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RD 1 Fenwick

# GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

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*"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.*

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## "The Virgin Birth of Christ"

Rev. S. Lewis Adams

The Virgin Birth of Jesus is the greatest miracle of all time. Never before or since was there a pre-existent being born of a woman in the same manner as a being who never existed. The Eternal God invaded a natural human body, took on the form of humanity, followed the natural procedure of pro-creation and was born of a virgin. Scientifically, such a thing is an utter impossibility. It is so contrary to reason and so adverse to the law of nature that the natural mind has a struggle to accept it. However, to those whom Christ has been born anew in their hearts, it is not hard for them to believe. We who believe in the eternity of Christ understand clearly that while His birth by a virgin was a real birth, yet it was more. It was an incarnation, an advent. It was supernatural. Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifested in the flesh.

A few years before the turn of the century there arose a denial of and a merciless attack against this indispensable doctrine. The phenomenal spreading of this flood of criticism brought some capable theologians to the defense of truth. Among these champions was James Orr of Scotland who gave to the reading world his thesis "The Virgin Birth of Christ." I question if there has ever been a clearer or more forceful document presented to religious scholars and teachers for their consideration than this masterpiece of writings. However, Dr. Orr's message as challenging

as it was, did not silence the tongue or pen of the critics. A still sadder situation is that not only in educational circles is the Virgin Birth assailed, but there are thousands in the church who either deny it altogether or they teach that it has no essential value; it adds nothing to Christian faith.

Oh, yes, it is essential. Yes it does matter what we believe about the virgin birth of Christ. It reaches right into the woof and warp of the atonement. If God did not provide a sinless sacrifice for a sinful race then there is not efficacy in His blood. It was the sin of the woman that brought condemnation upon all men. It was the seed of the woman that brought reconciliation with God. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of a virgin or He was not the promised Redeemer. Commenting on this point Bishop Candler said, "Was the sinless Son of God born of a base mother who was deflowered of her virginity and who spoke false to cover her mistake? And has the church of Christ perpetuated a falsehood for twenty tested centuries? To offer me such a rationalistic sop as a substitute for my belief in the virgin birth of Christ is an insult to my intelligence."

Ask the question again and think what you are saying. Why is it essential that we believe Jesus was born of a virgin? Because Matthew and Luke declared it to be so. If we do not believe their testimony

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## God Grant You . . . This Christmas

God grant you Peace this Christmas time

On ev'ry land—in ev'ry clime.

The peace on earth, good will toward men—

With vibrancy may this live again!

The peace of soul that Christ doth bring

To hearts who've crowned Him Lord and King!

God grant you Joy this Christmas season;

The birth of Christ, our Lord, is reason,

The joy of bright'ning other lives—

True happiness—where giving thrives;

Relief from burdens—pressing, clinging.

May you be blessed in carol singing!

God grant you Love this Christmas tide,

For love was born—then crucified, The love that at this season wends

The homeward way—to family, friends;

Yes, charity, that is enhanced by Jesus' birth sublime.

In Christ, this Christmas time!

—Ovella Satre Shafer





## Is There Any Room For Jesus

I cannot help but sit and ponder over this question with a rather heavy heart, as my mind goes back to the first week of November. The muss and fuss of Halloween is scarcely over, the spooks, goblins, witches, and a host of other ugly faces are hardly packed away, when behold, almost everywhere you look there is "Santa Claus" or a herd of "flying" Reindeer. As you go into the stores the counters are piled high with all sorts of items, few of which have any reference to Jesus Christ, whose birthday is to be celebrated.

Many people have just received their Christmas Club checks and the stores are becoming crowded with a multitude of happy shoppers. To keep the atmosphere gay a record player is blasting out the merry tune of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" or "Santa Claus is coming to town". On top of all this you see a sign here and there saying, "Merry Xmas."

Do you understand why I ask the question, "Is there any room for Jesus"?

My memory recalls the words of an old hymn we sang when I was a lad, "We have room for worldly pleasures, cares of life crowd every day, and our hearts and minds are burdened, while the Lord is turned away."

Many have no doubt read the second chapter of Luke and thought it terrible that the Inn keeper didn't make room for Mary and Joseph and the Babe, yet they have turned HIM away, time and time again, when He has knocked to gain entrance into their heart.

Consider with me the fact that there was room in the Inn, but the scripture says, there was no room

for them. There were accommodations for lodging, but someone else had the rooms occupied. This is the same sad condition of many hearts today. There is in every heart the capacity for an indwelling Spirit. It is impossible for any person to live with this capacity empty. Either it is occupied by an unclean spirit, the spirit of the Devil, or the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Christ. The Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of the Devil cannot dwell together. There is absolutely no similarity, therefore, there can be no harmony. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be." (Romans 8:7)

The Spirit that occupies the heart is the Spirit that rules the life. If the unclean spirit abides in you, you will naturally pursue the lusts of the flesh and in the end reap corruption. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live." (Romans 8:13)

If you are distressed over the fact that sin has such dominion over you, I have comfort and hope for you. Jesus Christ has come to seek and save that which was lost. He has conquered the power of sin and is able to destroy the works of the Devil through His death on the Cross of Calvary. If you will resist the Devil and repent of your sins in the name of Jesus, the Devil will flee and Christ will come to abide within your heart. "When He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth." Then you can say with the Apostle Paul, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

You cannot secure this deliverance by your own ability. The sacrifices offered by the Priest can never secure this deliverance for

you; (Hebrews 10:11), nor could the blood of bulls and goats take away sin, (Hebrews 10:4). This manner of worship was acknowledged under the law, to the extent that by this means, man was forgiven of his sin, but it failed to conquer the power of sin in man's life.

