

Obituary

Bassett. — Esther Austin, daughter of William and Hester Austin, was born in Bethlehem, N. Y., and died at her late home in Independence, N. Y., November 23, 1944.

She was married to Henry K. Bassett, November 7, 1877, and came to live on the Bassett homestead in Independence. Her husband died in 1921. She is survived by her son Milford who lives on the old homestead and his family, two grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Farewell services were held at the home and at the Independence church, November 26, 1944, conducted by Rev. Walter L. Greene of Andover, a former pastor. Interment was in the Independence Cemetery by the side of her husband. The large attendance at these services witness to the respect with which she was held in the community. W. L. G.

Bevlin. — Beulah B. Coon, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. D. Burdett Coon, passed away at the Glenwood Springs Hospital, Glenwood Springs, Colo., on November 1, 1944, at the age of forty-three.

Her health has been poor for a number of years. Only a few months ago her husband was called into the armed forces of our country, and she moved from Attica, Kan., to Gypsum, Colo., to be with her mother and sister, Mrs. Gladys Hemminger.

Funeral services were held at the Howe Mortuary in Boulder on November 4, 1944, and interment was made at Green Mountain Cemetery near to the lot where her father is buried. The services were conducted by Rev. Earl Cruzan, pastor of the Boulder Church. E. C.

Green. — Alice E. Rose, adopted daughter of Nancy and Nathaniel Rose, was born January 15, 1862, near Rock River, Wis., and died October 28, 1944, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William A. Thomas of Alfred, N. Y.

She married Thomas Vars Rogers of Milton Junction, Wis., and to them were born three children: Mamie E., Walter Vars, and Gladys A. Rogers. In later years she married Charles Green of Edgerton, Wis. She was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. Surviving are three children: Mrs. William A. Thomas, Walter Vars Rogers, and Mrs. J. Lane Beard; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister by adoption, Miss Maude Rose.

Funeral services were held at the home of her daughter in Alfred and burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery. Rev. Everett T. Harris, pastor of the First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, officiated. E. T. H.

Maxson. — Phoebe Annah Goodrich, the sixth of eight children born to William Anson and Rebecca Crandall Goodrich, was born at Rock River, Wis., February 24, 1856, and died at her home in Farina, Ill., November 14, 1944, the last of her father's family.

The family moved to Farina, Ill., in the year 1861 where they purchased a farm; in the farm home the first services of which later became the Farina Seventh Day Baptist Church were held. A sister of Mrs. Maxson was the accompanist at these services, and the melodion used is now in the possession of a granddaughter of Anson Goodrich. On June 12, 1875, at Walworth, Wis., Annah was united in marriage with Dr. Joseph Maxson. To the union one child, Reginald, was born; he survives her.

She was a charter member of the Farina Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, and was for many years a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Farina. She was a beautiful character with her mind stored with knowledge which covered a wide range of subjects. She was a gifted conversationalist.

Funeral services were conducted at the Funeral Parlor in Farina Friday morning, November 11, 1944, by Rev. C. L. Hill, and burial was made in the family lot in the Farina Cemetery. C. L. H.

Randolph. — Adeline Wheeler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Wheeler, was born in Farmington, Ill., April 7, 1857, and died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Rasmussen of Boulder, Colo., October 24, 1944.

She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Nortonville, Kan. For many years she was a lone Sabbath keeper at Brandon, Colo.

Funeral services were conducted at the Allardice-Kelso Funeral Home in Boulder on October 25, 1944. Interment was at Eads, Colo. The services were conducted by Rev. Earl Cruzan, pastor of the Boulder Church. E. C.

Walker. — Alversa M. Davis, a daughter of James B. and Emily V. Davis, was born January 17, 1863, at New Milton, W. Va., and died at Riverside, Calif., October 20, 1944, after a long illness.

On June 4, 1903, she was married to Jerome B. Walker. About three years after their union they moved to Riverside, where she has since resided. She was baptized at the age of eleven, uniting with the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church. Since moving to Riverside she has been faithful and active in the work of the church till failing health put an end to her service.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Geo. H. Trainer and Mrs. Benjamin W. Kinney and by one brother, A. Grantham Davis.

In the absence of her pastor the funeral was conducted by her former pastor, Rev. E. S. Ballenger. L. F. H.

