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# GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

Official Publication of God's Missionary Church, Inc.  
Penns Creek, Pa.

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

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## The Light of Christmas

By Dale Yocum

Prince Kaboo lay across a rugged cross tree with his tortured back exposed to the thorny poison vine in the upraised hand of his tormentor. Surely, only a few more strokes would bring death to release him from this unspeakable agony.

Kaboo, son of an African chief-tain, had been given as a hostage by his father to another chief who had defeated him in battle. He was to be held in pawn until the price of his ransom could be paid. The people of his native tribe had been almost thoroughly impoverished, that their possessions might be sold for payment, and yet the selfish, scheming captor was not satisfied. Finally, Kaboo was left to his certain horrible fate by his despairing father who realized the fabulous sum could never be paid.

Upon learning of this, the infuriated captor ordered poor Kaboo to be beaten every day with the poisonous thorn vine, while a runner was dispatched to the father with a description of this scene of excruciating agony. Thus, after many beatings, the captured prince had naught to hope for but death as he lay exposed to the lash, on this eventful day.

Already a pit had been dug in preparation for further torture after the final beating. He was to be buried up to his neck in this pit; his mouth was to be propped open and smeared with a sweet substance to attract the ants. Finally, these crawling insects would take his flesh, bit by bit, until his bones were bared.

But as Kaboo lay weak and suffering over the cross tree, a brilliant light burst forth upon him, and a clear voice from above ordered him to rise and flee. His strength was instantly restored, and he was enabled to flee with incredible speed into the forest. Nor was he deserted in this unknown wilderness. Through the darkness of each succeeding night; past all the dangers of beast and cruel savage; straight to the only mission settlement in all that vast region the heavenly light directed him.

Thus Sammy Morris (for so he was named), who came to know the Holy Ghost better than all his teachers, was brought from darkness to light.

And this true story is a living illustration of the Christmas message. First, there is cruel bondage, helpless agony, and utter despair; then bursting light!—a light which leads to deliverance, to redemption and joy.

Many celebrate Christmas with bright and many colored lights; perhaps this is significant, for Christmas commemorates the birth of the True Light of the world.

The venerable sage, Isaiah, spoke forth these prophetic words in a day when spiritual darkness

was settling upon the land:

**"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."**

Likewise, other prophets who followed in his train, foretold the coming of the True Light to dispel the thick darkness of sin and despair. Strange men these were who stood alone in the deepening darkness and spoke of this Light with as much assurance as if it had already appeared. The last of them, Malachi, spoke the following divine message to his people:

**"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings."**

Four hundred years more, and still no light from heaven! It seemed that respect for the law had vanished. The slavery and oppression of the chosen people had become almost intolerable; even the irritating voices of the prophets had ceased.

Then a star appeared! Not a blinding light, but brilliant enough to direct wise men from the east in search of the new-born Messiah. On a Galilean hillside, too, the heavens burst forth with glorious light upon humble shepherds, and heeding the angelic message, they found the Babe—the Christ in the manger of Bethlehem. The light had begun to shine and the long night was fading away. The long wearisome watch for a Deliverer was come to an end. This light of Christmas was more than a radiance from the skies; it was—and is—a Light which

(Continued on page 7)







The editorial staff wishes to take this space to wish all its readers a very joyous and Christ centered Christmas and a very prosperous New Year, filled with happiness and blessings. We sincerely hope this issue of the God's Missionary Standard will be a special blessing to you at this season.

## Editorial

When the angel of the Lord came to announce to Mary that He had chosen her to bring the Son of God into the world, we have an account of one of the most beautiful resignation to the will of God in all Bible history.

Luke gives us this account in the first chapter of his Gospel and thirty eighth verse. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." No other resignation recorded in the Bible or anywhere else asks quite as much as did this. Her integrity, reputation and respect and even her devotion to God was in question, or would be in question by her parents, her friends, neighbors, pastor and especially to the one to whom she was espoused. Yet, the only thing she questioned was the possibility of the event.

Acceptance of the will of God is not always an easy thing. Many with a lot less at stake, has said no to His will in the past only to miss his will and best and finally to miss heaven itself. Three things were responsible for her choice.

### I. Her devotedness to God

The fact that she was highly favoured by God, proves her devotion to Him. In the Bible only those who knew the Father and were completely devoted to him

could be chosen to do His exploits. Noah was a perfect man in his day, perfect devotion included; Abram walked with God and was perfect; Isaiah, Daniel etc. these men were all devoted to Him and received a call for service.

In this day we may not expect the divine favor of God with any less devotion and resignation than had Mary. Perhaps the thing that God has in mind for us is not as great as was his will for Mary, yet, with this kind of devotion one cannot estimate what great things God may have for us to do.

### II. Her Unquestioning Trust

This is no doubt one of the greatest virtues any one could possess, the ability to simply trust God, no matter how difficult the task we be asked to perform. Her first question was "How can these things be?" yet she trusted God to work out the thing that He intended to do and no further questions were asked, nor do we read of any doubts as to God's ability ever entering her mind.

To actually say, I believe when we are facing a crisis is somewhat different than saying we believe when no requirements are being made or no difficult task lies before us. I have yet the first man, who did not at least inwardly tremble, when he came face to face to an important command or issue.

### III. Her Interests were God's Interests

By her devotedness to God, she no doubt knew something of the fact that God had promised a Savior to the world. When the Angel appeared, no doubt her mind turned to the thousands that were waiting for the promised Savior. She may have thought of the many that would be lost if she refused the Lord's will. With all that was at stake, she was willing to suffer the reproach and shame that would be inescapable.

