profitable fall revival with Rev. A. W. McQueen of Oklahoma as the evangelist. God honored his Spirit-anointed messages, giving seekers in almost every service. We have recently launched a \$75,000 building program, for a new sanctuary, with full basement, with plans to convert the present church building into an educational unit. During the past year our people have given over \$11,000 in cash for the new building. We are now completing six years with this church, during which time our people have paid off the indebtedness on the present church building and annex, also over one-half of the debt on the parsonage. Our people are united and God is blessing.—O. V. MEWBUORN, *Pastor*.

FREEPORT, TEXAS—Recently our church closed a most gracious revival with Rev. Mrs. Emma Irick as the evangelist. God blessed in giving forty seekers at the altar, and a class of six new members received into the church, all by profession of faith. Mrs. Irick's wonderful messages on holiness continue to be a blessing to our people.—R. EARL COTTON, *Pastor*.

Evangelist Daniel Stafford writes: "Due to a change of pastors, I have a choice date open in April of '65. Shall be glad to slate the time as the Lord may lead. Write me, Box 11, Bethany, Oklahoma 73008."

MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA—Tears, heart-searching, conviction, and encouragement were results of a moving of the Holy Spirit in our midst under the splendid ministry of Evangelist Thomas Hayes. More than thirty people sought God at the altar to be saved or sanctified, and God gave physical healing to some in the healing service on Saturday evening. There was a good response to Brother Hayes's emphasis on prayer and fasting, and also on tithing. We greatly appreciated his ministry with us.—MRS. GEORGE KNUTSON, *Reporter*.

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS—First Church recently closed a good assembly year, with twenty new members added to the

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will toward men."
Luke 2:14



Season's Greetings to all from International Headquarters and the Nazarene Publishing House

fellowship of the church, fourteen by profession of faith and six by transfer. We had two wonderful revival meetings: with Evangelist David K. Wachtel last spring, and Rev. Harold Thompson in October. God's Spirit moved upon the people, giving many souls at the altar in each meeting. The Lord continues to bless with people being saved in our regular Sunday services. Our people are encouraged, and we now look forward to the construction of a new building and the relocating of First Church, on our five-acre tract purchased last year.—C. FRANK BECKETT, *Pastor*.

SALEM, OHIO—First Church is enjoying fine progress under the leadership of Pastor J. Ted Holstein. Recently the pastor's two brothers—James from Muncie, and Dave from Bennie, Indiana—were with us for a week of revival. The Holy Spirit was faithful, with an average nightly attendance of 139, and seekers in every service. The three brothers comprised the "Holstein Brothers Trio," singing in each service. Following the revival the church launched into the Munger Sunday school plan in our "March to a Million." Most of the doors in Salem (a city of around fourteen

thousand population) were knocked on and scores of new contacts made for the church. The drive climaxed with a rally day attendance of 311.—DOROTHY MULLER, *Secretary*.

Pastor Dudley B. Anderson reports from Fort Worth, Texas: "The Polytechnic Church had a very fruitful fall revival under the able ministry of Evangelist Robert W. Carpenter. God's presence was manifest in an unusual manner in the services, and on the closing Sunday morning, during the message, the altar filled with seekers, and fifteen prayed through in that service. There were a goodly number of seekers throughout the meeting, with some indicating an interest in church membership. Pastor and people are encouraged, and we give God praise for His faithfulness."

Pastor Ronald Young reports from Riceville, Pennsylvania: "Beginning our labors here last August, we found a dedicated people willing to work for the Lord in this rural area. The Lord has blessed our regular services with several seekers, most of them new to our church, and the Sunday school has increased almost 70 percent in average attendance.

The people began a visitation program which is paying off. Our recent revival with Evangelist Richard W. Jaymes is said to be one of the best in the church's history. We appreciated Brother Jaymes's anointed messages. In a special singspiration on Friday night, ten people sought God at the altar and prayed through to victory."

HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA—Recently our church enjoyed what we feel was a most successful revival meeting with Evangelists Alva O. and Gladys Estep as the special workers. This is the second time we have had these good folks, and we look forward to having them again in 1966. God blessed in giving more than one hundred seekers at the altar, and a nice class of new members was added to the church. The meeting climaxed with 358 in Sunday school on the closing day.—ROBERT W. GARDNER, *Pastor*.

Pastor Carl Pratt reports: "After serving our church in North Miami, Florida, for five years, I have accepted the call to our First Church in Sumter, South Carolina. We enjoyed our ministry with the wonderful folk in North Miami, and through the help of God and the cooperation of the people we built a new sanctuary and remodeled the educational unit. Following the leadership of the Lord, we have met an equally consecrated and God-fearing congregation here at Sumter. Rev. C. Harry Huff, who died on September 19, was much loved and appreciated by the church and city alike; his labors will be long remembered in Sumter."