Thank God, Jesus Christ has come in the form of the flesh, lived a life of perfect victory over sin while here on earth, and finally offered Himself as a complete and perfect sacrifice, thereby conquering the power of sin so that He is not only able to forgive you of your past sins, but He is able to keep you from sinning and present you blameless before the Throne of God.

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## What Of Tomorrow?

William S. Deal

We stand upon a great bridge between Yesterday and Tomorrow which, for lack of a better name, we call Today. There is no road to Yesterday and no promise of Tomorrow. Yesterday is unredeemable, and Tomorrow cannot be bought, even by the wealthiest.

Today is of the utmost importance, of inestimable value, and imponderable opportunity and responsibility. Today heralds a glad new promise unfurled in the winds of a thousand opportunities. It swells with graciousness until it is almost bursting at the seams. Today is a mighty ship loaded with the richest cargo, destined for the best of harbors. It is an open gateway to golden opportunity, beckoning everyone onward with its most fascinating smile.

Today warns again with stern voice that we shall all be called some time to give account for the way in which we spend it. It reminds us that life holds solemn responsibilities, for each opportunity is matched with a commensurate responsibility. Those who have time will be held responsible for how it is spent; those who have money will be accountable for the way it is used or hoarded; those who have talent must give account of their development and use of it, or for hiding it in a napkin of willful disobedience or glaring neglect. Those who have learning must reckon with its influence; those who have popularity, with its power to mold or ruin someone else.

Tomorrow tears of regret will be shed for the misuse of Today. But whatever the price offered to rectify the past, it will be refused. The books are closed, the gate is shut, and there is no remedy for a

squandered Yesterday. Then take heed Today lest Tomorrow find you in the same sad case. Do not wait until tomorrow to do the good deed, preach the better sermon, write the new article or book, or to do any of a thousand things for which Today was made. Tomorrow your hands may be folded upon your chest and your opportunities forever be past.

"Beware... the year is at hand." Live it in the best of Today's advantages, and Tomorrow will have no fears.

It is only with honey from the Rock of Ages that we can satisfy our desires for happiness, and know the sweetness of life."

"God guides our steps as well as our steps."

