



# 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.*

Volume 19

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No. 4

## The First Christmas Eve

by Dr. T. A. Lambie  
Bethlehem, Jordan

Bethlehem is a beautiful name. It sounds pleasant to our ears. All Christians love that name because our Saviour was born there. It means House of Bread. Whether it was so called from the wheat and barley fields which surround it, or whether it was called so from the generosity of its people in giving bread to those who had none, we do not know. We do know that this is where the first wheat in all the world originated.

We ourselves eat Bethlehem's bread every day of our lives. Recently we had some missionary guests from Egypt who said — "We have no good bread like this in Egypt."

Bethlehem's bread is better — but better still the Bread from heaven that came down one night long ago. No place has more right to be called House of Bread than does Bethlehem.

It was not always a kind place for weary travelers. At the entrance of Ephrata or Bethlehem, poor Rachel died and was buried by the roadside. Bethlehem provided no better place for heaven's King than a stable and a manger of "tibt." Not the fragrant timothy or clover hay but "tibt" the straw, broken and soiled by the feet of the animals who walked on it for weary hours threshing out the wheat.

"I fear that my little son, my little Jesus will be born tonight," the

Virgin may have said as she entered the stable. How she must have longed for a better place, but she meekly bowed her head in humble submission. Joseph did what he could to make her comfortable.

He came that night. Our Lord Jesus came to the inhospitable place. He came from the glory of His Father's presence and an innumerable company of angels accompanied Him.

From Bethlehem's hill, a wide view may be had. Far to the east are the blue mountains of Moab, where Ruth was born, a notable ancestor of our Savior. Closer at hand can be seen the fields of Boaz, where she gleaned "handfuls of purpose" after the reapers, and where we too may glean the "handfuls of purpose" left for us. The dim light of the Shepherds' fire could probably be seen, and surely the Glory Light from heaven must have briefly illuminated the whole landscape. Closer at hand were a hundred tiny flames of fires and lamps showing from Bethlehem's doors and windows.

Suddenly there was heard in the stable, a clamor of voices from just outside on Milk Grotto Street. "Who is there?" Joseph may have called out. "Who calls so late?"

"We are shepherds seeking a new born King. Is He here? Is there a newly born Babe here? There is? Oh, we are but rude shepherds, but may we see Him?"

"Yes, yes, come in," said Joseph. "Come and see Him. He is

yonder, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in the manger."

"Swaddling clothes and lying in a manger," the shepherds repeated in awe. "Just what the angels of God told us. We have found Him — the Saviour Who is Christ the Lord." They sank to their knees in adoring praise.

What did they talk about? Perhaps Mary told them of Gabriel's visit, of Elizabeth and Zacharias' son. Certain it is that she kept all these sayings and pondered them in her heart. She would never forget that night — that Christmas night!

So may we, too, never forget that night. May we in our heart of hearts kneel before that manger and do homage to Him Who came. Especially on this Advent eve, may our hearts grow tender and rejoice, for "Lo, the Saviour of the world is come," and thus may our souls be blessed this Christmas time in remembering Him.

— The Evangelical Christian

## Room In Your Heart?

"No room for the Baby in Bethlehem's inn,

Only a cattle shed,

No home on this earth for the dear Son of God,

Nowhere to lay His head.

Only a cross did they give to my Lord,

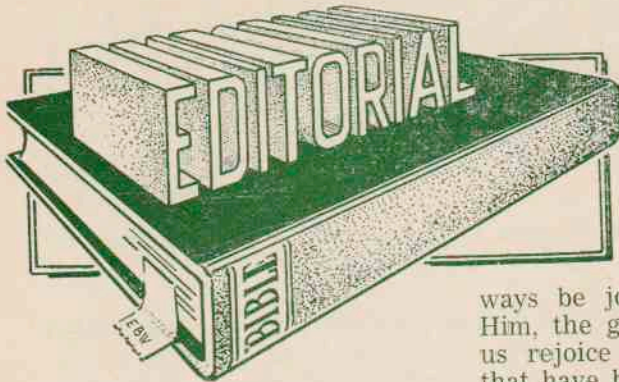
Only a borrowed tomb:

Today He is seeking a place in **your heart,**

Will **you** still say to Him, 'No room?'

May you answer this question today.

— E. W. Lawrence



## The Spirit of Christmas

The Spirit of Christmas contains all the radiance, all the beauty, all the idealism and all the character that mankind has ever known. The simplicity and faith of little children; The joyousness of giving, The contagious quality of happiness and good cheer, The glowing warmth of true friendship, The spiritual thrill of living for others, The secret of peace through understanding and good-will, The wonder-working magic of kind words and works, The transforming power of love, The challenge of the Cross.

Along with our usual Merry and Christ centered Christmas comes our Christmas wish, that all of us may have a part in projecting the true spirit of Christmas throughout all the days to come for bringing all people in harmony with the desire and plans of the Divine Architect.

We do not believe with others that we should dispense with all gaiety and good times at this season of the year. Certainly the Christian has the right to be happy at any season of the year, yet our joy comes not from trees, gifts, candy and the usual round of festivities.

Our heart, if not our voices, can heartily blend with the words of the song writer, "Hallelujah! I have found Him . . . Whom my heart so long has craved, Jesus satisfies my longings; Through His blood I now am saved."

While it takes feasting, toys and gadgets to make some happy and joyous, the child of God can al-

ways be joyous because we have Him, the greatest of all Gifts. Let us rejoice as we sing the carols that have become so precious with this season of the year, think of His birth and the Angels song of glad tidings, offer Him our gift — ourselves, and let us further remember that this is only part of the glorious account. He went further than the manger or Galilee, but He went to Calvary. This is what, in reality, makes the news so wonderful; He died for me and now I don't have to die. We like to think about one being born and shrink from death, but it was this that made our eternal life possible. If we have not already done so, let us accept God's Gift to us and give to Him our gift. What better gift exchange could be made?