Evangelist Bernice I. Roedel reports: "At this writing [Nov. 19] I am en route to Des Arc, Missouri, for a revival, my fourteenth for the year of 1964. In addition to these revivals I have been privileged to serve as director of three vacation Bible schools and as children's evangelist in two district camps. I appreciate the calls extended to me by some twenty of our good churches and their pastors, on ten districts. I am now in my eighteenth year as a Nazarene evangelist. Due to a recent cancellation, I have a choice spring date open which I would prefer to slate en route from Missouri to Pennsylvania. Write me, 423 E. Maple Street, Boonville, Indiana."

DELTA, PENNSYLVANIA—Our church enjoyed a most gracious fall revival with Evangelist Thomas Hayes. Counting as they came, sixty seekers bowed at the altar of prayer. Hearts were moved and shouts of praise resounded as God's outpoured Spirit brought unusual victories. Pastor and people are united; the work of the departments moves forward with dedicated, aggressive leadership; and we are advancing, spiritually, financially, and numerically.—LUKE M. LIGHT, *Pastor*.

ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA—The New Providence Church recently closed one of the best revivals in this church's history, and also in the community. Under the anointed ministry of the Bender Evangelistic Party, the Lord was gracious and the Holy Spirit brought conviction

upon the congregation. The recently completed sanctuary was filled to near capacity each night, with a total of 116 seekers at the altar. The evangelists were well paid, and were given a call to return next year. We give God praise for the ministry of the Benders with us.—C. E. HARWELL, *Pastor*.

MARIETTA, GEORGIA—Recently our church had an outstanding revival with Evangelist C. B. Fugett. It was unusual in that, in the early part of the meeting, the Lord seemed to direct toward personal evangelism. Our people were blessed and have accepted Brother Fugett's plan of going from door to door to reach the people. Sunday morning was characterized by strong conviction with several seekers, and the Sunday night service was anointed of the Holy Spirit, resulting in more than twenty seekers at the altar. We are working toward an active personal evangelism to cover our entire city during this next year. We give God praise for His blessings.—RALPH W. HERRICK, *Pastor*.

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA—Rally Day, October 25, was a day of great victory for our church. As a result of prayer and hard work on the part of our people, we had seventy-five in Sunday school—as against thirty-eight present on August 30, the day we began our pastorate here. Since Rally Day, the average attendance has been sixty. The climax on Rally Day came with eighteen people bowing at the altar of prayer, and on November 8 we received a class of five wonderful people into the church. Pastor and people are encouraged.—WILLIS D. NALL, *Pastor*.

Evangelist Thomas Hayes writes: "The Lord is giving some good revivals across the country. Had a good meeting in Pennsylvania; then in November in Tucson, Arizona, with Rev. and Mrs. Timmer; from there on to Kansas. I have some open time for the spring after the middle of February. Then will be closing the Indian camp meeting at Walters, Oklahoma on July 5 (1965) and have open dates for two tent meetings, with my big tent. I shall be glad to go as the Lord may lead. Write me, c/o our Publishing House, Box 527, Kansas City, Missouri 64141."

MILLSHOP, TEXAS—In November our church had seven wonderful days of revival with Rev. James DePasquale as the special worker. We thank God for his ministry with us. The church was revived, a number sought God at the altar, and people from the community visited our services.—DON TEAGUE, *Pastor*.

PAILOSE, WASHINGTON—In November we had a revival campaign with Rev. Howard Mansfield as evangelist. From the first service the presence of the Lord was manifest, and the Holy Spirit came in convicting power. Many sought the Lord both for forgiveness and heart purity, with both teen-agers and older people alike finding help in God. We thank God for these good days of revival. Brother Mansfield was given a call to return.—GRORER H. BRIGGS, *Pastor*.

PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA—We praise God for the wonderful revival which has come to Southside Church. Evangelist George Brannon preached with the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the people prayed and fasted, and conviction came upon the unsaved. Many people were saved and sanctified, including one entire family. In some services the Holy Spirit took over in such a way that the evangelist could not preach. A class of eight new members was added to the church, all by confession of faith.—ROBERT E. SALSER, *Pastor*.