HOW BIBLE CAN SERVE DAILY NEEDS

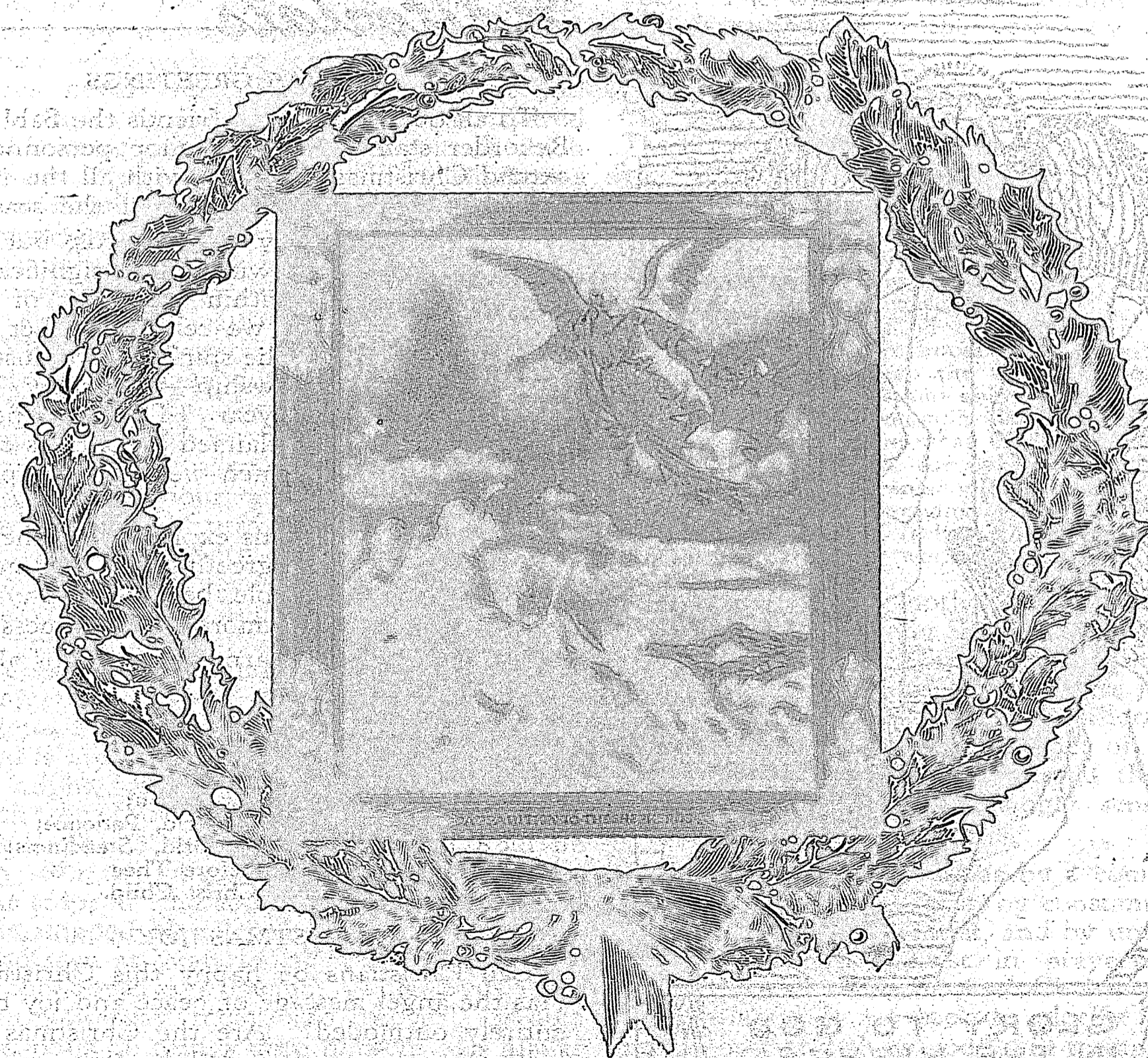
When you find passages in the Bible that have a strong appeal, read them slowly, lingering over them till fruitful, practical thoughts begin to come. Then mark these passages. That's one way to make the "wonderful words" of life serve your daily needs.

The Sabbath Recorder

Vol. 137

PLAINFIELD, N. J., DECEMBER 18, 1944

No. 25



The Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Weekly Published by the American Sabbath Tract Society, Plainfield, N. J.