A question that faces every one

to day is this, Do we consider the issues at stake worthy of our suffering and the inevitable reproach we will be called upon to bear? No one ever accomplished a thing for God without some reproach. Are the things that have become our main interests, God's interests? I am afraid that many who even profess to love God, have more of their own interest at heart.

At this time of year we will do well to remember that God gave His all, His Son; Mary Gave her all, her reputation and respect, and if we are to please God and do His will we must give our all in return. This Christmas let us make it one of real giving, by giving our all to Him. Isaiah answered, "Here am I send me," "Mary answered, Behold The hand maid of the Lord." What will your answer be?

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## A Song Was Born In Bethlehem

By General Wilfred Kitching

Every year, a few days before the great Christian festival of Christmas, I hear footsteps stealthily approaching my front door. Whispered conversations are interrupted by a note on a musical instrument, followed by a burst of song which has as its theme the coming of Christ, the Savior of the world. The "surprise" does not surprise me, for as long as I can remember, Salvationists have delighted in this heart-warming practice. I can never forget the days when I, as a youth, would be one of a small group of Salvation Army soldiers who, in similiar fashion would creep up to the Founder's door and sing carols to that grand old man in his home. The circle of singers to which I belonged then, and those bringing their joyful lay to me now, all have been echoing the song born at Bethlehem so long ago, music that never has ceased to vibrate through the universe, no matter how deep or dark the night sometimes has been.

It is said that not a day dawns but what some creature welcomes it with song. When the first day dawned and God commanded light to shine out of darkness, the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Is it any wonder, then, that a great burst of song greeted the dawn when the Dayspring from on high visited us, when Christ, the Savior of the world, was born to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God? The theme of this song was not the creation, but the coming of One who would save His people from their sins;

and the singers were the angels in that "multitude of the heavenly host." The virgin mother already had sung in anticipation of the world's joy, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior;" and the ancient Simeon was soon to sing his own immortal song concerning this birth.

These songs were heard by only a few, but today the Christmas carol reaches the ears of millions. As those singers of the long ago poured out their song of joy and adoration, they were forming the fountainhead of a stream of praise that never has run dry. No one can tell how much Christian song has meant to the sad, to the dwellers in darkness and to those in sin looking for deliverance. In days of persecution the stream of song sometimes has seemed to be losing itself in the sands of time, but it has come to the surface again in unexpected places with its life-giving waters. And when in flood, the stream of song has been beyond the power of man to hem it in by banks of restraint. Mary sings her song of praise; angels rejoice with their lay, offering glory to God and that just and devout man, Simeon, can bless God and sing: "Mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people." The inspiration of all their song is the one name which is above all other names—the precious name of Jesus!

Many songs about Jesus still are being written, some, maybe, never to go beyond the family circle that they gladden; others possess a vigor and vision that make them encircle the earth. Some carols, of course, seem to be the exclusive property of children; others, more profound, make

their appeal to adults. But whatever the carol, it lacks the warmth of love if it flows from the lips alone. If only those who join could fully grasp their meaning and give their hearts as well as their songs to the Savior! Shall we not all resolve this Christmastide to make our singing truly effective, first, that in a spiritual sense Christ shall be born again in our hearts, and then, in emulation of the angels and the shepherds, who made the message known go out to others with a prayer that through our songs they, too, shall come to know the Savior of the world?

There is, I believe, a day drawing nearer when the gates of heaven will open wide and the singing hosts within and the singing throng outside will blend their voices in a great multitude which no man can number, and their song will be the song of Moses and the Lamb.

Through this age of wars and convulsions, when the soil of civilization seems to be crumbling and much of modern society is cankerous, when we see the upheaving of new regimes and nations, the joyous lay of the angel hosts and the echoing theme of our Christian carols are more needed than ever in the changeful history of man. Whether we are battling for the truth or propagating the gospel, sanctified song can be an effective weapon, hastening the dawning of that day when the redeemed shall sing, "Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy Blood."

If singing is the most fitting medium for thanksgiving, why do not our hearts sing more? The oil of gladness and the festive robes of righteousness are the apparel of the redeemed, and

(Continued on page 4)

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## Mt. of Blessing Camp News

Plans for the new kitchen and dining hall for the camp have been approved by the camp board and by the time this article is printed work should have been well under way. A new block building 30 feet by 50 feet will house the kitchen and dining area. This is greatly needed and will be a tremendous asset to the camp ground. It will be erected near the new motel completed two years ago, and will be very similar to the one at Penns Creek Camp.

We will greatly appreciate any pledges that can be paid that were made for this purpose as well as any gifts and donations. Under the direction of Rev. J. T. Carroll, camp president, Mt. of Blessings is moving forward. Please pray for the coming camp and camp board members. All gifts and pledges should be sent to

Rev. John Walter  
Rebersburg, Penna.

## Penn View News

Steady progress is being made at the school. The dining hall has recently been plastered and heated. The upstairs rooms will also be finished making good warm dormitory rooms for students.

Quite a lot of the excavation is done for the new building but due to a lack of funds is being held up a little. Any pledges and gifts that can be paid will be greatly appreciated. We thank those who have been helping in this great field.

Fifty two eager students are preparing, under good teachers, to be future business men, ministers and missionaries. Your continued prayers are requested.

## Recommendation

With real pleasure I recommend to the evangelistic world Rev. and Mrs. William Tillis. Bro. Tillis is a talented speaker and a man with God's message for this late hour. He is a conservative with a burning, yet tender heart and has a deep passion for souls. Well able for the hour he will do any church much good.