Evangelist W. B. Walker reports: "During the fall months I conducted five full-time revivals at Wright View, Fairborn, Ohio; Richmond, Indiana, First; Norwood, Ohio, First; Ray Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; and Bryan, Ohio, First. These churches have capable pastors, and the Lord met with us in saving and sanctifying power. We thank God for the glorious manifestations of His Spirit. Pastors and people stood by in every way. Pray with us that 1965 may be a gracious time of soul winning. Write me, c/o our Publishing House, Box 527, Kansas City, Missouri 64141."

THE BIBLE LESSON

By NELSON G. MINK

Topic for December 27:

Wise Men Come to Jesus

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2 (Printed: Matthew 2:1-12)

GOLDEN TEXT: *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising (Isaiah 60: 1, 3).*

The colorful event of the wise men seeking out the Christ child and presenting to Him their gifts provokes happy and profitable thoughts. They probably gave up looking directly at the star, as they approached Jerusalem, and, thinking the new king would most certainly be born there, allowed their logic to interfere with God's leading. There was extra rejoicing when once again "they saw the star."

God is faithful to us all, and often must need forgive us our blunders, when we try to do things our way. But God doesn't scold. He just comes along with His patience and love and by His gentle guidance seems to say, "Child of Mine, try to follow more closely next time."

The gifts these men brought represent the finest of things that are associated with mankind. We would be safe in saying they brought their best. Could God ever be satisfied with anything less than the same from us? He wants the best of our devotions, our time, and our talents. He wants young lives before they get tarnished and torn with sin. He wants hearts that are pure and devoted, for here He would like to have His throne, and, in the inner sanctuary of our own beings, He would comfort, guide, and inspire us.

This entire lesson points to the pre-eminence of Jesus as King of Kings and the Saviour of the world. Since we know Him thus, what a responsibility we

feel to acknowledge Him as such! He wants His will to be underscored in our lives. In fact He wants to be enthroned within, that we can say with the Psalmist, "I delight to do thy will, O my God" (40:8).

When Gordon Cooper was circling the earth he prayed a prayer which in part is as follows: "Father, thank You, especially for letting me fly this flight. Thank You for the privilege of being able to be in this position; to be in this wondrous place, seeing all these many startling, wonderful things You have created. Help, guide, and direct all of us, that we may shape our lives to be better Christians, trying to help one another, and to work with one another rather than fighting and bickering."

God not only gave His best in the long ago; He is still giving His best to everyone who yields to, follows, and stays in divine order.

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the **A**nswer corner

Conducted by W. T. PURKISER, Editor

If marriage is honorable, then why does Paul say that by remaining single a woman is able to be pure in body and soul? Isn't something that is impure defiled?

I think you have misunderstood Paul. The verse to which you refer is part of Paul's explanation as to why he thought, in the conditions under which the Early Church lived, it was better to remain unmarried (I Corinthians 7: 29-40). Verse 34 reads, "The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit; but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband."

If you will read the whole passage, you will see that it is not being unmarried that makes a woman holy in body

and in soul, but her caring for the things of the Lord. Paul's thought was that "ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction" (v. 35).

In this connection it is well to notice verses 6, 12, and 40: "But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment"; "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord"; "But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment; and I think also that I have the Spirit of God." Paul makes it clear that he was dealing with a local and temporary situation, not proposing rules universally applicable.

Would you please explain Hebrews 6:4-6?

This is a recurring question, because the verses are puzzling. They read: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

The difficult parts are the two phrases "if they shall fall away" and "seeing they crucify." It is important to see that "falling away" is not necessarily backsliding, but the total apostasy which rejects entirely the atoning blood of the Saviour. Everyone who "falls away" backslides; but not every backslider has "fallen away" from belief of the truth that there are pardon and purity in the crucified Son of God.

In the saved life, how can Christ abide in the heart of a man while the sin nature remains? I thought He had no fellowship with sin.

Christ doesn't have fellowship with sin. This is exactly the source of the inner conflicts the unsanctified Christian experiences. Paul makes this clear in Galatians 5:17: "For the flesh [not the physical body, but the carnal nature, as you can see from verse 24] lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Paul also says, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. . . . For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not

Then there is value in the marginal rendering of the American Standard Version of verse 6, "to renew them again unto repentance, the while they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

As Dr. H. Orton Wiley comments, "What the writer says therefore is that it is impossible to renew again to repentance those who have fallen away, 'while they are still crucifying the Son of God afresh for themselves'; and 'while they are still exposing Him to ignominy and shame.'"

You see, these verses do not contradict the hope held out to the backslider throughout the Bible in such promises as Isaiah 55:6-7; Hosea 14:4, 8; Luke 15:11-24; and I John 2:1-2. What they do is to warn every backslider to cease crucifying the Son of God and return to the Lord before his backsliding becomes final apostasy.