— Editor and Staff

## NOTICE

It is the duty of the editor to not only publish and mail the God's Missionary Standard, but to help enlarge the mailing list. It is further his duty to make it go financially. This hasn't been done for some time. In the past much of the cost had to be made up from general funds. This is because we have not wanted to drop so many who have forgotten to renew their subscription. Recently we have begun to put the expiration date of your subscription on the label. Would you kindly check your label. If no date appears, it means that your subscription is expired. We do not want to drop your name from our mailing list and we believe that you do not want to miss a single issue of the Standard, so we will be looking for your renewal this month. Some names have been carried for several years, but the cost of printing and mailing will necessitate our removing your name from the active list if we do not hear from you. If you will help us we can easily make up this def-

icit.

Another reason for this financial deficit will easily be taken care of if you will let us know one month in advance when you are going to move and send us your new address if possible. If this is not done the papers come back to us and the cost of receiving returned papers is terrific. I realize that most of these are due to oversight, but it will help us tremendously if you will do this.

We want to be fair and as understanding as we possibly can. The job of preparing and mailing the

(Continued on page 7)

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## Holiness Teachings

Compiled by  
Rev. Allen C. Russell

**TEXT — For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness — 1 Thess. 4:7.**

True holiness implies, among other things, hatred of all wrong. In this it differs from mere amiability. One direction of the Apostle Paul to the brethren, given after he beseeches them to present their bodies a living sacrifice to God is, "Abhor that which is evil" (Rom. 12: 9). "Hate sin as you would hate that hell to which it leads." . . . (Dr. Adam Clarke). Much of the passion against sin and evil, is not evident in this our day. Abhor — "to detest utterly" — (Dr. Strong). Christ loved the sinner but He died to put away sin. (Rom. 5:8). Again "Ye that love the Lord hate evil" (Ps. 97:10). "O all of you that love and worship the true God, and rejoice in the establishment of His kingdom; hate evil — show your love to Him by hating all sin in temper, word and work. Thus the Psalmist, "having sung the glory of the Redeemer, now delineates the duty of the redeemed. They are characterized by their love of God; they are enjoined to hate evil; the hatred of which indeed is a consequence and a sure proof of that love, when it is genuine and sincere. Religion must be rooted in the heart and spring from thence. A Christian must not only serve God outwardly, but must inwardly love Him; he must not content himself with abstaining from overt acts of sin, but must truly hate it. They who do so are the saints of God, whose souls He preserveth from evil, and will finally deliver from the evil one and his associates, by a happy death and a glorious resurrection." — (Horne

from Benson's).

### Spurious Holiness

A holiness that does not take a plain and decided stand against popular sins is not the holiness of the Bible. It may have many things about it that are commendable. Brass highly polished, to one ignorant of values, looks to be worth more than gold. So, spurious holiness is more current in the world, and among worldly professors, than the genuine. It is not so troublesome. It deals in commendations, almost never in reproofs. It is silent in the face of anti-christian practices that are popular. If it speaks against worldly conformity, it is in such an indefinite manner, and in such terms, that no one is convicted. If it bears testimony against the lodge, it is so mildly that no one is offended.

God's word is: "Abhor that which is evil." "Ye that love the Lord hate evil." The saint of God exclaims, "I hate and abhor lying; but thy law do I love." (Ps. 119: 163) (Pungent Truths).

### Holiness Must Be Commended By The Life

If you would commend the cause of holiness to others, be careful to commend it by your life. Profess all that God does for you. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:10). But be able to appeal, as did the apostle, to those among whom you live, to testify that your life is in harmony with your profession. "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe" (1 Thess. 2:10). Let all with whom you have dealings, feel that they can place the utmost confidence in you. An old writer says,

"Sin indulged in a believer, is like a rent in a rich embroidered garment; or like a crack in a bell. A foul spot is soonest discerned in the fairest cloth. The world will sooner make an excuse for its own enormities than for your infirmities." (from Pungent Truths).

### Profession of Holiness Opposed

While we should commend holiness by our lives, we must not make the mistake of supposing that true holiness will secure general commendation for us. A few saints may give us their qualified approval, but the world and worldly professors will generally oppose us. This we are taught by both scripture and reason. "Woe unto you, when all men speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26). "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted?" (Acts 7:52). "Yea, and that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12).

This is the kind of treatment we might expect a truly holy person would receive, when we consider two things: 1. Everywhere sin and wrong-doing abound. 2. A truly holy person must, in every proper way, bear his testimony and give his influence against sin and wrong-doing. So did Christ. So did Paul. So did the holy martyrs. It got them into trouble. A similar course will get the most loving and gentle and prudent man or woman into trouble at the present day. On this account many who begin to lead holy lives draw back, and then gradually settle down into popular holiness, which is as unlike the genuine as brass is unlike the gold it is polished to represent, as a basswood stick is unlike a file of hardest steel — (from Pungent Truths).

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We are strictly "WESLEYAN" in doctrine and it is our aim to uphold the teaching of the infallible Word of God.

## CHURCH NEWS

### OBITUARY

William J. Yeagle, 807 Ash St., Watontown, Penna., died in the Williamsport Hospital on Sunday evening, October 22, where he was taken a few hours earlier by ambulance.

He was born July 10, 1888, making his age at death 79 yrs. 3 mo. and 12 days. He had been in ill health for about three years.

Surviving are his wife, three daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Jones of Watontown, Penna.; Mrs. Sara Fritz, Montgomery, Penna.; and Mrs. Florence Harding, Watontown, Penna. Two sons also survive: Albert, Montgomery, Penna. and Arthur, Allenwood, Penna. There are 12 grandchildren, 24 great grand children and one great great grand child.

Bro. Yeagle was a member of the Spring Garden God's Missionary Church.

Funeral services were held in the Barr Home for Funerals in Watontown with his pastor, Rev. C. William Rachau officiating. He was assisted by a former pastor, Rev. Raymond Hoffman. Interment was in the Watontown Cemetery.

### INTERDENOMINATIONAL CAMP

John Wesley Memorial Camp Ground, Inc. Corner of R. 92 and S579.