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### THE STANDARD STAFF

extends to each reader  
BEST WISHES  
for

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and a CHRIST centered  
NEW YEAR!

~~~~~

### A Qualified Guide

A man was traveling in a distant country. His destination lay over high mountains. It was a difficult and dangerous journey, and he needed a qualified guide.

One man offered his services, the traveler asked, "Have you ever been to the village to which I wish to go?"

"No," the man replied, "but I have been part of the way, and I have heard others tell of the rest of the way."

The traveler answered, "You will not do."

Another volunteered to serve as his guide. He, too, was asked, "Have you ever been to the village?"

His answer was, "No, but I have been to the top of the mountain and have looked down on the village."

The traveler replied, "You will not do."

A third man came and offered his service. He was asked the same question as the others.

"Sir," said he, "the village to which you are going is my home."

The traveler accepted his services at once, for he wanted someone who had been the whole way.

When you and I, on our journey through this life, look for someone who can guide us to the Father's house, we shall look for one who has gone the whole way. Through life and death Christ left us an example, that we might "follow in his steps." "I go to my Father," He said. Moreover, He "proceeded forth and came from God": the Father's house in His home.

—Chaplan Carl W. McGeehon.

## New Year Meditation

The Old Year is dying; the New Year, over which none of us have passed, is dawning. No blurred memories, no tragic events as yet have marred her genial birth. Future history is waiting to be written. What shall it be! Let each of us resolve to make the New Year better by starting with ourselves.

The test of human greatness lies in its ceaseless aspiration. "Set your affections on things above," writes the Apostle Paul, "not on things of the earth."

"I am nothing," said G. F. Watts, one of the greatest and noblest of men of the nineteenth century, "but I aspire. The only thing I possess and I never remember the time when I was without it, is an aim toward the highest, the best, and a burning desire to reach it."

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## The Abiding Newness of the Religion of Jesus Christ

(Continued)

Second series By, Rev. Frederick McCulley, of Syracuse, New York. This message was delivered to the Second Annual Interchurch Holiness Convention held at Penns Creek Camp Grounds, Penns Creek, Penna. Sept. 1965.

Now we want to investigate this "newness", first, in relation to its context, then in a broader, topical sense... In following this course I would like to make Phariseeism representative of the Judaism of Christ's day. I do this because it is the dominant Jewish religion in the pages of the New Testament, and because it sets forth the ultimate in man's efforts at salvation under the law, apart from grace... Then, we conservatives have been accused of Phariseeism. If conservatism is what I think it to be, one of its foundation principles is a supreme devotion to truth, with a determination to hold it at any cost... My friends, whether the cost of holding truth be personal, social, or institutional, we must not sell it! The wise man said: "Buy the truth and sell it not."

This of course involves a willingness to look facts in the face. Whether they come from enemies or friends, whether they are flattering or incriminating, a devotion to truth will help us to objectively and honestly look at them. If you really want to know the truth about yourself listen to your enemies. True, they may overstate your faults and weaknesses, but you and your friends are apt to understate them, and overstate your virtues. You need both testimonies for a balanced picture.

If we are accused of Phariseeism, let's honestly and earnestly ask if the accusation has any merit! There were three things about the Pharisees that stood in sharp contrast to the religion of the New Testament:

First, they enjoined obligatory religious practices that were divorced from ethical and spiritual considerations. They criticized the

disciples because they did not baptize their hands before eating. (baptize is what the word "wash" means in Matt. 15:2) Jesus pointed out that it is not that which entered a man as food that defiled him morally, but that which came out of his mouth from his heart! (Matt. 15:11) Their traditions in some cases violated the moral and spiritual precepts of the very law that they intended to uphold... And Jesus said unto them "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your traditions" (Matt. 15:3) He told them that by their tradition they made the Word of God of none effect". (Mark 7:13)

Friends, there is a very real danger of settling in a rut of ecclesiastical tradition that gives one a smug sense of justification in keeping the tradition intact, while its moral and spiritual relationship is completely lost in inconsistency. You say; "is there any danger of Holiness people doing this?" And I reply that there is! Let me give you one example in illustration... Now, all the conservative crowd is against dancing... social dancing I mean. Most preachers, and many laymen could give good reason for this. It is bad for persons of the opposite sex to be thrown in such close bodily contact under such circumstances. And so far so good. We all agree with this... But the same crowd that would expel a young person from membership in the church for dancing, have permitted some holiness camp grounds to become petting arenas. Now I realize that I am speaking from a campmeeting platform, and frankly I don't know what kind of rules you have at this camp... but I must say that if there is any moral difference between petting and dancing, petting is worse! Grave tragedies have resulted on holiness campgrounds where there was looseness in this area.

We preachers had ought to be careful that we remain consistent with the Word, and relevant to sound moral principles in our messages. I don't care how hot a preacher preaches if he is scriptural. I don't care how close a preacher comes if he is giving sound moral and spiritual truth. On the other hand, any ministry that is divorced from the Word of

God, and any preaching that enjoins obligatory religious practices, apart from moral and spiritual considerations, tends to produce legalists and Pharisees... or at best, corkscrew Christians... Maybe that is why there are so many spiritual monstrosities around the country.

Second, they inculcated a dependence upon works as a means of salvation. And this is what a legalist does. A legalist is not merely a strict person. He is a person who depends on his strictness to merit salvation. A legalist is not merely an earnest Christian. He is one who thinks that his earnestness itself will procure saving favor from God. Strictness and earnestness in themselves do not constitute legalism. In fact it is hard to conceive of a real Christian apart from strictness and earnestness. There are plenty of people in the Holiness movement chaffing under the discipline of the church, who are legalists in the fullest sense of the term. That disposition which seeks to live as close to the world as possible... to get by with as much as possible... to forever ask: "what harm is there in it?"... and in lieu of conformity to resulting self-conceived norms, justifies itself... that disposition is as legalistic as the blackest Phariseeism! When such persons point at conservatives with the accusing taunt, "legalist", they are only compounding their culpability.