"SHOWERS of BLESSING" Program Schedule

December 27—"What About New Year's Resolutions?" by Russell V. DeLong

January 3—"Two Astronauts and God," by Russell V. DeLong

January 10—"Foretelling the Future with Certainty," by Russell V. DeLong

Announcements

BORN

—to Professor and Mrs. Kenneth A. Klemme of Miltonvale, Kansas, a son, Kenneth Allen II, on November 19.

—to Wayne S. and Naomi Monnett Cain, Jr., of Bristol, Pennsylvania, a son, Barton Monnett, on October 30.

—to Mr. and Mrs. John Ulrich of Bourbonnais, Illinois, a daughter, Marie Annette, on November 15.

—to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brodien of Bourbonnais, Illinois, a son, Jeffrey Edward, on October 29.

—to Robert and Sharon (Clay) Densford of Bourbonnais, Illinois, a son, Steven Russell, on October 21.

—to Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Smith of Bourbonnais, Illinois, a son, Kevin Lynn, on September 13.

ADOPTED

—by Rev. and Mrs. Jarrell Garsee, missionaries now on furlough from American Samoa, a three-week-old baby girl, on November 7. They have named her Jan Denise.

SPECIAL PRAYER IS REQUESTED

by a Nazarene lady in an Oklahoma church for our beloved pastor . . . had another heart attack November 15, that God will have His way in our pastor's life";

by a reader in Kansas that a young minister may make a complete commitment to God before it is too late.

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LATE NEWS

Church Far Exceeds Thanksgiving Goal

The Plymouth, Michigan, Church of the Nazarene went over its goal of \$2,800.00 for the Thanksgiving offering. The total giving was in excess of \$4,000.00, more than \$20.00 per member. Rev. U. B. Godman is the pastor.

Mrs. Stevens in N.W.M.S. Office

Mrs. Roy F. Stevens will assume responsibilities as the office assistant to Miss Mary Scott, executive secretary of the N.W.M.S., on January 1, according to an announcement released by Miss Scott.

Evangelist's Quadrennial Calendar Available

The Department of Evangelism has prepared and released to all evangelists a pocket-size, four-year calendar containing all of the dates for the quadrennium arranged for maximum usefulness in scheduling revival campaigns. The booklet also contains annual calendars up through 1972.

Dr. Edward Lawlor, executive secretary of the Department, writes: "As you use this campaign calendar may you always remember that evangelism is never on trial in our church, but we who are in the forefront of the battle always are. Let us in that truth dedicate our redeemed powers to evangelize more 'In the Power of the Spirit' during 1965."

Furloughed Missionaries to Be Feted

Furloughed missionaries attending the 1965 sessions of the Department of World Missions and the General Board are to be hosted by Kansas City First Church as special guests at a dinner on Friday, January 15.

Missionaries on furlough report in person to the Department. "Missionary Report Day" to the Department has been set for Saturday, January 16. The furloughed missionaries will be the guests of Misses Mary Scott and Helen Temple at a traditional Chinese dinner the same day.

"Missionary Report Day" has been scheduled closest to the open sessions of the General Board, Monday, January 18, through Wednesday, January 20, for the convenience of those of the missionaries on furlough who may wish to remain throughout.

English Services in West Germany

Services for English-speaking people are now being conducted in connection with two overseas churches on the West Germany District. American service personnel and other American and British

people abroad make up the auxiliary congregations in Frankfurt and Kaiserslautern.

The Church of the Nazarene in Frankfurt am Main is located at Hugelstrasse 143. The Kaiserslautern church is at Bremerstrasse 35, and is pastored by Rev. Rudolf Quiram, who served as pastor for three years on the Washington Pacific District before returning to Germany.

Both congregations are growing, and extend a special welcome to tourists as well as those stationed in the area who desire to attend Nazarene services in English.

H. H. Davises' Fiftieth

Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Davis, Springdale, Arkansas, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, November 23. Mr. Davis served in the active ministry for forty-six years, retiring five years ago.

Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Davis have ten living children, twenty-six grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren. To make it possible for all the children to attend, a family reunion in honor of the golden wedding anniversary was held earlier.

Leadership Changes

Rev. Walter Hubbard has accepted a call to the pastorate of Pasadena, California, Central Church. He is now serving in Santa Cruz.

Rev. Glenn I. Lord, pastor of First Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, has accepted a call to Coffeyville, Kansas, First Church. He will assume his responsibilities in the new charge on January 1.

Evangelist A. William Erickson has accepted the pastorate of the Hampton, Virginia, church. He had been serving in the evangelistic field.