Working with him is a faithful wife, whom together make a wonderful singing Duo. Already the world has been blessed listening to their long play album of singing good spiritual songs. Traveling with their organ they are accepting preaching engagements, singing engagements or both.

If you are in need of a good evangelist and singers, please give them a call. The address is:

Rev. & Mrs. William Tillis  
Williamsport, Penna.  
R. D. 3 17701

## Correction

Rev. & Mrs. Marlin Moore, Evangelists and singers new address is:

Rev. & Mrs. Marlin Moore  
Woodbury, Penna.  
R. D. 16695

## Sea Breeze Camp Meeting

Feb. 2-12, 1967

Hobe Sound, Florida

EVANGELISTS

Percy Trueblood;

Glen Griffith

Arthur Roney

SINGERS

Kenneth and Lillian Knapp

Hear! Archie Coons and his choir  
Let us pray for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Bring bedding and if possible pillows.

Write to:

Mrs. H. Robb French  
Box 1124  
Hobe Sound, Fla. 33455

## That Holy Night

'Twas on this night that Christ came down

Was born of Virgin Birth,  
To bring goodwill to all mankind,  
And joy and peace on earth.

'Twas on this night the angels came

And brought the news to men,  
Who, when they heard they came to see,

The Child in Bethlehem.

'Twas on this night His star appeared,  
To wise men there afar,  
Who came to see the newborn King,

Directed by this Star.

'Twas on this night that Light came down,  
Through Christ from God to man,  
That we through eyes of faith might see,

The wonders of His plan,

'Twas on this night that love came down,

To dwell in hearts of men,  
Who then in love, go tell the world,  
What Christ can do for them.

So let us come this Christmas day,  
And let our voices ring,  
In praises to Almighty God,  
Exalting Christ our King.

—Adam M. Baer

## Lamb of God

WE THINK it strange the Son of God

Should in a manger lie;

His room, a stable floored with sod,

And animals close by.

We think it strange; we sigh and mourn.

A stable seems so odd.

But where else should a lamb be born?

Behold the Lamb of God!

—Bess A. Olson

## A Song Was Born In Bethlehem

(Continued from page 3)

the song in the heart is the true and native speech of those who personally have experienced the coming of the Savior.

The feeblest voice which has uttered but one trembling strain of its undying music here will join in the fulness of the heavenly song there.

So let songs abound! I'll make my Christmas a singing festival. Will you?

This short life is the most important period of your existence, for in this brief moment you make and seal your Eternal Destiny for Heaven or Hell.



## A PAGE FOR YOUTH

### A Present For Jesus

Etta W. Schlichter

"How many presents?" asked Dickie. "One, two, three, four—" He walked round the dining room table, touching each of the boxes wrapped in fancy paper and topped with strings of holly or bright ribbon bows, that Mother and Aunt Gladys were getting ready for their friends for Christmas.

"Forty-five," announced Dickie. "Who are they for?"

"Whom, Dickie," corrected Mother.

"Well, who's to get them?" persisted Dickie.

"Don't ask so many questions, dear," said Mother. "Can't you see that Mother and Auntie are very busy?"

"I'll tell you, Dickie," said Aunt Gladys, giving him a kiss. "These three are for Papa, and here are two for Grandmother, and this is for Cousin Alice." Aunt Gladys kindly went through the whole list till every pretty box on the table had been accounted for.

When she had finished, Dickie looked puzzled. "Where are the ones for Jesus?" he asked.

"You funny little boy," smiled Aunt Gladys. Then to Dickie's Mother she said, "Whatever does he mean?"

"Oh nothing," said Mother. "He just likes to ask questions." You see, Mother was so tired Christmas shopping and wrapping up parcels that she was nervous, and that is a bad time to ask too many questions.

But Dickie would not be put off. There was something he didn't understand, and he wanted to know.

"It's Jesus' birthday, isn't it? That's what Miss Mary, my Sunday School teacher, told us. Then why don't we give the presents to him?"

"How could we, Sweetheart?" said Aunt Gladys. "Jesus is up in Heaven."

"He's here, too," said Dickie stoutly. "He's up in Heaven and He's in church and He's—He's everywhere. And if it's His birthday, I don't see why He doesn't get the presents."

"It isn't very cold out, Dickie,"

said Mother. "Don't you want to put on your cap and sweater and run out and play awhile?"

"No," said Dickie. "I want to send a present to Jesus."

"But where would you send it, Dickie?" asked Aunt Gladys. "And what would you send?"

"I don't know," said Dickie, "but I know Miss Mary knows. She said He was our best Friend, and I guess she'd know all about her best Friend, wouldn't she?"

"Well, dear," said Mother, "Why don't you run over and ask Miss Mary while Mother and Auntie finish the boxes?"

So Dickie put on his cap and sweater and run down the street to see Miss Mary. He stayed a long time and when he came back, he looked very happy and very important.

"He is here," said he, "and some day we're going to see Him, but not now. And we can give Him Christmas presents if we want to, and that is what He wants us to do. And Miss Mary told me how to do it and she's going to help me. And I want all my money. May I take my pig to the bank tomorrow and get my money out? Miss Mary will go along."

"Why, yes, Dickie," said Mother. "The money is yours. You may spend it if you like."

So bright and early next morning Dickie went to Miss Mary's with his pig. His pig was a money box he had got at the savings bank. It was a pretty good-sized little pig. You pressed a spring and the pig's mouth opened and you put the money in it for it to swallow. When once the money was swallowed, you couldn't get it out again, not till you took the box and had it opened at the bank.