To the Galatians, Paul wrote: "Ye are fallen from grace, whosoever among you are justified by works" I wonder, using this standard, how many of our people are backslidden? Did you hear it? "Whosoever among you are justified by works are fallen from grace"! This is not a standard of the Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York, or of God's Missionary Church. This is a standard of the Bible!

The New Testament in opposition to Phariseeic legalism, teaches salvation by grace. And the only condition of salvation consistent with this is FAITH. "It is of faith" writes St. Paul, "that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the

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## Fifty-Seven Years of Praying

When I first came to America years ago, I crossed the Atlantic with the captain of a steamer who was one of the most devout men I ever knew. When we were off the banks of Newfoundland he said to me, "Mr. Inglis, the last time I crossed here, five weeks ago, one of the most extraordinary things happened which has completely revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. Up to that time I was one of your ordinary Christians. We had a man of God on board, George Mueller, of Bristol, England. I had been on that bridge for twenty-two hours and never left it. I was startled by someone tapping me on the shoulder. It was Mueller.

"'Captain' he said 'I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday.' This was Wednesday.

"'It is impossible,' I said.

"'Very well, if your ship can't take me, God will find some other means of locomotion to take me. I have never broken an engagement for fifty-seven years.'

"'I would willingly help you. But how can I? I am helpless.'

"'Let us go down to the chart room and pray.'

"I looked at the man of God and I thought to myself, What lunatic asylum could the man have come from? I never heard of such a thing.

"'Mr. Mueller,' I said, 'do you know how dense this fog is?'

"'No,' he replied 'my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life.'

"He got down on his knees and he prayed one of the most simple prayers. I muttered to myself, That

would suit a children's class where the children were not more than eight or nine years old.

The burden of his prayer was something like this, 'O Lord, if it is consistent with Thy will, please remove the fog in five minutes. Thou knowest the engagement Thou madest for me in Quebec for Saturday. I believe it is Thy will.' When he had finished I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray.

"'First, you do not believe He will; the second, I believe He has and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.'

"I looked at him, and George Mueller said this, 'Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King. Get up, Captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone.' I got up and the fog was gone.

"You say that to some people of a scientific turn of mind and they will say that is not according to natural laws. No it is according to spiritual laws. The God with whom we have to do is omnipotent. Hold on to God's omnipotence; ask believably.

"On Saturday afternoon, I might add, George Mueller was in Quebec."

—Gospel Herald

## Duty

"He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." —Matt. 10:39.

A ship had foundered and many of the passengers and crew were drowning. They were not far from shore, but the sea was being lashed by a terrific storm, the reefs were numerous, and billows were mountain-high, making rescue efforts mean almost certain death to all who might attempt such. Another ship not far away was urged by wireless to attempt a rescue, with a seaman's instinct and promptness the captain ordered every man on board his ship to the rescue. The men, being aware of the danger to themselves, protested against this almost certain and instantaneous destruction. They shouted to the captain, "We'll never come back." "But," flashed the captain, "you are not asked to come back."

Likewise the Pilot of our craft

calls us to the rescue of perishing millions. It is not ours to worry about saving ourselves and getting back. It is our task to plunge in upon His order and make the rescue attempt. He does not ask us to come back; He only asks us to go.

## Prayer

There's a holy, high vocation  
Needing workers everywhere;  
Tis the highest form of service,  
Tis the ministry of prayer.  
There's no weapon half so mighty  
As the intercessors bear;  
Nor a broader field of service  
Than the ministry of prayer.

Do you long to see the millions,  
Who are perishing today,  
Snatched as brands plucked from  
the Burning!

Do you long, yet seldom pray?

Come and join the intercessors;  
Laurels then, someday you'll wear;  
For there is no higher service,  
Than the ministry of prayer.

—Selected

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Pray with us for a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit.





## The Everlasting Father

H. John Blann,

Pilgrim Holiness Advocate

"I didn't see what happened to the missionary doctor, Paul Carlson, for when they started shooting, I threw myself on top of my baby."

So spoke a Belgian father who was one of the hostages in Stanleyville, Congo. The hostages had been ordered out of their hotel rooms and into the square in the heart of the city. But when the intent of rebel soldiers was evident, protection of his child was foremost in this father's mind.

We who are fathers know something of this overwhelming desire to protect the members of our family in times of danger. It is inherent of what fatherhood means, while we may not always be able to measure up to our highest ideals, most of us could make a list of characteristics which we feel that an ideal father should possess.

What does all of this have to do with Christmas—the Holy Infant, the manger, the shepherds, the Wise Men—and all that we associate with this time of year? The everlasting Father is one of the names the prophet Isaiah used in speaking of Jesus. It may sound strange to speak of a new-born babe and a father in the same breath. We can understand this (as much as we can understand the mysteries of the Godhead) only when we realize the significance of Jesus' words, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). Using the principles taught to us in geometry: if Jesus and God are one, and God is Father, then Jesus is Father also. This being so, can we find in the relationship of Jesus with mankind examples of our ideals of fatherhood? I believe that we can.

**"My father can lick your father."** This rather belligerent statement might be given by a small boy in a dispute with his friend. It, nevertheless, expresses a basic desire. He wants to think of his father as being able to overcome all opposition. One Man walked the paths of this life who had at His fingertips unlimited power. He never used it for selfish purposes but He often did use it to help those in trouble. His authority shone

through His voluntary limitation of it when He spoke of spiritual verities, and also when He cleansed the Temple. After His resurrection He reminded His disciples that all authority was vested in Him (Matt. 28:18). Therefore, they should not fear to launch out into the great enterprise of evangelizing the world.