Workers: Rev. Kenneth Brown and Rev. and Mrs. Robb French. December 29, 1967 - Jan. 7, 1968.

For information call Tampa, Fla. 234-1831 or 626-4796.

### Revival

A winter revival is planned for January 10 through the 21st for the Milesburg God's Missionary Church with the Rev. Donald Hughes from Hobe Sound, Fla. Bro. Hughes comes to us with a splendid recommendation. He has served in the field of teaching, pastoring and is now in the field of evangelism. Music for these serv-

ices will be supplied by various groups within the local church. This is the evangelist's first appearance in this part of the country, so plan to come and hear him.

### Revival

Roaring Spring God's Missionary Church, 1022 Bloomfield St.

Our mid-year revival begins January 10, 1968 and continues thru the 21st, with Rev. J. M. Sullivan of Salisbury, Maryland, as the evangelist. Bro. Sullivan comes to us with many years of experience in evangelism. If you are not acquainted with Bro. Sullivan and his ministry, you won't want to miss these meetings. Services nightly at 7:30 and Sunday morning will be Sunday School at 9:30, Morning Worship at 10:30.

The pastor, Truman E. Motter, extends a cordial invitation to you to attend these services.

### Spring Garden

Sunday morning, Oct. 28, 1967, was the harvest home service at the Spring Garden God's Missionary Church. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion and a wonderful array of the good things for this life, for the pastor and wife, filled the altar. These were much appreciated by the pastor and wife, including the spirit of love that prompted it.

### Sea Breeze Camp Meeting

February 1 - 11, 1968. Hobe Sound, Florida.

Evangelists — Glen Griffith, Miller, MacFadgen party and others.

Song Leader — Robert Whitaker, Archie Coons in charge of music, special singing and choir.

Pray with us for a gracious outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

Bring bedding and if possible, pillows.

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings: This little note is to any and all persons who have made pledges to the Mount of Blessings Camp and are now encouraged to pay those pledges now, if possible. All payments should be made to the Treasurer, Rev. John Walter, Rebersburg, Penna. 16872. Please accept this little reminder and for this we thank you. May the Lord bless you is our prayer.

Young People's meetings December 8, 9, and 10.

Speaker: Rev. J. Harvey Dixon from Salisbury, Maryland. Rev. Dixon is well known pastor in Salisbury for many years and has been successful under the leading of the Lord. He has worked many years with the Youth and on radio, thus we are looking for his coming. The singing will be presented by the Milesburg Youth Group and such as may come in.

The January Rally will be held on January 27, 1968. Brungard Trio will be special guests for this rally. January 10 thru 21, 1968, Evangelistic meetings will be held at our church with the Rev. Don Hughes from Hobe Sound, Florida as the speaker. Rev. Hughes comes to us as a highly recommended brother in the Lord. He has never been in this area and we invite all to come and meet this fine Christian brother. Rev. Hughes is an authority of the Greek language and has taught this in a few Bible schools and colleges. He has also pastored several years enjoying a well rounded ministry. All are welcome to come and hear this dear brother.

There will be a local young people's rally at the Milesburg God's Missionary Church, Jan. 27, 1968, with the Brungart Trio. These folk are well known to the Standard family. Plan to attend this rally.

### EVANGELIST SLATE

Rev. & Mrs. William Tillis  
Box 2  
Beavertown, Penna. 17812  
Dec. 7 - 17, 1967, Locks Banks, Pa.  
Evan. Meth.  
Dec. 28 - Jan. 7, 1968, Beavertown, Penna. G. M. C.  
Jan. 11 - 21, 1968, Springfield, Ill.,  
P. H. C. of N. Y. Inc.

## Milesburg Church

The activities at the Milesburg Church were many. The month of October was a good month. We were privileged to have Rev. and Mrs. Barry Arnold with us for a revival; what a wonderful series of meetings we did have. Rev. Arnold delivered some masterpieces. The first Sunday morning, he said "Turn to the second book of Acts" and that was all. The Spirit of the Lord really came and "dwelt" among us mightily, how we did enjoy this! There were other nights of powerful demonstrations of the Holy Spirit as God blessed the ministry of our brother. We were again able to see a few more new souls bow at the altar and thus we are encouraged to press on. The second Sunday morning, the meeting lasted till about 1:15 and so you see we did have a great time of revival among the Saints. We enjoyed the Arnold's singing and fellowship and look forward to their coming back to visit us again, the Lord willing.

Here are some of Rev. Arnold's statements: "It's not the pleasure and means of men to have revival, but the pleasure of God." "Universalism is working underneath to defeat God's plan." "Unless God's Spirit is in our worship, it is moral blasphemy." "If we can't live on nine-tenths with the help of God, we can't live on ten-tenths without His help." "Our Salvation is more than a footstump or a hand clap." We do praise the Lord for His goodness to us in this series of meetings.

Our October Young People's meeting was held on the 28th. The Pilgrim Echoes were with us. What a wonderful service we did have! The spirit of the Lord was prevalent from the starting of the first song. Everyone expressed the same sentiments, they were well repayed for coming. We are well acquainted with all of the members of this quartet and we can certainly say without a doubt it was a greatly enjoyed Youth Service. So again we do praise the Lord for His wonderful blessing on this service. It was a great blessing to our youth. We welcome the Echoes back anytime to our service. They sang 22 songs with the anointing of the Spirit. This we enjoy here at Milesburg. The Echoes obeyed

the Lord and again our thanks for their coming to us.

On Sunday morning, October 28, 1967, we had Brother Clarence Beckwith from Port Mitilda with us for a Gideon Service. Brother Beckwith is from the church at Seven Stars and gave to us a mighty fine representation of the Gideon work. He is the Chaplain of the Centre County Gideon Camp. Here were some of his reports: Bibles distributed with the amount and the place:

8,000,000 to Motels and Hotels.  
1,394,309 Hospital Testaments.  
17,998,415 Servicemen's Testaments.  
26,895,649 School Children Testaments.  
13,267,538 Foreign Countries Edition.  
2,351,692 Nurses Bibles.