Dickie liked to "feed the Pig," so he put into its mouth most of the money that was given him, and now the pig was quite heavy and so full that it would not be able to "eat" much more.

When the man at the bank opened the box, so much money rolled out that Miss Mary was surprised. You see, Dickie had several aunts and uncles, and when they came to visit, they gave

him whole dollars and these he always fed to the pig.

"Oh Dickie!" exclaimed Miss Mary, "I couldn't spend all this without asking your mother."

"She said I might spend it all," said Dickie.

But Miss Mary went to the telephone and asked Dickie's mother and she said it was all right. Dickie might spend his money as he pleased.

"Now Dickie," said Miss Mary, "Do you quite understand what I told you yesterday? That whatever good thing you do for anybody that needs it, you are doing for Jesus? And the way we give a Christmas present to Him is to give it to somebody He wants us to help."

Dickie nodded. Yes, he understood.

"Now, this is such a lot of money," said Miss Mary, "that we want to be sure to spend it in just the right way. Before we go to the store, I want you to go with me to see a little boy just your age."

"All right," said Dickie. "Is he a good sport?"

"He'd like to be," smiled Miss Mary, "but you can see for yourself why he can't be."

They stopped at a neat little house and went in. There in a big chair sat a little boy. He looked glad to see Miss Mary and smiled shyly at Dickie as though he were glad to see him, too. But he did not get up, and Dickie had been taught that it was not polite not to get up when a lady entered the room.

But in another minute he saw why the little boy sat still. Both of his legs were very thin, but one was ever so much thinner than the other and just sort of dangled. He couldn't walk or even stand up.

Dickie drew a long breath. Now he understood why Freddie Wilson, the little lame boy, could not be a good sport. To think of having to lie in bed or sit on a chair all day long and never, never be able to get about. No wonder Freddie looked white and tired. How he wished he could help him!

"Now we'll go to the store," said Miss Mary, after they left Freddie.

"I want to spent all my money

(Continued on page 9)



## Jesus the Savior Is Born

Dr. Paul S. James

Something happened in Bethlehem which set forth the bells ringing and the choirs singing; which set people to building churches, schools, orphanages, Christian homes and hospitals; which makes at least one day of the year a day of heaven on earth; which makes it possible for every day to be Christmas in your heart and opens up Heaven for all who will enter in.

The Old Testament says somebody's coming. The New Testament says somebody's here.

God spoke to Abraham and revealed the nation (Israel) through which our Lord would come (Genesis 12). He spoke to Jacob and revealed the tribe (Judah) of the Saviour's ancestry (Genesis 49). He spoke to Isaiah and revealed the family (Jesse into which Christ would be born. He spoke to Micah and revealed the place (Bethlehem) of Jesus' birth. He spoke to Daniel and revealed the time of Christ's appearing (Daniel 9).

Then "in the fullness of time" He came! Shepherds in the fields learned of the birth of the Good Shepherd and oriental kings came to worship the Great King. He was the Light: God seen. He was the Word: God heard. He was the Life: God felt. Wherever He would walk, men would always see the precious footprints of God. When He reached out His hand to touch leprous skin, blind eyes, crippled limbs, or fevered brow, men would feel the touch of God. When He spoke, men would hear the voice of God.

If He had not come, the prophecies would be unfulfilled; there would be no Saviour for mankind; the character of God who loves us and cares for us as a Father would be unknown; the secret of peace for the soul would be unrevealed; the world would be without the marvelous example of a sinless life; we would be groping our way without His matchless teaching; we would have no assurance that God hears and answers when we pray; the blessing of freedom as we know it would not have been experienced, and eternal life would still be a fond hope instead of a

great conviction and an eager expectation.

The quitness of God was over the Judean hills when the curtains of heaven were parted and the announcement was made: "Unto you... a Saviour" (Luke 2:11)

He was born for you. It was said, "This child is set for the fall and rising again of many" (Luke 2:34). This greatest night of history is for you and me a night of destiny. Your soul is at stake and Christ is the issue. For those who refuse Him a place in the inn of the heart, it would be better if He had never come. To many He is a stumblingstone and a rock of offense. To the believer He is the Rock of Ages.

The child was born, the Son was given, the Saviour has come. Though reason puzzles and analysis resists, yet faith exclaims, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

A bar of steel worth \$5.00 can be made into horseshoes worth \$10.00, or needles worth \$350., or delicate springs for expensive watches worth \$250,000. So life that may seem worthless can be changed into a life of infinite worth by the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let your heart become a manger in which Christ by faith is born in you, and let your life be a chapel in which God is praised for His unspeakable gift.

"O World in vain the white drifts fall,

In vain your halls you trim:  
There is no Christmas anywhere  
Unless men turn to Him."



## The Shepherd's Song

It happened that on Christmas Eve of 1875, Mr. Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. It was a calm, starlight evening and there were many passengers gathered on the deck. Mr. Sankey was asked to sing, and as always, he was perfectly willing to do so. He stood there leaning against one of the great funnels of the boat and his eyes were raised to the starry heavens in quiet prayer. It was his intention to sing a Christmas song, but somehow he was driven almost against his will to sing the "Shepherd Song:"

"Saviour, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare;  
Blessed Jesus

Thou hast brought us, Thine we are.

"We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,

Be the Guardian of our way;  
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us.

Seek us when we go astray:  
Blessed Jesus,

Hear Thy children when they pray."

There was a deep stillness. Words and melody, welling forth from the singer's soul, floated out over the deck and the quiet river. Every heart was touched. After the song was ended, a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mr. Sankey and said, "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, "in the spring of 1860."

"Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright moonlight night in 1862?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised.