HERBERT C. VAN HORN, D.D., Editor L. H. NORTH, Manager of the Publishing House

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Mrs. Walter L. Greene Harley Sutton

Per Year\$2.50 Terms of Subscription Six Months.....\$1.25

Postage to Canada and foreign countries 50 cents per year additional.
Subscriptions will be discontinued at date of expiration when so requested.

All subscriptions will be discontinued one year after date to which payment is made unless expressly renewed.

All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to the Sabbath Recorder, Plainfield, N. J.

Entered as second-class matter at Plainfield, N. J.

Vol. 137, No. 25

Established in 1844

Whole No. 5,116

Editorials

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To all our readers and friends the Sabbath Recorder staff—office and shop personnel—extend Christmas greetings with all the joys, pleasures, and responsibilities of the season.

It is so easy to say these words, but we speak them freighted with all the significance and holy meaning within the spirit of the Christ whose advent we celebrate. Let the spirit of Christmas—the spirit of love, justice, good will, and fellowship—unselfishly prevail throughout the year. Then the peace which the angels proclaimed at Christ's coming, the peace for which we long and pray, will be realized.

Your editor with this expression wishes to extend the season's greetings to the many whom he will be unable, because of physical reasons, to reach with more personal message.

May I express an earnest prayer for all in the words of another?

Oh God!
At this Christmas season
Give to the Church, Wisdom;
To the rulers of nations, Vision;
To the women of the world, Patience;
To the men of the world, Steadiness;
And to all who bow before Thee
Holiness like of the Christ Child.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Can Christians be happy this Christmas? Has the angel message of peace and joy been entirely outmoded? Are the Christmas joy bells but clanging cymbals? With eleven

Drawn by Miss Marion Neagle.



million of our loved ones in the armed service at home in the training camps or overseas in actual lethal combat, with white crosses throwing shadows over thousands of homes, and tens of thousands lying in hospitals suffering, with millions destitute, and unnumbered children starving—with all this upon our shoulders and conscience, can there be any Christmas joy and gladness?

It may be hard. The season will be different, but still there is the possibility of Christmas joy.

In the first place, we can remember that we never had a wider opportunity or a graver responsibility of sharing our Christmas joy and American blessings with others than right now. The many relief bodies representing the millions of war and famine sufferers world-wide are keeping us posted of actual needs and sufferings to be met and alleviated. So joy is ours that we are spared and have so much in this beloved land which we can share with others. The Christmas spirit demands our best; and, while we are remembering loved ones and friends with gifts, we should be more than liberal with those who are hungry or sick or in prison of whom Christ said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Among other blessings which bring us comfort and joy in the midst of a world at war may be mentioned the joy of possessing a personal Saviour, also the joy of a unifying fellowship of prayer. What a joy indeed to talk to one with whom loved ones far away can have communion in prayer; and finally, the joy of an abiding faith in a God of power.

The world still clings to its chief reliance upon the heaviest guns, the greatest battalions, the most tremendous explosives. But God is not mocked. It is still true that "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." "God is able." We can't see how this war can stop, but he can stop it—when men—. It was his sea that stopped Pharaoh's army; his snowstorm that stopped Napoleon's army in Russia; his hand seen at Waterloo, Ypres, Dunkirk, and in the Southwest Pacific. This God—"the same yesterday, today, and forever"—is able to subdue all things unto himself. In him is our confidence still. Such a faith gives us joy at this Christmas time. Faith resting in

him brings a joy which the world does not begin to comprehend.

AN ABIDING CHRISTMAS

Christmas comes but once a year—much to the disappointment of many a youngster who looks longingly toward the happy day.

All too soon the external things of the day begin to lose their thrills, and the day after brings its demands for checkups and notes of acknowledgment.

But Christmas may be more an abiding season if true meaning back of its celebration is more deeply sensed. How much richer life would be for all of us if the spirit of the holiday were to continue throughout the year. The wish for such an abiding Christmas is expressed in the verses by Angela Morgan:

Oh, could we keep the Christmas thrill,
The good of gladness and good will,
The lift of laughter and the touch
Of kindled hands that utter much,
Not once a year, but all the time
The melody of hearts in chime,
The impulse beautiful and kind
Of soul to soul and mind to mind
That swings the world,
And brings the world
On one great day of all the year
Close to God's treasure house of cheer—
Oh, could we keep the Christmas feast,
Even when goods and gold are least;
Here, 'mid our common, daily scenes
Could we but live what Christmas means,
Not one day, but for ev'ry day,
The miracle of wholesome play,
The spirit, sweet, gift-giving, young,
From deepest wells of feeling sprung—
What a different world this world would be.