He reported that a letter arrives in their National Headquarters at the rate of 1 letter per hour, every 24 hours of every day, for 365 days of the year. This is the average of persons being saved through a Gideon placed Bible. We enjoy this service and glad to have a part in the distribution of the Word of the Lord through this means.

Sunday afternoon, the church gave to the pastor and family a very large and fine Harvest Home. This service was well attended. Rev. G. I. Straub, our Bishop, was present to present the message, and how he did preach. We do thank the Lord that he is still able to preach, is feeling as well as he is and with the help of the Lord is still proclaiming this wondrous Gospel. He preached to us about the seven feasts. We are glad to report the month of October closed on a good note of praise and on we go encouraged.

### CHURCH NEWS FROM SPRING GARDEN

A gracious time of revival was enjoyed by the pastor and congregation of the Spring Garden Church from October 12th to 22nd. The presence of the Lord was mightily felt in every service. Our evangelist, Rev. O. L. Fay of Wells, N.Y. preached every night under the anointing of the holy ghost, the deep truths of God's word and many were definitely helped by the meetings. . . . Two of the great-

est services were on Sunday mornings. The last Sunday morning at least nine or ten seekers found definite help. We thank God for his continued presence and for those who prayed thru in the services. Bro. and Sis. Fay were a real blessing to the pastor and wife as well as the congregation.

A blessed foreign missionary service was held at the Spring Garden God's Missionary Church on Wednesday night Nov. 1st, with Rev. Truman Wise, Rev. Marlin Crock, and Rev. Herman Noll coming to us for the occasion. Bro. Noll led the song service, which was a blessing to all. Bro. Crock then gave an excellent over all picture of the financial situation and how our great God has helped in this great venture of purchasing the church in Miami, Florida. Bro. Wise then brought an inspirational and heart searching message from the Word of God. This message was music appreciated and was a real challenge to the prayer life of each one present.

A good foreign missionary offering was received following the message. Bro. Noll concluded the service with a season of prayer with the people around the altar.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the brethren who came and held this profitable service for Spring Garden Church.

— Rev. C. William Rachau, Pastor

### RECOMMENDATION

The Pastor and people of the Milesburg God's Missionary Church wish to recommend to the Standard family, Rev. and Mrs. Donald Hicks. Bro. Hicks is a son of the Milesburg Church and is now available for revivals and weekend meetings or other preaching services. His wife, Gwen, is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Allen Russell, Pastor at Zerby Church and accompanies her husband in the meetings. She is also a very beautiful singer and will add much to your special services. Bro. Hicks is a fine brother, a fearless preacher of Holiness, and is God honoring in every message. Past meetings in various churches, some of our own, have been very profitable as well as enjoyable. He is a proven and faithful brother and worthy of this recommendation.

## A PAGE FOR YOUTH

### Article Written by Miss Cathy Lucas at P. V. B. I.

The following article was given to me for publication by Rev. Laddie Cooley, a teacher at Penn View Bible Institute. It is a theme prepared by Miss Carol Ann Lucas for a class in Bible Poetry.

Miss Lucas is a sophomore in the College Dept. at Penn View. She is regular in attendance at the Zerby God's Missionary Church and is a good example of her profession of Christianity.

The enclosed article is well written and deserves the (A) it received as well as publication here. I sincerely hope that all our readers enjoy this and may it be an incentive for more of this kind of material for the Youth page.

#### JOB

Though it is hard and rare, it's not impossible for a rich man to enter Heaven. By God's grace the wealth of worldly temptations may be overcome. The account of Job's piety and prosperity comes before the history of his afflictions, showing that neither will secure from troubles. The enemy of our soul is continually seeking to lead to astray all those who love God. Afflictions must not direct us from but quicken us to religion. Discontent and impatience charge God with folly. Against these job watched.

Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, seem noted for their rank, as well as for their piety and wisdom. They came as friends "to mourn with him and to comfort him." After they had sat for seven days in silence, Job began to speak, cursing the day he was born. Although favored with a sweet sense of the love and presence of God, Job proved to be a man with like passions with others. In spite of this Satan was disappointed, and could not prove him a hypocrite, for though he cursed the day of his birth he did not curse his God.

Job's friends seem to all have the same general opinion that Job has sinned. They argued that good men were never thus ruined, but they had often observed the wicked being thus punished. Our

worst mistakes are occasional by drawing wrong views from undeniable truths. These men urged Job to repentance, thinking that worldly prosperity was always the lot of the righteous, and that Job was to be deemed a hypocrite unless his prosperity returned.

Nevertheless, Job held fast and did not give up. He trusted in Him Who knows all, although he did not understand. Our times are in God's hands. Believers are not to expect great wealth, long life, or to be free from trials. Steadiness of mind and heart under trial is one of the highest attainments of faith. There is little exercise for faith when all goes well. But, if God raises a storm and permits the enemy to send wave after wave, and seemingly stands aloof from our prayers, then, still to trust in God, when we cannot trace him, this is the patience of the saints the "patience of Job."

### Keeping Christmas

By Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give

to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

#### Reflecting

Is there a light upon my face  
That shows to you at least some trace  
Of the great Light, whence comes the power  
That guides all life in every hour?  
Am I a mirror, sure and true,  
Reflecting part of God to you?  
Or does my life obscure His light,  
That shines for all so sure and right?  
If you've not seen in me His face,  
Then is my mirror my disgrace,  
And I must burnish it tonight  
And make it crystal clear and bright.

My selfish, paltry life must not  
Reflect for you a dark, cold spot;  
Each glad new day all men must see  
At least a glimpse of God in me.

—War Cry

## THE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

from The Fountain

From the early centuries of the Christian era, men sought to recreate the first music of Christmas — angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest," over Bethlehem. But the solemn chants of convents and monasteries did not catch the fancy of the worshipers to whom the story of the birth of Christ was one of joy and gladness. It remained for St. Francis of Assisi to strike this note. He raised their hearts and voices when he set religious themes to merry music in the thirteenth century. People went home humming his sermons . . . and carols were born.