"So did I," said the stranger, "but I was serving in the Confederate Army. When I saw you standing at your post I thought to myself: 'That fellow will never get away from here alive.' I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger.

"Let him sing his song to the end," I said to myself, 'I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.'

"But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly:

"We are Thine do Thou befriend us,

Be the Guardian of our way.'

"Those words stirred up many memories in my heart. I began to think of my childhood and my Godfearing Mother. She had many,

(Continued on page 10)



## O Little Town Of Bethlehem

One of the pleasures of the Christmas season is the singing of carols. The story of the writing of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" gives added meaning to this familiar carol.

Slowly walking along the streets of Bethlehem, a young pastor was thrilled beyond words with the beauty and grandeur of the small town which he had been privileged to visit through unusual circumstances. He was spending Christmas Eve, 1865, in the town of Jesus Christ's birth. His eyes passed from one scene to another, taking in all he possibly could, so he could report to his home church in America every detail of his visit to the Holy Land.

He visited the spot where it is said Jesus was born. He remained there hour after hour, thinking of the wonderful events of that Christmas night so long ago. It was all so wonderful to this young pastor. Soon he left the town and climbed one of the surrounding hills, and looked over the little town of Bethlehem, where it lay beneath the silent stars.

Months later he returned to his home church, and the next Christmas season brought the beautiful scenes he had seen that night in Bethlehem back to him. Reliving the hours, he sat down and wrote the beautiful words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." This young pastor, who wrote these familiar lines, was Philips Brooks, "the most famous preacher and the most widely-loved clergyman of his time." Philips Brooks wrote the words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for the Christmas Sunday school program at the church where he was pastor. He desired that the words be set to music for the Sunday School program, so he handed them over to Lewis Redner, organist of the church, asking that it be ready for use the following Sunday, which was Christmas. The week was a busy one, and Lewis Redner did not think of the request again. Saturday night, Christmas Eve, he went to bed with a troubled mind, conscious that there was something left undone, but he could not think what it was. During

the night he was roused from sleep hearing an angel whispering in his ear. He seized some music paper, and hurriedly wrote down the tune. In the morning he filled in the harmony before he left for church. That Christmas morning hearts were warmed as the beautiful words and music of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" filled the church, and still today hearts are warmed as that familiar and favorite Christmas carol softly wends its way through the air.

Yes, the tune is beautiful; the words are familiar; but how many think of the Christ the hymn mentions? How many have said:

"O holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend on us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today."

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Beware that you are not one of the many who have allowed the singing of familiar Christmas carols to become an asbent-minded form. God means business; His Name is exalted in many carols. Let us think of the words which we sing, and let us honestly sing them.

"How silently, how silently

The wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts

The blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming,

But in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive

Him still,

The dear Christ enters in."

—Beryl Wood

## The Light of Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

searches out and banishes soul-darkness. And this Light which shone first so long ago in Bethlehem has never been extinguished; it has rather shone with increasing brightness through succeeding centuries. It has transformed the natures and the lives of slaves, common laborers, nobleman, and princes; it has shone from the lowliest hut and cottage even unto kings' palaces.

The Light has illuminated the pathway to the martyr's cross, to the pilgrim's valley of death, and on to the victor's crown!

Greece and Rome, with art and intellect and law, were hopeless in attempting to lift their subject from the grossest immorality. But when the light came, it kindled the hearts and minds of those same subjects, and left a trail of righteousness in its wake. The power of Roman rule bowed before the spreading Light of the living Christ. Christianity was on the march! Light was dispelling darkness!

True it has ever been. An anonymous writer has described the influence of the God-man who came to be the world's Redeemer:

"Here is a Man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with in this world, but the naked power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the ledger of the column of progress.

"I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary life."





# Missionary Message

## Missionaries Are Made At Home

Don Sylvester

Overjoyed at the supply of money and personnel beyond all he expected, A. B. Simpson gave thanks to God at Old Orchard, Maine, in 1891 by asking God for one thousand missionaries. The total Protestant missionary force in the world at the time numbered about seven thousand.

"We will not limit the time," said Dr. Simpson. At the Golden Anniversary of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in 1937, however, it was resolved to set this goal for 1947, including a budget of one million dollars a year.

The budget has now climbed to over four million dollars. Nevertheless, with rising costs and the interference of five years of total war, we still have in this our Jubilee Year less than nine hundred active missionaries.

Missionary recruitment, however, is not a problem peculiar to the Alliance. Another missionary society very recently announced that it needs 330 new missionaries to work on its seventeen fields. Further more, all the missions will need many, many more workers in future years, to keep up with the demands of the continually increasing population. (The Alliance needs twenty-five new missionaries every year just to remain at par, to make up for retirements, deaths, and illnesses. The Christian and Missionary Alliance includes only active missionaries in its statistics.—Ed.) At our present rate of recruiting new missionaries, it will be utterly impossible to keep up with the world need.

Christian young people are, of course, the source of future recruits and replacements; but many of them grow up, marry, and settle down in some type of secular work. They do not become the missionaries we had hoped they would. Others go on to a university or col-

lege to train for a special occupation. While some of the latter may be prospects, especially when their professional training is useful on the mission field, their number is not great.

Then there are those who are in Bible college. This, of course, is the filter through which nearly all our missionaries eventually must pass. Even here, however, the number of graduates who go on to become active missionaries is comparatively small.

This leaves only one more group of young people to consider: the high school students. Here lies much of the solution to the problem. Here are the young people who can still be influenced to train and to go.

"But how do we influence them?" one may ask. My answer is that home training and parental influence make the difference.