We read how the mother of Jesus treasured the words concerning him in her mother heart. The birth of Christ should fill us with a joy unspeakable and unfading—a joy unexpendable though shared with others again and again. No doubt the mother of Christ, as long as she lived, remembered the hour of his coming and increasingly sensed its significance.

Why not keep Christmas by a continuous study of the life of Christ, by constant devotion to the work of Christ, and by unceasing communion with Christ in prayer? The praise that marked the first Christmas may be continued as we seek to glorify him in the highest and show good will toward men. As wise men presented him their rich gifts, our lives will be enriched as throughout the

year we bring him our devotion and offerings for humanity's need in his name.

"The divine occupation that filled the hours of the first Christmas are still opportunities for our best investment of life."

The essential of Christmas need not pass and will not pass if we draw near the abiding Christ and worship him as did the shepherds and wise men of old.

EDITOR AT PITTSBURGH

One gets a better impression of Pittsburgh, "The Heart of America's Industrial Empire," from pictures employed by civic and booster clubs than by views from the ninth story hotel room or by walking some of the city's streets in the famous "Golden Triangle" through the fogs and smoke. We are assured that it is the "Ideal City—to Live, to Work, to Play." The most one busy in a three-session, three-day convention can do is to accept in good faith the claims made by those who seem to be fair-minded and loyal. One could wish for time to visit some of the pleasant places to which invited.

But business is business, and that of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is of vital importance and took full time of delegates and visitors at the biennial meeting held at the William Penn Hotel, November 28, 29, and 30. Business was expedited by President Tucker, the various secretaries of the council, chairmen and secretaries of departments, and many others. Perhaps speakers and reports were sometimes unduly long, but always interesting, forceful, and challenging.

Three other Seventh Day Baptists besides the editor were present at Pittsburgh—Dean A. J. C. Bond and Rev. Albert N. Rogers were delegates, and Rev. Marion C. Van Horn of Lost Creek attended as a visitor. It is the editor's hope that each of these men will write for the Recorder some of their impressions. Indeed, it would be a revelation, enlightening and inspiring, if all our pastors and earnest laymen and women could have sat in on any of the sessions of these meetings.

From first to last an ideal spirit of faith, brotherhood, and ecumenicity was evident, with but few exceptions. Perhaps an outstanding example of any lack in this spirit was seen in the refusal to accept into membership of the council the Universalist

Church—a denomination in whose application for membership was the statement:

The primary motive that prompts this action is genuine sympathy with the avowed purpose of the council, "more fully to manifest the essential oneness of the Christian Churches of America in Jesus Christ as their divine Lord and Saviour, and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service, and co-operation among them." That sense of oneness in Christ as the basis of Christian fellowship is thrown to the fore in the official declaration of the Universalist Church as follows:

"The bond of fellowship in this convention shall be a common purpose to do the will of God as Jesus revealed it and to co-operate in establishing the kingdom for which he lived and died."

It is in that spirit that we are moved to apply for membership in the Federal Council. We should regard it as a privilege to add our testimony to the essential oneness in Christ of the Christian Churches of America which the council seeks to manifest and to co-operate more fully in the united service carried on under the council's auspices at a time when such expressions of unity are so sorely needed.

The request was refused by a large majority vote which we do not seek to analyze more than to say that on the part of some delegations it was a matter of expediency. The Seventh Day Baptist delegation voted unanimously in favor of granting the request since it was based, as we interpreted their request, on acceptance by the Universalists the council's preamble and constitution which does not require any theological shibboleth. The representatives of our delegation voted in all good conscience. On expressing our feeling of disappointment to a prominent Northern Baptist of long acquaintance with our leaders he said, "I envy you folks—you Seventh Day Baptists are fortunate; you are Christians."

The council approved in principle the Dumbarton Oaks proposal for lasting peace, but it asserted some shortcomings of the proposed organization may necessitate modification.

The council took a strong stand on maintaining the separation of church and state, firmly opposing our government's diplomatic relations with the Vatican. To establish such relations "would confer upon one church a special preferential status in relation to the American Government. Such an arrangement would be contrary to our American tradition." In taking such a stand the council makes it clear that nothing is being spoken against Roman Catholicism as a form of Christian faith and worship. The distinction

THE LESSON FOR TOMORROW

The above caption is the title of a book by Chaplain Wayne R. Rood, and is the author's thesis written as a requirement for a master's degree at the Hartford Seminary Foundation. It is a book of one hundred fifty pages full of interesting facts concerning the development of educational ideals and institutions among Seventh Day Baptists.