The word carol at first described group singing and dancing in any festive season. For the last few hundred years, however, carol refers specifically to Christmas music, sacred or secular.

Italy, France, Germany, England, and America have carol literature and traditions of their own. Early songs weren't written down; they were carried by wandering minstrels and folk singers. They went through so many changes of word and melody that their creators probably wouldn't recognize them today!

Medieval carols seem to have been written as scripts for religious drama. Vivid pictures in the verses move the listener from scene to scene as the story of the Nativity progresses.

But then these religious folk songs came to be sung at holiday revels, debasing the spirit of Christmas. The puritans frowned on such pagan excesses and went to the opposite extreme of branding all festival music as sacrilegious and dishonoring to God. When they came to power as a political party, they even outlawed Christmas itself. A Puritan law of 1644 made December 25 a market day. Shops were required to remain open. Stiff fines — even jail sentences — awaited anyone caught "celebrating" Christmas. People obediently wore straight faces — and hummed merrily under their breath. Christmas music went underground.

"Broad sheets" were printed each year to keep texts of the songs alive with some accuracy. The law wasn't strictly enforced, for children still sang door to door, and neighbors gathered on Christmas Eve to chorus, "Love and joy, come to you." Rustics caroled "with rough accent, irregular time and tunes learned by heart and not by book."

Some eighteenth century sophisticates found folk songs too simple for their tastes, and it was at this time that some of the noblest composers fashioned "respectable" Christmas music. Bach wrote his exultant oratorio and Handel created The Messiah with its magnificent "Hallelujah Chorus." But, great though these productions were, they never could replace the simple beauty of the old songs.

No one is sure who wrote "Adeste Fideles." Credit is usually given St. Bonaventure. Isaac Watts composed "Joy to the World" in 1719. "Away in a Manger" is said to have been inspired by Martin Luther's "From Heaven Above I Come to You." Charles Wesley wrote "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" in 1737, and a section of Mendelssohn's "Festgesang" was adapted in 1855 for the musical version familiar to us. Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr combined their talents to produce the beautiful "Silent Night, Holy Night" in 1818.

In 1868, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was composed by Bishop Phillips Brooks, when his Philadelphia Sunday school class asked for a Christmas song. His organist, Lewis H. Redner, furnished the tune and insisted that the music came to him miraculously in a Christmas Eve dream.

It was people like Mrs. Cram of Boston who made caroling a rich American tradition, as it had become in Europe. The year was 1910. As Christmas preparations were completed, the lady remembered legends of medieval England, where "waits" (night watchmen) went caroling through the streets. She reached for her telephone — as ladies will! Within an hour a dozen neighbors had promised Mrs. Cram to light candles in their windows on Christmas Eve and then to come outdoors to sing with her. The group expanded each year,

and Beacon Hill — where caroling had once been an offence against the state — won fame as the home of modern American caroling!

But though many belong to Christmas choral groups, most people find their greatest enjoyment indoors, near family and fireside, where, through the realism which modern electronics makes possible, they can enjoy to the full the faithfully recorded Christmas harmonies.

## Holiness Teachings

(Continued from page 3)

### True Holiness Is Practical

True holiness will manifest itself perhaps more clearly in making a bargain than in making a prayer. It leads its professor to look out for the interest of another, as well as his own. It does not take advantage of the weakness or ignorance of others. It deals as honorably with a woman or a child as with a keen, experienced man of business. Job, in maintaining before his fellow men his integrity, says: "I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame." (Job 29:15). The holiness that does not lead to the strictest integrity in all business matters is of no value whatever, as far as saving the soul is concerned. It is altogether spurious. It has not the seal of God upon it. One who has true holiness has ingrained in his very being the rule laid down by our Savior: — "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Pungent Truths). True holiness is the active, uncompromising enemy of all wrong. This is a divine call: called unto holiness. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. . . .

## NOTICE

(Continued from page 2)

paper along with the many files that must be adequately kept is a tremendous one. We solicit your prayers as we enter a new year. We also wish to thank the many folk who have responded in the past and have helped make this edition a better paper. Please feel free to write any time a question arises or if we have made a mistake.



# Missionary Message

## Report on Missionary Trip to Florida

By Rev. Truman Wise, Foreign  
Missionary Superintendent.

For some time it was the general feeling of the Foreign Missionary Board that one or some of its members should visit our Foreign Missionaries and their work in Florida. In their August meeting Rev. Marlin Crock the treasurer and Rev. Truman Wise were designated to make the trip. Since negotiations were under way with the Greek Orthodox Conference for the purchase of their vacant church located about one-half block from the residence of our Missionaries, and in the midst of the Cuban Colony.

We contacted our Attorney, Mr. Curry in Miami and made arrangements to close the deal on the property Sept. 15th. We, in company with our wives, left home Sept. 12th and arrived in Kissimmee, Fla. with Bro. Kenneth Walter and family, who is pastoring our church at that place. They are amidst a remodeling program in the parsonage at present, and are greatly encouraged with the progress of the church. We arrived in Miami on Sept. 15th and were advised by our Attorney the necessary papers were unsigned and therefore could not close the deal, but advised us to stay over till Monday, Sept. 18, at which time we would try and conclude the transaction.

We spent the Week-end in the home with Bro. and Sr. Shuey and daughter Jean. We attended the special services which had been arranged for our coming. On Saturday Evening we spoke, Bro. Fiasco interpreted, 4 came to the altar. On Sunday morning we attended Sunday School which was conducted in Spanish, at the close we again spoke to the congregation briefly. The highlight of our trip was the Sunday evening services

which will never be forgotten. As we entered the Mission we were greeted by the refugees, although they could only communicate with us through an interpreter who was soon by-passed. Shouts, tears, and Holy demonstration, in which they tried to express their joy of Salvation, their delight in fellowship of the Saints, and sincere appreciation for God's goodness and being in America. The services begun with Sr. Shaner as Song Leader. While singing the second hymn, once again God broke in; Sr. Shaner shouted and praised God, the services were interrupted momentarily. Bro. Crock preached and Bro. Roca interpreted. He proved to be a very efficient co-worker. I never heard Bro. Crock preach any better and when he gave the invitation 2 Cubans came to the altar, one of which was Blanco's sister. She had reached the States a very short time before. This altar scene was the most impressive of all scenes; the seekers, with hands raised and tears flowing freely and suddenly Blanco's sister broke through and touched God, her face was illuminated and radiant with the Glory. Oh, what a scene, it was a literal transfiguration, a sight seldom witnessed. This precipitated a great time of rejoicing and praising God.