His authority is not diminished today and in spite of the seeming progress that Satan is making on many fronts, let us never forget that Jesus is working out His will for His people.

**"Daddy, will you help me with this problem. I don't understand it."** It is always a satisfaction to be able to help our children with things they don't understand. And a father might wish that he did "know all the answers" like his children sometimes expect. However, our knowledge as human fathers is limited, and sometimes we have to say, "I'm sorry. I don't understand it either."

However, we can study the life of Jesus and never find a time when He was stumped for an answer or had to say, "I can't help you." How many times we have marvelled at Jesus' answers to the catch questions that His would-be accusers posed. On the other hand, when a sincere heart asked for help, how solicitous and patient he was!

**"Daddy, this is what I want for Christmas."** We have heard this statement many times this season already and probably will hear it many more times before the Christmas season is over. As fathers, we cannot but help wish that we had a little more to do with, so that we could satisfy more of the desires of our children.

Far be it from us to regard Jesus as a kind of a spiritual Santa Claus to whom we can come for the satisfaction of every whim. However, the resources of our Saviour are unlimited. The Apostle Paul declared, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). Jesus himself spoke of the necessities of life—food, shelter, and raiment. He went on to say, though, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). There was no

question as to His ability to supply; His concern was that His followers put first things first.

**"Daddy, you know what happened to me today?"** The child is anxious to pour out his story in the ears of a sympathetic parent. After the story is told, the father then can advise and perhaps show his child how to face a difficult situation.

Did Jesus have a sympathetic, understanding ear? A sullen, shunned woman came to draw water from the village well in the heat of the day to avoid the cold shoulders of others. She answered Jesus very reluctantly when He asked for a drink of water. But His sympathetic, understanding spirit soon won her confidence until she opened her heart and was the means of winning many others to Christ in her village.

A burdened woman, sick for many years, was in despair. She had sought help from many doctors, but had not been helped at all. Timid and discouraged, she, nevertheless, determined to make one more try. She had heard of the wonder-worker from Nazareth and pressed her way through the crowd in a straw-grasping attempt to get help. Not wanting to call attention to herself, she only touched the edge of His robe in faith that she would receive strength. Of course, her faith was rewarded and Jesus turned and asked her to declare herself.

Over and over again Jesus demonstrated love and understanding, and He is just as understanding today. No problem is too small for Him to be interested in. His invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," still holds good.

**"Will you go with me, Daddy?"** Why does a child want his father to accompany him when he is afraid? Because he knows that his father will do all that he can to protect him. The father mentioned at the beginning of this article exemplifies this ardent care.

How often Jesus exhibited this kind of care for His disciples! When they were crossing the tempestuous Galilee that stormy night and their hearts were filled with fear, He spoke the calming words which not only calmed the sea, but

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## At The Portal

Frances Ridley Havergal

Standing at the portal  
Of the opening year,  
Words of comfort meet us,  
Hushing every fear;

Spoken through the silence  
By our Father's voice,  
Tender, strong and faithful,  
Making us rejoice.

"I the Lord am with thee,  
Be thou not afraid;  
I will help and strengthen,  
Be thou not dismayed.

Yes, I will uphold thee  
With my own right hand;  
Thou art called and chosen  
In My sight to stand."

For the year before us,  
Oh, what rich supplies!  
For the poor and needy  
Living streams shall rise;

For the sad and sinful  
Shall His grace abound;  
For the faint and feeble  
Perfect strength be found.

He will never fail us,  
He will not forsake;  
His eternal covenant  
He will never break:

Resting on His promises,  
What have we to fear?  
God is all-sufficient  
For the coming year.



## Coming

"If any man have ears to hear,  
let him hear." —Mark 4:23.

There was an old turnpike man,  
on a quiet country road, whose  
habit was to shut his gate at night  
and take a nap. One dark, wet mid-  
night a stranger knocked at his  
door crying, "Gate! Gate!" "Com-  
ing," said the voice of the old  
man. Then the man knocked again,  
and once more the voice replied,  
"Coming."

This went on for some time, till  
at length the stranger grew quite  
angry, and, jumping off his horse,  
opened the door, and demanded to  
know why the old man cried "Com-  
ing!" for twenty minutes, but nev-

er came. "Who's there?" asked the  
old man in a sleepy voice, rubbing  
his eyes. "What d'ye want, sir?"  
Then, awakening, "Bless yer, sir,  
and yer pardon; I was asleep. I  
get so used to hearing 'em knock  
that I answer 'Coming,' in my sleep  
and take no more notice about it."  
So it is with too many hearers of  
the Gospel, who hear by habit, and  
answer God by habit, and at length  
die with their souls asleep.

—Selected



## The Source of Power

"When the poor and needy seek  
water, and there is none, and their  
tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord  
will hear them, I the God of Israel  
will not forsake them, I will open  
rivers in high places, and foun-  
tains in the midst of the valleys."  
—Isa. 41:17, 18.

Christmas Evans, the Welsh  
evangelist, tells in his diary that  
one Sabbath afternoon he was  
traveling a very lonely road to  
attend an appointment, and he was  
convicted of a cold heart. He says:  
"I tethered my horse and went to  
a sequestered spot, where I walked  
to and fro in an agony as I reviewed  
my life. I waited three hours be-  
fore God, broken with sorrow, un-  
til there broke over me a sweet  
sense of His love. I received from  
God a fresh baptism of the Holy  
Ghost. As the sun was westering,  
I went back to the road, found my  
horse, mounted it, and went to my  
appointment. On the following day  
I preached with such new power  
to a vast concourse of people gath-  
ered on the hillside, that a revival  
broke out that day and spread  
throughout all Wales."

"Send the power, O Lord,  
Send the Holy Ghost power,  
Let it now be outpowered.  
Send it surging and sweeping  
Like the waves of the sea,  
Send a world-wide revival,  
And begin it in me."

## Driving with Oil

I wanted to drive an iron bar  
through a piece of timber. I bored  
a hole of the right size, but the  
bar was rusty, and the hole was  
rough. I made slow progress, and  