Consider the example for a former Alliance missionary, now a teacher at . . . . Bible College, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. This teacher's family has, in the past two generations, given a total of over 1,000 years of missionary service. The reason for this phenomenal record, he says, was a praying grandmother. Twelve of her own fourteen children went out to serve the Lord on the foreign fields. One of the twelve was this teacher's mother. Now he and his wife are praying fervently concerning the Lord's place of service for their own children.

How we need more such families! The right training by the parents in the home is a very vital link in God's missionary program. I am one of the fortunate "sons" who came out of such a home, and I now am preparing for missionary service in India. I know that without my parent's prayers and training, I would not be in . . . . Bible College today. Many of my fellow students also have this testimony.

Young people in public high schools today need a true Christian influence from their homes if they

are to stand in a hostile, ungodly atmosphere. The philosophy in our high schools is "learn to earn", with the "almighty dollar" as the criterion for judging the value of education. This obviously puts Bible colleges at the bottom of the scale.

Further, the education received in high school is generally anti-Christian. There are few teachers who accept the Bible as fact, and there are many who call it outrightly a collection of myths. Christian pupils who defend the Biblical account of Creation may be scoffed at, because Evolution is taught in their textbooks.

Again, the conduct and morality of high school teenagers are a major concern in every city and town of our land. This is the atmosphere in which our Christian young people must live. It must be counteracted in our Christian homes, if these young people are to be graduated from high school with their hearts open to God's call.

Christian parents thus have a big job, one that they never can do in their own wisdom and strength. It can be done only with God's help—yet it has been done. I am witness to that, and so are many others who are missionary candidates. All these witnesses emphasize this one fact: It was our parents' prayers that brought us through."

1. Prayer is the most important factor in any Christian endeavor, and this most certainly includes rearing a family with a missionary purpose. Parents must pray with their children—beside the crib, at the family altar, and later, about difficulties with ungodly influences at school.

Besides praying with their children, Christian parents must constantly be praying for them. They must pray for them at the family altar where the children can listen and know that their parents want to see them grow up to serve God, perhaps on the mission field. Children whose earliest memories con-

(Continued on page 10)



## Should A Christian Celebrate Christmas?

by Rev Fred McCulley

Every year at this time there are certain religious organizations and certain religious personalities that expend considerable energy declaiming against the celebration of Christmas. To them, such an observance is intrinsically a wicked and idolatrous thing. At the same time the masses of those who celebrate Christmas grow progressively more materialistic, more covetous, and consequently, more idolatrous in their attitude toward Christmas, thus lending a grudging credence to the claims of such voices. Now, what should be the attitude and practice of earnest Christians? Are these antagonists of Christmas right?... They are not right. Most of them have good reason for hating Christmas, for they deny the doctrine of the Incarnation of Christ, which is central in the Christmas story. It is more than passing strange that the only attention such sources give to the great portions of the Gospels that convey the "Christmas story" is in their annual diatribes against Christmas.

The question of observing holy days receives considerable attention in the New Testament. In Ro. 14:5,6 it is written: "One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it..." Whether you observe Christmas or not is a matter of your personal liberty in Christ.

The key to the moral qualification of the observance of days in this passage is found in the phrase "unto the Lord." If in truth we observe the Day "unto the Lord," it will be a benediction to us. If we do not thus observe it, it will be a curse to us.

To help us keep the day unto the Lord (if that is your desire) I suggest the following questions:

1. Does Christmas as I observe it heighten my devotion to Christ? Or, does it crowd out my prayer life, and interfere with my attendance at public worship? If the secular hurry and push of the

season dominates our life, we are in the same class as Bethlehem's Innkeeper.

2. Does our celebration of Christmas strengthen the ties of our family devotion to Christ? or do we: (1) Lavish gifts upon children that already have too much, thus further confirming them in their selfishness? (2) Fail to teach them that it is "more blessed to give than to receive?" (3) Find that with all our indulgence toward our children that they grow more unthankful, and more inclined to take kindness toward them for granted?

3. Is Christmas a strength to our church? Or does it with its pageantry quench the flickering spiritual light that we have? Does its materialistic spirit seduce us to unfaithful stewardship so that the church has to limp along without adequate financial support? What are its effects on our church attendance?

4. Do I consciously resist those that tend to paganize Christmas? Actually is not the whole of "Santa Claus," "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," etc. in competition with the real story of Christmas? Are they not exploited enough by the world so that you can give your time with your children to something much more vital to "Keeping the day unto the Lord."

5. Do I fully avail myself of all the rich inspirational heritage of Christmas? For instance, have I ever really given attention to the great songs of Christmas? Songs such as "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" provide lofty vehicles for devotion and instruction. (I might also add that they provide the enemies of Christmas with a goading incitement to oppose it.

As we go into this blessed season let us give ourselves seriously to these questions. There have been enemies of the Incarnation of Christ from the days of Herod. There are always those persons who secularize holy things and turn God's glory into shame. None of these things can keep Christ out of your home on this Christmas. It is my prayer that this will be the most blessed season you have ever known! May the God who was worshipped in Bethlehem's Manger bestow upon you His saving gifts as you worship Him today!

## A Present For Jesus

(Continued from page 5)

for Freddie," said Dickie. "Won't that be giving a present to Jesus?"

"Yes," said Miss Mary. "A beautiful present."

They stayed in the store a long long time, and what a happy day they spent! The storekeeper promised that every single parcel should be delivered that very day, for tonight was Christmas Eve.