In an interoffice memorandum President J. Nelson Norwood, himself a historian, said to the writer recently, "I have just received a copy of Wayne Rood's thesis on 'The Story of Education among Seventh Day Baptists' and have read a good deal in it. It is a most interesting piece of work and has been built very evidently on extensive research. . . . Any one writing in the future about education among our people will have to take account of what Rood has done."

Such words from President Norwood mean more on the points discussed than would anything I might say. I will say however, that while presenting carefully documented facts of thrilling significance the author has also given thought to their intelligent interpretation, and has clothed that thought in a style that makes pleasant reading.

The book bears the name of no publisher and is evidently being sent out to friends of the author by the latter's father, W. R. Rood, 4006 Mulberry, Riverside, Calif. It is a book which all Seventh Day Baptists should read, and if copies of this first edition are not available to all then some arrangement should be made for a second edition. All our young people especially should be given the opportunity to acquaint themselves with our history as given in this treatise on the one particular phase of our past achievements.

Mr. Rood has his A.B. from Salem College; spent three years at Alfred School of Theology where he earned his B.D. degree; and then, following a successful pastorate at Rockville, R. I., took additional work leading to the degree of Master of Religious Education. He is at present serving as an Army Chaplain somewhere in the Pacific.

Ahva J. C. Bond.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

is made between the Roman Catholic religion and the political power exercised by the Roman Catholic hierarchy for its own institutional ends.

Representatives from Canada and England brought fraternal greetings from their national councils—and some of the most challenging and inspiring messages of the meeting. One of the speakers from England closed his stirring address with a telling illustration:

Docks and maritime equipment were found intact and ready for full use of the allies at Antwerp. The retreating Germans had left tons of high explosives with electrical connections to blow everything up at the last moment. But, in their thoroughness they had destroyed the powerhouse. When the lever was thrown to blast the docks, nothing happened. The lesson is obvious. With all our splendid organization and equipment nothing is going to happen if connection with our great source of power is broken.

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of the New York Area of the Methodist church was unanimously elected president of the council for the next biennium.

MIDYEAR COMMISSION MEETING

The Seventh Day Baptist Conference Commission will hold its midyear meeting at Lima, Ohio, Thursday, December 28, 1944, beginning at 9 a.m., in the Barr Hotel.

On invitation the Commission will meet for worship with the Jackson Center Church on Sabbath, December 30.

Members of the Commission are Rev. Leslie O. Greene, chairman; Perley B. Hurley, president of Conference; Rev. Albert N. Rogers; Roswell P. Seager; Rev. Jay W. Crofoot; Kenneth Babcock; and Courtland V. Davis, recording secretary.

THE CHANGELESS BOOK - THE BIBLE

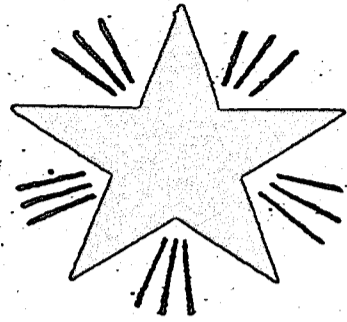
The Bible is better known and more eagerly read today by more people than ever before in history, and it has the same power it has always had. It truly is "The Changeless Book." Do you have and use your own personal copy of the Bible?

—American Bible Society.

Missions

Rev. William L. Burdick, D.D., Ashaway, R. I.

Correspondence should be addressed to Rev. William L. Burdick, Ashaway, R. I.
Checks and money orders should be drawn to the order of Karl G. Stillman, Westerly, R. I.



The Star of Bethlehem—still leading glad messengers to distant lands with news of Christ's love and peace and saving power.

STANDING IN THE WAY

The other day I drove to a filling station to get gas. When served, I found a car without a driver in front of me and another man in the car behind me waiting for gas. We were both disgusted because the man had left his car in our way.

The fault of the man at the filling station was a small offense compared with standing in the way of the intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of others. By our actions or indifference we may hinder others from accepting Christ, coming into the church, and making the most of themselves in every way. We may dishearten the workers in the church and denomination till the church is weakened, missions strangled, and the evangelistic spirit crushed.