was beginning to split the wood.  
Then I thought of the oil can. I  
oiled the bar; I poured oil into the  
hole; a few blows of the hammer  
sent the iron into its place. The oil  
had not diminished the size of the  
bar, or enlarged that of the hole.  
It had only relieved the friction. A  
few drops of oil were more effec-  
tive than many blows of the ham-  
mer.

How slow some people are to  
learn this. They are intensely earn-  
est, and even morbidly conscien-  
tious. Everybody ought to see it  
just as they do, and whoever does  
not is hammered at without mercy.  
Such zeal excites friction. Men will  
not appreciate the truth when they  
are repelled by the spirit in which  
it is presented. Let the reformer  
be careful to have plenty of oil. Let  
him speak the truth in love.

—Resting and Reaping



## Mid-Year Conference Convention

December 30, 1965 — 10 A.M.  
2:30 P.M. — 7:30 P.M.

GOD'S MISSIONARY CHURCH  
Millmont, Pa.

(Located on route 45 about 5 miles  
west of Mifflinburg, Pa.)

Rev. Roy Bellomy of Prichard,  
West Virginia will be the guest  
speaker in the evening service.

\*An item of SPECIAL INTEREST  
A discussion concerning Chris-  
tian Education will be open to the  
public.

All persons interested in: Chris-  
tian Day Schools, and the Pro-  
posed Christian High School and  
Bible School, (to be established at  
our Camp Grounds in Penns.  
Creek, Pa.) Be sure to be present  
for the afternoon Session.



## A PAGE FOR YOUTH

### The New Year's Resolutions

Grayce Krogh

Daisy was visiting her cousin Clara in the country. Daisy lived in a large city, but she loved to go to Clara's home on a big farm, where there were all sorts of animals for pets. Daisy wasn't sure which she liked the best. The cows were nice, and she liked the horses, too, but puppies and kittens were far more fun.

Just now there was snow on the ground, New Year's Day was just around the corner, and Daisy was thinking about her New Year's resolutions.

"I think," she told Clara, as they played with their dolls in the sunny sewing room, that I shall resolve to help Mother all I can this year. I want to make good resolutions and try hard to keep them."

Clara carefully buttoned Sarah Anne's best silk dress, and then she looked up with a puzzled frown on her rosy face.

"Resolutions?" she repeated. "What is that? What are you talking about, Daisy?"

"Don't you know?" Daisy laughed. "Haven't you heard of New Year's resolutions?"

"No," Clara smiled. "What are they?"

"Well, I think New Year's resolutions are promises to do better and promises to try to get rid of bad habits and faults," Daisy tried to explain. "You see, often I run out and play, or keep on reading when I could set the table for Mother, or dry the dishes, or dust, or something; so I want to promise myself that I will remember to help more this next year."

"That's a good idea," Clara nodded with interest, letting Sarah Anne lie unnoticed in her lap.

"And sometimes I'm not very kind to little brother," Daisy told her cousin sorrowfully. "I'm going to try to remember that he's just a baby, and be kinder to him."

"Oh," cried Clara. "I never knew about New Year's resolutions before, but I can make a lot of them."

"They aren't any good if you don't try to keep them," warned Daisy. "You have to try awfully

hard to keep them all year."

"I will," promised Clara. "Often Mother asks me to go to town for her, and I don't like to go. I will resolve to run just as fast as I can. And I don't pick up my clothes and make my room very tidy, either. I will resolve to keep all of my things as neat as possible."

"Those are good resolutions," Daisy told her.

"And I will resolve to do something nice for someone every day," Clara said. "Then I will be happy, for I will know I have made someone else happy, too."

"Oh that is a lovely one," Daisy clapped her hands in glee. "I will resolve to keep the Golden Rule in everything I do."

"That's good, too," Clara smiled. "Oh, I love New Year's resolutions, and I will try so hard to keep mine! Thank you for telling me about them, Daisy."

"I'm glad I did," Daisy told her. "After I go home, you must write to me and tell me if you have kept your resolutions, and I will tell you if I have kept mine."

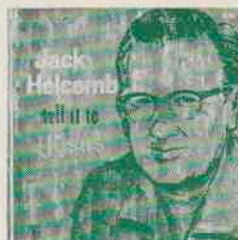
"Yes," Clara nodded. "Let's get a pencil and paper and write down the resolutions, so we won't forget."

The little cousins did this, and each took a copy to keep.

After Daisy had been home in the big city for three months, she received a letter from Clara saying she had kept her resolutions.

"That is just fine," cried Daisy, "and I must tell Clara that I have kept mine, too, and will keep them all year!"

—Sunshine for Little People



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*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free:  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth, thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom  
bring.*

—Charles Wesley



### "New Things"

At the beginning of each year we think much about the word "New." Use your Bible to look up the references, then fill in the blanks.

1. A New ..... Psa. 40:3.
2. A new ..... Isa. 62:2.
3. New ..... Lam. 3:23.
4. A new ..... Ezek. 11:19.
5. The new ..... Matt. 26:28.
6. A new ..... John 13:34.
7. A new ..... 2 Cor. 5:17.
8. The new ..... Col. 3:10.
9. New ..... Rev. 21:2.
10. A new ..... and a new ..... Rev. 21:1.

(Answers on page 11)

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# Missionary Message

## Home Missions and Christmas

What has Home Missions to do with Christmas? This question may be among others that have entered into your mind as you read the title to this article. There is a definite tie between the two subjects and this connection is Biblical. Christ was given by God to be a Home Missionary gift to the Jew. We read in John 1-11, "He came to His own, and His own received him not." In this scripture verse we can clearly see the connection between Christmas and Home Missions. This verse from the Gospel of John points out three important facts:

(1) God saw the need of his own people. Israel, or the Jews, were and are God's own people. The Old Testament likens the union between this nation, to that of man and wife. God sent prophets and kings to them, gave them the Ten Commandments, and the Ark of the Covenant, but through the ages they were bent to backsliding and the gap between them and God grew until the relationship between God and the Jews broke, and God considered them to be a divorced people. Even though this sad, unhealthy condition existed between God and His beloved people, God in love provided, that Christmas morn, a Messiah. Christ was to be the Savior of his own. "For He shall save His people from their sins." (Matt. 1-21). We too must see the need of our own people, before we can help anyone else. America has many churches. Just as God gave Israel many prophets so have we many preachers. We have no revival just as Israel had no victory in battle. America has become unhealthy spiritually, and as God gave Israel another chance in Christ, so must we give our people another chance. New churches, where we can preach the old truth is another op-

portunity to have revival. At this Christmas time as we give to others, let us see the spiritual need of our own people.