We stayed with Bro. and Sr. Shuey, enjoying the company of Sr. Shaner, and Bro. and Sr. Fisher their helpers in this great work. These workers have the respect of the Cuban people, and are doing a tremendous work. These people are receptive to the Gospel and eager to hear of Jesus saving and sanctifying power. They have some worthy examples of Divine Grace. We left these people reluctantly, but encouraged and richer in the faith, coupled with a greater determination to do more for our Missionaries and their field of labor.

On Monday we went back to see Mr. Curry and keep our appointment with the agents of the Greek

Orthodox Church. They did not respond and our attorney advised us not to sign any papers until the church was fumigated the roof was inspected, and the necessary repairs were made in the interior of the building all of which was in the contract. At this writing the deal has been closed, the keys are in our possession and our Missionaries have been holding service in the church since October 15th. To all of you who have helped to make the purchase of this building possible we wish to express our appreciation. But this is not the end of the road we will need your continued support to meet our monthly payments and care for the support of our Missionaries and running expense of our work. We wish to assure you the utmost economy and diligence has been practiced in all our transaction. Our prayer is that you will help us in our "Outreach for the Unreached."

## MISSIONARY REPORT

The month of October found the Foreign Missionary Board slowing down a bit, we visited only two churches. A lot of the churches had revival thus we were not able to continue as we wanted to. But on Thursday night October 19, 1967, Brother Crock and I journeyed to the town of Nesbit. Here we were so very warmly received by Rev. Charles Haffling and the fine folks of the Nesbit Church. We were certainly privileged to sit in the heavenly atmosphere that is created when the Holy Spirit appears and did meet so graciously with us. Brother Crock gave to us a first hand report and such a report will be forth coming from the hand of Brother Truman Wise at a later issue. These two brethren were thrilled at what they saw on their trip to the state of Florida. The Lord is helping and for this we thank Him. Our thanks go to the folk at Nesbit for coming and supporting this work and giving so

(Continued on page 11)

"And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:9-11

### Wonderful Theme of Christmas

Nearly seven hundred and fifty years before the birth of the Saviour, a remarkable prophecy was given concerning Him. Not only did the Scriptures accurately foretell the time and conditions of His lowly birth, they foretold His character as well. Isaiah, the prophet, wrote concerning Him: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

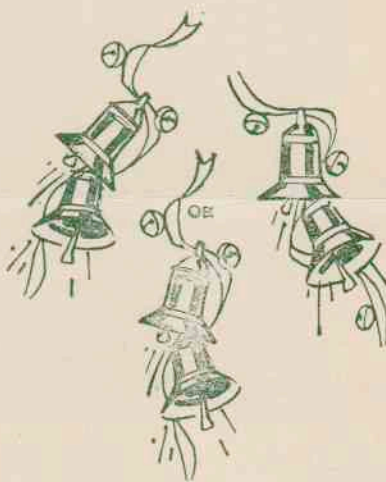
Of these five glorious titles, none of which could be ascribed to any other being, let us consider only the first: "His name shall be called Wonderful." Turn back the pages of time 1,900 years and look at this wonderful Man as He walked upon this earth.

One of the first glimpses we have of Him is during one evening when a very noble and upright man came to interview Him. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews and a teacher in Israel, yet his unsatisfied heart longed for something more than religion and political influence. Jesus said to him: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God . . . For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Nicodemus found that Jesus was the Wonderful Man, that interview changed his life.

Next, we find this Wonderful

Man sitting alone on an ancient well. The day was very hot. A poor, degraded woman from the city came to draw water, and Jesus began to speak with her. He told her of the living water which He came to give, and made known unto her that, although He knew all about her life, she could receive this gift and have life eternal. Then He revealed unto her who He was. She left her waterpots and ran into the city and said: "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? She found Him to be the Wonderful Man.

Then, we come to the grave of a young man. He had been dead four days. His loving sisters and friends still mourned. Jesus wept. Then, after looking up to Heaven in prayer, He said: "Lazarus, come



forth." The man who was dead came forth. Lazarus truly found Him to be the Wonderful Man. The message of the Saviour that day was: "I am the Resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Down through the centuries men and women have found this Man to be the Wonderful Man. As we celebrate His birthday once again, let us remember that His name is called Wonderful. If you have found forgiveness and rest for your soul through trusting in Him, will you not now commend your life to Him? "Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth . . . (Heb. 7:25).

—Clyde H. Dennis

### They Were Asleep

I wonder why it was the shepherds were

The only ones to hear the angels sing,

To see that wonderful event occur,  
And hear the message of the new-born King.

Perhaps the midnight hour was just at hand;

The silver moon had set, and darkness deep

And Solemn lay across the listening land,

And all the weary world was lost in sleep.

If they had known — if they had only known

The time of His appearing and His birth,

When He should come to seek and save His own

And tell a warring world of peace on earth —

They would have watched and waited all the night,

The candles lighted and the door ajar,

Lest they should miss the angels in their flight,

Or fail to see the glory of His star.

And when the lightning breaks across the blue,

And He comes back to take His bride away,

Will we be watching, faithful loyal, true?

Or will we, like so many in that day,

Be fast asleep? Oh, many are asleep!

The Bridegroom tarries, but His hour is nigh,

Now let us, like the shepherds, watch and keep

Our eager vigil while the stars go by.

E. B. Bolcom

## PENN VIEWS

To a resident observer, living on this campus, twenty-four hours per day, the school activities present quite a variegated pattern. A number of things contribute to this interesting campus panorama.