So that evening Dickie and Miss Mary slipped round to Freddie's to see what had happened there. And what do you think they saw? Freddie was sitting on a new wheeled chair, just the right size for him. How happy he was! His arms were not very strong, but the chair moved so easily that he could wheel himself all around the room. It was wonderful, and he was laughing with glee.

And that was not all. There were boxes and boxes. Toys, candy, oranges—it looked as much like Christmas as the dining room table did at home when it was piled with all the packages.

Dickie could hardly wait to get home to tell his parents and Aunt Gladys all about it. When he got there, here was his favorite Uncle Harry, too.

Uncle Harry was rich and he certainly did like little boys. "That youngster must have a little radio," said he, "and you and I, Dick, will go this very night to see about it."

"Hurrah!" said Dickie. "Another present for Jesus."

All the grown-ups looked at him in surprise, so Dickie had to explain what Miss Mary had taught him. "She had me learn a verse, too," he added, "but it was pretty long and I can't quite remember. It was 'In as—in as—'"

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me," quoted Mother softly, her eyes filling with tears. "I'm afraid we haven't been remembering that ourselves."

"Next year," said Father, picking up Dickie and giving him a big hug, "We'll try to do better and Dickie will help us give most of our presents to Jesus."

Dickie nodded. "It's His birthday," said he.—Herald of Holiness.



## The Shepherd's Song

(Continued from page 6)

many times sung that song to me. But she died all too soon, otherwise much of my life would no doubt have been different.

"When you had finished your song, it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought: 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty'—and my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side.

"Since that time I have wandered about far and wide, but when I just now saw you standing there praying just as on that other occasion, I recognized you. Then my heart was wounded by your song; now I wish that you would help me to find a cure for my sick soul."

Deeply moved, Mr. Sankey threw his arms about the man who in the days of the war had been his enemy. And this Christmas Eve the two went together to the manger in Bethlehem. There the stranger found Him who was their common Saviour, The Good Shepherd, who seeks for the lost sheep until He finds it. And when He has found it, He lays it on His shoulders, rejoicing.

## Missionaries Are Made At Home

(Continued from page 8)

tain prayers for missionaries at the family altar will have a missionary vision nurtured in them that will make them more sensitive to God's call to foreign service.

Husband and wife praying together for their family will engender a feeling of Christian unity in the home that will make it the warm, happy place every Christian home should be. Such homes as this produce young men and women who are socially and mentally prepared for such a life as a missionary's life must be.

These prayers also have a very positive immediate effect on situations which young people meet. Teenagers are constantly making decisions. Any one of these, no matter how trivial, could be the one that tips the scale. If these young people are continually being

supported by praying parents, the scale is much more apt to tip the right way. Only praying parents can make missionaries out of the children God has given them.

2. Along with this ministry of prayer, Christian parents have another responsibility: to give their children the right philosophy of life. This must be a philosophy based on God's Word, with Jesus Christ given first place in everything. Only this philosophy will produce young people who sincerely love their Redeemer and Lord, and who will have a longing to see others come to know Him.

If a teenager is convinced that the Bible is the Word of God, the parents' problems are in one area, over. However, many young people have questions about the validity and authority of the Bible, and these questions must be answered. Parents should provide these answers satisfactorily. If our young people are sure of God's Word, they will be on solid ground, ready to grow in grace and knowledge, and to become useful servants of the Lord.

Reading the Bible at the family altar has an important part in establishing every Christian young person. Reading God's Word should be a time of blessing and enrichment for the family, as they study it together. No teenager will be bored as Paul's adventurous missionary life is studied, or as the familiar Old Testament stories are made to come to life again, and new truths are seen. Missionary biographies are excellent sources of fascinating illustrations of God's mighty works, and provide wholesome Christian education that will prepare these missionaries of tomorrow for a life of service to others.

3. A third great responsibility of Christian parents is to live an exemplary life before the family. If a teenager knows that his parents do not practice what they preach, neither pleading nor praying will have much effect on Him. Parents must really know God, and be under the guidance of His Holy Spirit if they are to point out the right way for their children. The wisdom that comes from God is the only true wisdom.

—From the Alliance Witness

## The Joy of Christmas

(Continued from page 12)

ed that He is unfailingly at work in our day. In spite of satanic forces directing wicked men, God shall in Christ establish His eternal kingdom. There is, with Him, as James said, "no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (Jas. 1:17). He is at work even in the personal affairs of each of us who love and trust Him. We can be sure of this, regardless of how confused and uncertain those affairs at the moment appear to be.

We can trust ourselves and all of our interests in His hand. We can rejoice in God's faithfulness.

**WHY DO MEN** find joy in Christ? Because with His advent God himself came to us. The angel announcing to Joseph the coming of Jesus referred to Him in the words of Isaiah who declared, "They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matt. 1:23).

I like very much what Glenn Asquith has written in this regard. He says: "How much it means to us to know, since that long-ago day in Bethlehem, that God is with us! No longer need we seek Him in starry portents, in smoke of a burnt offering, by priestly or prophetic intermediaries—He is ever with us in the person and life of Jesus His Son! And, as Paul inquired, 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' (Rom. 8:31).

"With God walking the road with us, with God as our companion through the valleys of deepening shadow, with God as the good companion of every day, what but good can happen to us? And all of this blessedness is found in the Babe who became Immanuel."

The Christmas carols and festivities of this season will be meaningful to us in the measure we have found in Christ deliverance from sin. In the measure we have in every phase of our lives proved Him to be unfailing. In the measure we realize that in Him the eternal God is actually with us now.

It's a lot easier to be critical than to be correct.

Don't worry about the job you don't like—someone else will soon have it.