(2) God provided for his own people. It is one thing to see the need and another thing to provide for that need. On Christmas morn, God sent His son to man, and from the angel band announced to the Jewish shepherds on the hill sides that the answer had come. Many of our churches have not grown to full strength. Many of you see the need for new churches, you hear us tell of the need in the new works we have undertaken, but how many, like God, will provide the prayer, finance, and physical work to meet this need? If God's heart was moved when he saw his own peoples' need, to give them heaven's best, then how can we not be moved to give our weaker churches our best. I believe in sending money to the lands afar off, I do have a vision for countries over the sea, but can I close my eyes to them that die at home? I can not be one-sided in my vision, for if Love is to begin at home, and this is God's teaching, then I must give to the cause of Home Missions or I will not be keeping God's word. The disciples were instructed (Acts 1:8) to be witnesses, starting at home, (Jerusalem) and not to go into any other country until they had first witnessed to their own. How much have you provided for the home front need? As much as you send abroad to help others, is all that is asked of you to do at home.

(3) The Home front was the hardest field to work. "His own received Him not." Jesus said that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country. Many feel that the heathen lands are the darkest

lands. As far as ignorance and superstition is concerned, this may be true, but we here at home are blinded with too much light in many cases, by that I mean we know more than we practice. The Christian church has been divided many ways and false doctrine is on the increase. Our home front, with a church on every other street, is in great danger of spiritual death. Many no longer go to their church because it has failed to meet their need. We need to establish old fashioned churches so that hungry men may be satisfied. The story of Christ is old to many of our people. Not that it has lost its effectiveness, but that it has been deluded and misrepresented until many no longer believe in it. A true preacher in our land runs into three serious facts: First, many of our folks have seen better days, second, most of our churches have been strife torn, and third, too many have forgotten God, not in existence but in His power. The hard field is not where they have never known and therefore are not aware of the Spirit in His fulness, but to those who have known and forgotten.

One cannot have Christmas without Home Missions. At Christmas time most gifts are given to our family, relatives, or close friends. People we see every day of the year are sent cards, and given gifts. Therefore in the Spritual we can not forget the needy sinners and hungry church people around us we see every day. We are not to forget others and lose sight of far off lands, but build up the home front so that we can expand together countries with a better foundation.

Your Home Missionary Department is trying to reach America. We need you, our friends and fellow conference church members, to help us meet the need in the field of Home Missions.



(Continued on page 11)



## "The Virgin Birth of Christ"

(Continued from page 1)

then we are unbelievers of the inspired Word of God. If their account of the Virgin Birth is false why should we believe any of their writings. Why should we believe the account of His miracles, His teaching or any of the history of His life? Almost without exception those who deny the miraculous conception and virgin birth of Christ also deny everything miraculous about His life.

If Christ had an existence before He was born of Mary then His birth had to be supernatural. Jesus said of Himself, "Before Abraham was, I am." Paul said concerning Jesus, "By Him were all things created for He is before all things and by Him all things consist." John said "In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God." His supernatural life necessitated a supernatural origin. If the purpose for which He came into the world was super-human, then the manner of His coming must have been supernatural. If no man could take His life from Him and He voluntarily laid it down and yielded up His spirit to the Father, that life must have been miraculously given. If the Son of God was made flesh it had to be done miraculously. If the Holy Ghost came upon Mary and the power of the highest overshadowed her and thereby induced motherhood, can any reasonable mind suppose that a holy God would deal thus with anyone less virtuous than a pure unmarried woman—A Virgin?

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin whose name was Mary and said unto her, "Thou hast found favor with God. Thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son and shall call His name Jesus." Then said Mary, "How can this be, seeing I know no man?" Would Mary deliberately lie to the angel visitor?

If an angel announced to the shepherds, "I bring you tidings of great joy, for in the city of David a Saviour is born which is Christ the Lord," and if "the glory of the Lord shone around them until they were sore afraid," could we be intelligent thinkers if we agree

that such a babe born among such unusual happenings could not have made his entrance into the order of human life by way of maiden-motherhood? Without controversy, He was virgin-born.

Ancient deities have no claims connected with their origin that parallel the Bible account of Christ's virgin birth. Inspired testimonies declare the truth of it. Circumstantial evidence establishes it as a fact. Faith accepts it as its unshakable foundation. The prophets promised it. The angel announced it. The church has proclaimed this glorious message unto every nation on earth—The Son of God was born of a virgin.

## The Abiding Newness of the Religion of Jesus Christ

(Continued from page 4)

father of us all." (Rom. 4:16) In the third chapter he states: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law". (3:28).

Luther uncovered this great doctrine from the rubble and rubric of Romanism. Reformation and revival resulted. Wesley discovered that we are sanctified by faith. Again revival of tremendous proportions resulted. May I suggest that we stand in need of another revival on these points? Too often holiness preachers have fought superficial ideas of salvation by faith, by renouncing faith altogether. Some of our seekers seem to have the idea that they might get saved or sanctified, if they pray loud enough and long enough...that possibly, through a long and arduous process of seeking God in which they punish themselves with various protestant penances, God will be impressed enough to grant them pardon for their sins...and they spend their religious lives wearying themselves and the church in the effort!

Listen friend, if anyone is justified by God, he will be justified through faith! If anyone is sanctified wholly, he will be sanctified by faith! I for one rejoice that this is true. Because it is by faith, as Paul said, the promise is "sure to all." Hallelujah! I could look over all those things that in human

eyes might have recommended me to God...and realize that in his eyes they were as filthy rags... Nay, even in my own eyes I saw them as such in the searching light of the Word through the Spirit! If it were not by faith, I would have been left out altogether.