The backdrop of multi-colored leaves changing from green to about every color of the rainbow and floating down like gorgeous snowflakes provide a most picturesque setting for our Bible School. One would be led to think that the Master Artist was putting on a special display for the benefit of our student body and administration. Anyone on Penn View Campus or near here who would be inclined to be critical of the verdancy of the summer or the beauty of the fall must surely be of little soul. The Lord has favored us greatly and even though there have been some adverse conditions and a few trying situations, the morale of our school is, I believe, very good. Only yesterday I remarked to the high school student body that I had heard little or no murmuring even though they have had to endure some inconveniences such as walking over slippery clay to get to class, sitting in rooms that on a few occasions were slightly less than comfortable, and commuting through the rain from one class to another. You see we have a fine group of young people here at Penn View. They are not a bunch of softies seeking the easy way out. For the most part they are readily amenable to the policies of the school administration, and they have something more than a modicum of good wholesome school spirit. This is most essential to progress.

We now have a duly authorized school quartet and a school trio. These groups have already ministered in sermon and song in several different places and their schedules are rapidly developing. Any church wishing the services of these young folk for some special service or for a school service, should contact me here at Penn View Bible Institute, Penns Creek, Penna. Perhaps something can be arranged.

For the transporting of these groups, we were, in God's good

providence, the happy recipients of a fine Dodge travel-all van. This fine vehicle came to the school on October 12 as a gift from God's Missionary Church at Millmont. On October 20 we had a dedication service for it. Students, administrators, and workers gathered round the bus. Reverend Marlin Crock of the Lewistown Church read the scripture — Numbers 1:1-7. There was singing and rejoicing in the hearts of all. After quartet and trio numbers, the bus was christened "The Gospel Wagon." Reverend G. I. Straub, General Superintendent of God's Missionary Church, prayed the dedicatory prayer. It was a short service but one that will be long remembered.

bodies ensued but it was worth it all. One pastor remarked that such thorough cleaning of the grounds had not been done for many years. Shall we not concede that cleanliness as well as holiness becometh God's property? I think so.

Of course neither time nor space will permit a recapping of all the interesting events that transpire from time on this Bible School Campus. Vivacious young people, full of vim, vigor, and vitality are often unpredictable. Happily, the unpredictables here at Penn View are flavored with decency and decorum thereby providing some interesting and often humorous scenes.

The prayer life of our student



Another recent interesting campus highlight was clean-up day. Although I have participated in several clean-up days on several different campuses, I have never seen any greater cooperation among a student body than that which was evident here on Friday, November 10, at Penn View Bible Institute. The day was perfect, almost a perfect calm, not too hot, not too cold, not too dry, not too wet, but just made to order for our special day. Virtually the entire campus was raked; the leaves, twigs, and dead branches were burned; junk was collected; windows were washed; fallen trees were sawed into bolts and later into firewood; trash was removed, and rat harbors were eliminated. All of this required time and energy, but as in the days of old "the people had a mind to work." Sore hands, aching joints and tired

body even though it has, admittedly, not reached the zenith, it has been and is worthy of commendable consideration. Some of our students are able to pray effectively in our school chapels. Others are learning, and the Lord is able to help us all in this area. Our Wednesday night school prayer meetings have been well attended. There have been times of real refreshing and inspiration. Please remember us in your prayers as we try to amalgamate real academic progress and true spiritual life. Our prayer meetings here are one means to that end.

At this writing there is a real need for some stalwart God's Missionary Intercessors. The work here is growing and this, of course, necessitates more work and more finance. Surely we at Penn View thank God for all his

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**"The Wonder of Christmas"**

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"Unto you is born this day a  
Saviour"

Which is Jesus Christ the  
wondrous Lord;  
Not a "teacher," not a "good  
example,"

But the Son of God, the living  
Word.

No "philosopher," his fancies  
weaving,

Warp of dreams and woof of  
visions vast,  
Not a "prophet," peering down the  
future,

Not a "scholar," delving in  
the past,

"Unto you is born this day a  
Saviour;"

Shine, O star! and shout, O  
angel voice!

Unto you this precious gift is  
given;

Sing, O earth! and all ye  
Heavens, rejoice!

Long the world has waited such a  
Saviour,

Sunk in sin and torn by fear  
and doubt;

Long in darkness groped for  
truth and wisdom,

Glory, glory, now the light  
shines out!

"Unto you is born this day a  
Saviour"

Earth's one hope, the Life,  
the Truth, the Way,  
Mighty God and glorious  
Redeemer,

Jesus Christ the Lord is born  
today.

—Annie Johnson Flint

**"THE FOUNTAIN"**

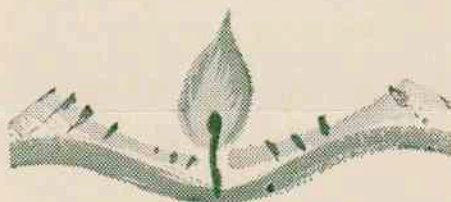
**MISSIONARY REPORT**

(Continued from page 8)

wonderfully. I am convinced that if some of our bigger churches were to catch the vision as have a lot of our smaller churches, we would see more accomplished for the Lord. The Foreign Missionary Board Salutes every effort of sup-

porting that we have received from these small sincere and blessed churches.

Then, too, on the rainy night of October 25, 1967, Brother Straub, Brother Herr and this writer again took to the road for missionary service, this time to the very beautiful town of Berwick. This was a good trip in spite of the weather and fog. We rejoice in what we were able to witness in this service. We arrived a bit late, much to our disappointment, but nevertheless happy to be there. After a few remarks, Brother Straub gave a report of what he saw while in Florida and also a bit of report on Brother Seymore. Then Brother Russell Herr took the pulpit to give to us what the



Lord has laid on his heart, the searching Christ, as taken from John 9:1. Brother Herr gave a vivid account of an happening that he always remembers when he hears the name of Berwick. He was instrumental in helping a young lady of an other faith receive our Lord as her Savior just before her death. As she went into eternity, she testified to her family, that the Jesus who had saved her, was now reaching out his hands to receive her. This effected her family so that they, too felt to turn from the heathen teaching. Bro. Herr's memory of Berwick is so accounted for and it was a joy for him to be there to bring the message of the evening. This little church presented to us a total of \$75.10 for their share in helping us meet our projects and prospects of launching out into new and wider fields. Brother Evans, and his fine family, who are pastoring the church here, gave to us

the right hand of fellowship.