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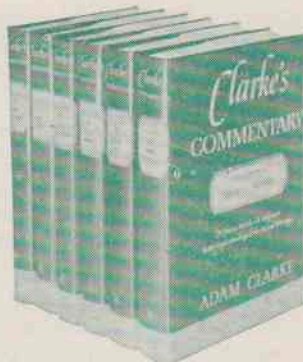
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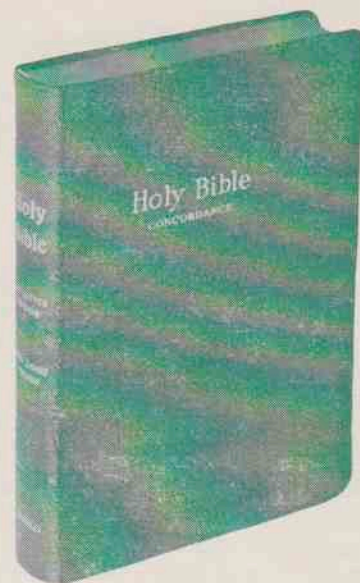
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## The Joy of Christmas

by A. D. Peisker

Jesus came into the world upon the wings of joyful song. The songs of His mother and of angels. And He himself has taken singing everywhere.

An interesting witness of this fact occurred at the outbreak of the Korean conflict when American military authorities took charge of the large prison at Seoul. Desiring to provide chaplains for the prisoners, the authorities polled the men as to what kind they preferred. They were asked to choose from several religious groups. The poll was overwhelming in its request for Protestant chaplains. Asked why most of them voted as they did, the Korean prisoners replied, "We want the religion with the Jesus song."

**JOY CHARACTERIZED** Mary's song as she anticipated the coming Saviour. "My soul doth magnify the Lord," she exulted, "and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46,47).

Amid celestial glory the angel announced to shepherds: "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).

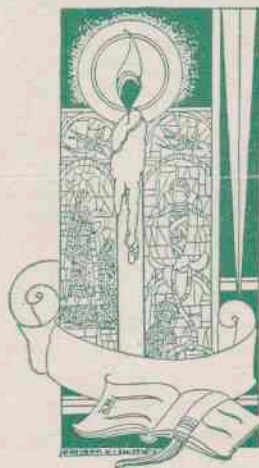
Those paeons of gladness were like rays of light at dawn heralding the rising sun after a night made long and dark by suffering, worry, and guilt. And ever since, joy—the joy that only Christ can give—has distinguished Christians in every land.

"Christianity is a religion of song," Dewitt Talmage once wrote. "Agnosticism has no Gloria, Confucianism and Brahmanism have no inspiring anthems or soulful hallelujahs. Dreary, weird dirges reveal no glad hope for the present or future to heathen nations. Immortal melodies are generated the instant Christ is known, for His love is the source and soul of praise. Faith in Jesus awakens gladness and creates a freeness, fullness, and depth of songfulness so that the great question of a believer is, 'How can I keep from singing?'"

**THERE IS** an early illustration

of this in the eighth chapter of Acts. The evangelist Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ. The citizens listened and, believing, were transformed. The result was that "there was great joy in that city." The treasurer of Ethiopia, also accepted Philip's message and "went on his way rejoicing."

Between Mary's song and Philip's preaching, the most momentous chapter in world redemption had been written. Multitudes from many nations could join Israel's sweet singer in his prophetic psalm: "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psa. 118:22-



24). And down to the present time the chorus of happy singers continues to increase. Throughout the world darkened hearts, blighted homes, and benighted lands have come to know something of the light and joy that Christ's salvation brings.

The glad songs of the redeemed, overflowing from joyful hearts, have been and are among the most winsome manifestations of the Christian graces. A song of a miner in a train spoke so effectively to the heart of the drunken father of Joseph Parker that he never drank again, and saved the money he would otherwise have spent for liquor to send Joseph to college. Joseph became an eminent preacher and prolific writer whose works continue to bless a

wide readership. A song of a plowman working in his field reached the heart of the mother of Grattan Guinness and kept her from committing suicide. Dr. Guinness, who became a powerful witness for Christ used to tell of the event saying, "All I am for God I owe to a humble Christian plowman singing the praises of the Lord as he did his daily task."

**WHY DO MEN** find joy in Christ? Because in Him they are delivered from their bondage to sin. Someone has expressed it like this: "Jesus did not come to save people from ignorance, though He has done that; nor from political bondage, though He has done that too; nor from famine and poverty, though where Jesus is known the sufferings of famine and poverty are alleviated. The root of the trouble in the world is sin—breaking the commandments of God, living for self apart from God, lawlessness, iniquity. This disease affects the entire human race. It is incurable by any human remedy. It brings fearful suffering of mind, heart, and body, individually and nationally. It ends in death and the wrath of God. From this fearful power Jesus came to deliver His people."

**WHY DO MEN** find joy in Christ? Because they see in Him proof of God's eternal faithfulness.

Mary's Magnificat is a hymn of praise to God for His disregard of her lowly estate and for the high honor He is to bestow upon her. However, more importantly, it is a joyous proclamation of God's faithfulness in manifesting His power, holiness and mercy from generation to generation.

Mary's joy was unbounded because the angel announcement gave her assurance that the purposes of God were being accomplished. Even then a Redeemer who had been promised some four thousand years before would soon appear. She had pondered this as she had regularly listened to the reading of the Scriptures in the synagogue. Those promises had become a part of her very life. Her song of adoration now was a striking medley of Old Testament refrains regarding the Messiah.

We ourselves may also be assur-

(Continued on page 10)