During the great revival under Wesley, the methodists used to sing:

"A goodly formal saint, I long appeared in sight,

By self and Satan taught to paint, my tomb my nature white.

The Pharisee within, still undisturbed remained.

The strong man armed with guilt and sin safe in his palace reigned."

"But, O, the jealous God in my behalf came down.

Jesus himself the stronger showed and claimed me for his own.

My spirit he alarmed, and brought into distress.



## New Year Meditation

(Continued from page 3)

At Chamonix on a stone, which marks the grave of a guide who perished while guiding a party ascending the Alps, these words are written, "He died climbing." To be victorious over the evil and unlovely things in this world does not mean we need not "fight for the right." We need to fight. Sometimes in this fight we may stumble and fall short of the perfect ideal. To be victorious, then, means after every failure we shall rise undaunted, undefeated, undismayed, and climb, and keep on climbing until death.

Have faith in God. Faith being an attitude of the mind which produces action, let us so act that we may adjust our life in harmony with Truth.

Lord Shelley while vacationing in Switzerland registered at a hotel. After his name he wrote, I am an atheist." A man following him to the registry noticed the words "I am an atheist." He, then, wrote after Shelley's name, "If you are an atheist then you are a fool." The man was right. Without faith in God the riddle of the universe is unexplainable. With faith in God the origin of the universe, the earth, and the man, as well as the future is solved.



He shook and bound the strong man armed in his self righteousness."

"Faded my virtuous show, my form without the power."

The sin convincing Spirit blew, and blasted every flower.

My mouth was stopped and shame, covered my guilty face,

I fell on the atoning lamb and I was saved by grace."

The third thing was a resultant spiritual pride and exclusiveness.

This characterized the religion of the Pharisees... This does not characterize the religion of the New Testament. If we are saved by works indeed we have whereof to boast... but since we are not, "where is boasting then?"

Jesus pointed out the hypocrisy of the super-piety of the Pharisees... "the hypocrites of a sad countenance." (Matt. 6:16) Their religious performances were not intended to worship God, but to impress men... And justice gave them their reward in the praise of fools. Listen friend, I am for holding the standard high... It should however only be held by humble-hearted souls who rejoice in the truth wherever it is found! For a part of the standard reads: "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Christ."

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## CHRISTMAS LIVES ON!

Over fifty years ago, George Bernard Shaw invented a society for the abolition of Christmas. For him he said, Christmas was "simply a nuisance," supported by the "mob" as a "carnival of mendacity, gluttony and drunkenness." The way some people keep Christmas would be grounds for such a charge, we admit. Some eat too much on Christmas, some get drunk and some indulge in expressions of good will which are not sincere. But after fifty years of campaigning, Mr. Shaw had to admit his society was a failure. "So far," he said, "I am the only member." Christmas lives on, its spirit having captured the hearts of old and young, and the tender beauty of Christmas sentiment and Christmas singing affords an opportunity for the Gospel to enter many a life that is closed to God throughout most of the year. —Pente Evangel.



## The Everlasting Father

(Continued from page 6)

also their troubled hearts. When they did not have money to pay their taxes, He sent Peter fishing. Peter brought back a fish which had swallowed a coin of sufficient value to pay the current tax. When they were apprehensive of coming events, He spoke to them, "Let not your heart be troubled," and went on to assure them of the place He would prepare for them in heaven.

But most of all, He showed His care for mankind when He submitted to the shame of the cross and suffered a slow death of torture so that you and I might escape the penalty of our sins. He not only threw Himself, as it were, over the world to protect souls under the condemnation of death, but He himself died in our stead. Wonder of wonders, that He loved us so!

The other day I asked a friend, "Is your father still living?" He answered, "No. He passed away about twenty years ago." I have been blessed that my father is still living, but we all realize that in this life we do grow old and the time comes to all of us when our responsibilities to our families will be relinquished and we will pass into another world.

Losing a father is a sad experience which all of us have already or will have to face. However, Jesus is the "everlasting Father." He has no beginning, for He was with God from the beginning. He has no end, for He is the Eternal One. These qualities which we have briefly mentioned are not of a transitory nature and subject to the ravages of time. When we put our trust in Him, we can rest assured that He will always be present to meet our every need, not only for time, but for all eternity.

This is the kind of a God which we have "with us" of whom the angel spoke to Joseph. He seemed weak and insignificant to the innkeeper in Bethlehem that cold night so long ago. He and the townspeople didn't realize what was happening. But heaven knew. Angels couldn't keep quiet but had to sing heavenly praises which fell on the ears of humble shepherds. They knew the significance of the humble birth. God, "the everlasting Father," in Christ, came to earth that night to be with men.

## Is There Any Room For Jesus

(Continued from page 2)

Is there any room for Jesus?  
He who died on Calvary,  
He who standeth, knocking, waiting,

Pleading with you tenderly.  
Room for Jesus, room for Jesus,  
Let Him in your heart today  
Throwing every window open,  
O, receive Him while you may.  
First stanza and chorus of  
"Room for Jesus"

by F. M. Atkinson

Rev. Kenneth E. Walter, Editor



## Home Missions and Christmas

(Continued from page 9)

Lord at this blessed Christmas time,

When I hear the old Church Chime,  
May I when the gifts I give,  
Remember those who around me live.

May my Mission field at home increase,

As I remember the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Rev. John F. White  
Beavertown, Penna.

## ANSWERS TO "NEW THINGS"

1. song 2. name 3. mercies 4. spirit 5. testament 6. commandment 7. creature 8. man 9. Jerusalem 10. heaven and earth

## Little Monster

At birth the little rumor was as guileless

As any infant, weak and free of malice,

But what should a normal little rumor do

Save daily feed upon its natural brew

Of ignorance, credulity and fright,  
And the human joy in bearing tales of spite?

"The head may seek God, but it is only the heart that finds Him!"



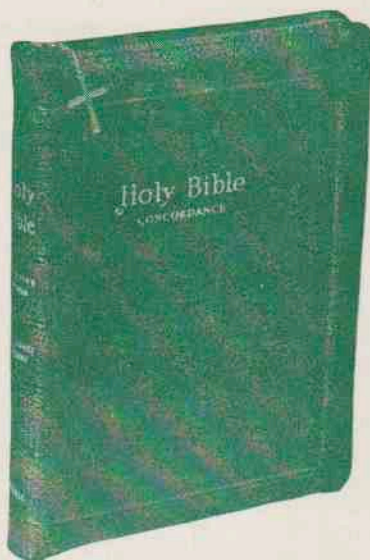
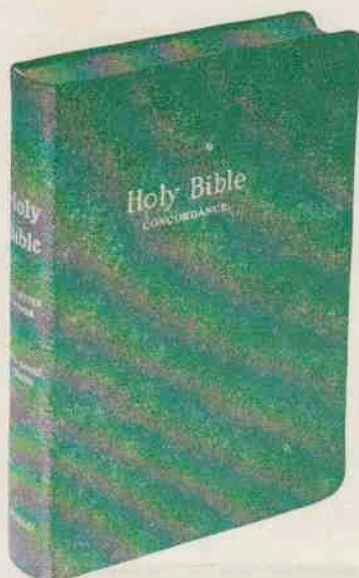
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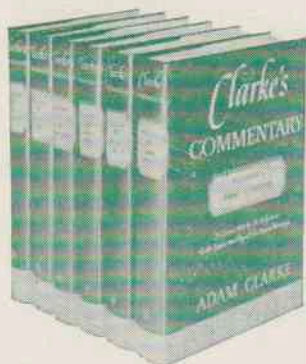
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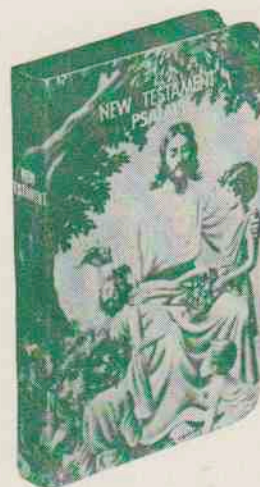
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