It was our joy again to be able to have and enjoy this another Foreign Missionary Service. We too, felt the strength that comes from making new acquaintances. We left the service encouraged to press on and fight the good fight of faith. Again, thanks to the Berwick church and may the Lord encourage them as they move on for Him. We will be reporting again at a later date, until then we say remember, "The Christian Can Play The Prodigal By Selfish Giving."

**PENN VIEWS**

(Continued from page 10)

manifold blessings at this Thanksgiving season, but at the same time we recognize that the future will demand even more of us all, in gifts, in grace, and in Godliness. Yours and His for Christian Character at Penn View.

Sincerely thy friend,  
G. W. Stepp, President  
Penn View Bible Institute

**Renewed at Christmas**

Hope should be renewed at  
Christmas

As we worship, pray, and sing,  
Looking upward to the Saviour  
Who is Prince of Peace and  
King;

Who'll be coming for His children,  
Maybe 'ere the day is done,  
Or as evening shadows gather,  
Or at morning's rising sun.

Peace should be renewed at  
Christmas

With good will for all  
mankind,  
And a generous heart and spirit  
From the depth of soul and  
mind;

With good wishes for our loved  
ones,

For our neighbors and our  
friends,

And with sunny smiles and  
greetings

As true love and friendship  
blends.

Walter E. Isenhour

With a song and a sigh! This is the short story of the twentieth century commemoration of the birth of Christ. The song before; the sigh afterwards. O, this is not a dour note from a modern-day Scrooge. It is the sad commentary upon our materialistic and contest-minded society swept along by forces it can neither understand nor explain.

And so, here we are. There are the holly, the trees, the ornaments; there are parties, programs, and presents; there are cards, carols and candies; but, why? Can someone relate these to the purpose of the season?

How involved is our faith; how committed is our devotion; how knowledgeable is our observance? Could an honest attempt to answer these questions help us to get perspective and gain balance in our approach to this day of days—this day on which we recall God's indescribable act of love on behalf of man in his darkest moment?

Probably the farther the years remove us from the blessed event of Christmas the more materialistic and less blessed will be the commemoration. This is not strange in the ways of man. God knew this when He commanded that the people should be gathered together to hear His words; note "that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children" (Deut. 4:10). In Judges 5:11 reference is made to rehearsing "the righteous acts of the Lord." This was to be done, no doubt, lest the "righteous acts of the Lord" would be forgotten.

Israel, on another occasion was commanded to love the Lord God with all their heart, soul, and might. Then follows, "and these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up...beware lest thou forget the Lord" (Deut. 6:6, 7, 12). In Exodus, God urged Israel to not disassociate themselves in the new land from the moorings of their past experience with Him. Notice Exodus 12:26,

# Lest Thou Forget

by J. D. Abbott

27, "And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover. . . . And the people bowed the head and worshipped."

Doubtless such a question often arises in the minds of children today as they "see" Santa ride the skies in a sleigh "pulled" by so many reindeer—"What meaneth this?" Or, when the "jingle bells" and the "deck the halls" chants or lilts, now characteristic of the celebration sound forth, do they wonder "What meaneth this?"

Fathers! Mothers! Answer their question. Tell them that this is the celebration of the birth of the Lord, God's Son, our Redeemer, our Saviour. Tell them of our sin and His sacrifice. Tell them of His love, speak of His mercy and compassion. In a word, please acquaint them with Jesus.

Can it be that His Lordship is today lost amidst the trappings, tapestry, and tinsel of a Christless X-mas?

Is there some similarity to the experience of Thomas—"doubting Thomas?" Recall that following the death and resurrection of the Lord he was so slow to acknowledge Jesus as Lord? Probably torn within, confused and earnest in his attempt to know the truth he said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails . . . and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." Eight days afterwards, when Jesus showed Himself again to His disciples and Thomas, Jesus urged him, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hands, and thrust it into my side: and be

not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God" (John 20:27, 28).

Out of the confusion and doubt there emerged the element of faith—invincible, inflexible faith! All of the rumors of those dark days; all of the blasted hopes; the angry mobs; the shimmering lightning shafts and rumbling thunders; the open graves. Then—the still; the apparent calm and the claim of resurrection. He doubted, but then he believed! Praise God! The joy that supplanted his fears and doubts found expression in the words, "My Lord and my God."

O, that out of all of the maze of our system of celebrating this marvelous event would emerge such an understanding and faith as came to Thomas—a knowledge of the Lord, Emmanuel!

Could we, like Thomas, see through all the elements of distraction, the Lord—the Lord for all He really is—God with us.

If we could see Him and know of His unrivaled beauty and His unlimited power. If we could know of His purity without stain and His love without ostentation.

For yet today He is the compassionate Lord, ever possessing boundless and limitless forgiveness.

Yet today He is the eloquent Lord—for "never man spake as this man."

Today He is the courageous Lord, even as when He rid the temple of unholy bargainings.

Too, He is the condescending Lord, desirous of dining with the most needy and ever attentive to the humblest of the human family.

He is the Lord of all humanitarianism. Remember that He went about doing good; feeding the hungry, instructing the unlearned healing the sick, casting out demons, causing the dumb to sing, the deaf to hear, the lame to leap, the blind to see, the dead to live. Recall that He pardoned the penitent and turned the mourner's sorrow into joy. His life was goodness in action. He is the same today.

He is the Lord Whose birth we celebrate! Remember Him! Love Him! Honor Him! Rehearse again the Christmas Story; His life and love. Do it! Lest Thou Forget!