Washington Star Defends Student-led "Grace"

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—An editorial in the *Washington Star*, one of the capital's three daily newspapers, said it is wondering "how silly a nation can get."

The editorial referred to the challenge of the Washington Area chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union questioning the right of the student council of a suburban Virginia school to lead in saving grace at meals.

The *Star* questioned how the practice, which it regards as student-initiated, sponsored, and administered, "impinges upon, or even remotely approaches" the First Amendment's pronouncement that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

This issue arose when the A.C.L.U. announced it would challenge the Fairfax County (Va.) school board on its

right to permit the practice, contending the student council is a quasi-administrative body. An A.C.L.U. spokesman said that on this basis it violated the intent of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on prayer handed down in the New York Board of Regents Case and in another test case in Maryland.

Tax-exempt Status of Hargis "Crusade" Will Be Revoked

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Evangelist Billy James Hargis was given thirty days (which began November 18) to show cause why the Internal Revenue Service should not revoke the tax-exempt status of his anti-Communist Christian Crusade.

Tax officials here said they had filed the usual "proposal of revocation" and that the notice had been presented to Mr. Hargis by the I.R.S. office in Oklahoma City.

Reason for the revocation, they said, was "political activities." The order affects Christian Echoes National Ministry, Inc., parent organization of the Crusade.

According to I.R.S. spokesmen, Mr. Hargis was given thirty days to present his case before the Oklahoma City branch. If his plea is rejected, he can then appeal to the Washington headquarters.

The Christian Crusade is a million-dollar-a-year operation. Most affected by the ruling would be contributors to the program; they currently may list their donations as tax-deductible, as in the case of church donations.

Gambling Propositions Beaten in Three States

NEW YORK (EP)—Voters in California, Washington, and Arkansas soundly defeated gambling proposals which had been energetically opposed by religious leaders and church groups in the states.

Decisive ballot totals turned back a plan for a California lottery billed as a fund-raising scheme for public schools, a Washington proposition that would have permitted licensing of card games, bingo, punchboards, and pinball machines, and an Arkansas attempt to revive a resort city as a "Las Vegas" of the South.

Says Scottish Evangelism Failing

EDINBURGH (EP)—Evangelism is at a low ebb in every denomination in Scotland today. Rev. J. N. MacDonald of Pollack in Glasgow told the annual assembly of the Baptist Union of Scotland, meeting here.

One reason the church has "lost its nerve for evangelism," he speculated, is that Christians are too conscious of their failures to reach persons outside the church.

He warned that "the church must not become a ghetto where we gather with the like-minded . . . imprisoned and alienated from the life of the world around us."



1 The new sanctuary of the Fairgrove Church in La Puente, California, seats 350 persons, with additional seating easily available. It is the third building in a four-unit plant. The present property is valued at \$175,000. The church had 306 in Sunday school on Rally Day. Rev. Eugene A. McDowell is the pastor.



2 A unique way to beat the "summer slump" was used by the East 38th Street Church of the Nazarene in Anderson, Indiana, last year. Rev. Harold Wright, chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol in Michigan City, Indiana, took forty-nine winners in a ten-week attendance contest for an airplane ride. Rev. L. Thurl Mann, chaplain (captain) of the Anderson Squadron of the CAP, is the pastor.



3 The First Church of the Nazarene, Rantoul, Illinois, is valued at approximately \$200,000. It was built with some donated labor with an indebtedness of approximately \$48,000. There are 16 classrooms, 3 auditoriums, 2 offices, pastor's study, and a sanctuary seating 350. Dr. L. S. Oliver preached the dedication message. Rev. Kenneth L. Owens is the pastor.

4 Mrs. Louise Chapman, past president of the N.W.M.S.; her sister, Mrs. Josephine Miles; and Miss Mary Scott, executive secretary of the N.W.M.S., recent visitors to the Publishing House, watch as Ellen Parker addresses the "Other Sheep" mailing list on the new 301 Scriptomatic addressing machine. The machine, addressing from 30,000 IBM cards per hour, does in six hours what previously required five days to complete.



5 The Fort Worth Home Mission Council is an organization formed to advance the home missionary cause in the Fort Worth area under the direction of District Superintendent Raymond W. Hurn of the Abilene District. The council officers are pictured, left to right: Melvin Pierce, department head at Arlington State Teachers College; Rev. Ralph West, pastor, Arlington First Church; Rev. Bill Hanna, chairman of the group, pastor, Fort Worth Northside; Rev. Albert Neuschwanger, pastor, Fort Worth River Oaks; and Howard Ledbetter, counselor for the Haltom City Public Schools.