This is not all. We may stand in our own way. Pastors, ministers, missionaries, superintendents, teachers, professed Christians, may hinder the work they desire to advance, and then wonder why it does not progress. We may be so self-centered and conceited that we want to be first and cannot take advice; or we may be too shiftless to do good work and too angular to get along with others. We are then standing in our own way, and hindering others, also.

It is blessed to have the witness of the Spirit that we are doing all we can, and doing it in such a way as not to hinder others.

W. L. B.

CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGEMENT

By Rev. E. A. Witter

(Condensation of sermon delivered at Adams Center, N. Y., Sabbath morning, October 28, 1944, and furnished by request.)

If you are looking for incidents that bear undisputed evidence of our heavenly Father's interest in the welfare of the human family, there is a beautiful and very interesting story in the book of Exodus that shows his hand dealing with the children of Israel as they are being tutored and led towards a knowledge of God, and towards one another.

Turning to our text, Exodus 14: 15, 16, we read: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: but lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." It is also well to bear in mind the words of Jesus when he said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you."

The children of Israel had not chosen God, but he had chosen to lead them out of their bondage into a land of blessing and comfort, that they might become acquainted with him and find in him the true source of life. Dear soul, this is just God's way of bringing to you the waters of life. Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6: 44.

God knoweth every soul; he is touched with the feeling of their infirmities, for all have sinned. God knoweth the anguish of every sinner, and cometh to every one and lays before him the plan by which he may be saved from sin and be prepared for eternal glory, "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." John 3: 16. This is the way God manifested himself to the children of Israel after their four hundred years of bondage in Egypt.

After a period of many severe trials and sufferings to soften up the heart of Pharaoh that he might let the Israelites go, we stand

with the children of Israel on the shores of the Red Sea with its broad expanse of water stretching out before them and the range of mountains behind them. It is no wonder that they cry out in terror as they see the Egyptian Army filling the narrow space between Migdol and the sea. There is no visible way of escape.

To have a realizing sense of the state of mind that was theirs, put yourself in their place as they live over the experiences of their bondage, under the fear of being returned to that bondage by the army. This was a condition of war as truly as many people are experiencing today. Let us take note of God's counsel as it is found in our text. "And the Lord said to Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: but lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

Consider carefully the teaching of this text. The realization of danger begets fear, stirs up unrest of mind and distress of soul. None knows this any better than God and the person who faces consciously the awfulness of crime. Each one of us conscious of sin knows something of this distress of soul. Can't you hear God saying to the children of Israel, "Don't grow nervous with your crying unto me, but press on in the way in which you are being led; press forward."

This is the way of God's approach to you when you have the consciousness of sin. This is the way he comes to you when, under his leadership, you come to realize the awfulness of unrepented sin. Such realization fills the soul with anguish and leads the sinner to cry out, "What must I do to be saved?" This was the cry of the jailer when he saw the prison doors open. Paul said to him "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Jesus says to such, "Come unto me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." God says to all, "Go forward." The New Testament says, "Draw nigh to God." Jesus says, "He that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Jesus again says, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." This is the way God gives en-

couragement to all who seek deliverance from bondage and discomfort of soul.

If you have not made your peace with God, if you are doubtful about your Christian standing, turn your face Godward in all things and press forward toward the kingdom through full obedience to his revealed will. There can be no oneness with God, but through unconditional surrender to him. There should be no hesitation about such surrender, for if God is true, all is gain for the one surrendering; not a thing is lost but the unrest and uncertainty which has been yours.

A young woman from a wealthy plantation home in Georgia was a student in Wellesley College, and while there she became a Christian. When she graduated and went home she was received by family and friends with a real banquet at her home. As they were eating, her father asked what were her plans for life. She replied, "I wish to give my life to mission work." The father was much disturbed and replied, "This cannot be; your mother and I have different plans for you." She replied, "I am a Christian and want to be a missionary." In haste the father replied, "One who will not do as I plan cannot be a daughter in my home." After a few moments she quietly arose from the table and going into the parlor sat down to the piano; she played and sang softly:

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave, and follow thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou, from hence, my all shalt be;
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped, or known;
Yet how rich is my condition,
God and heav'n are still my own!

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Saviour, too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like man, untrue;
And, while thou shalt smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate, and friends may shun me;
Show thy face, and all is bright.

Ere she had sung thus far her father stood by her side with tears running down his cheeks and said, "Daughter, you have won." What a picture is that of the reward of consecration to Godly service.

We are in the midst of a fearful war, an atrocious war. While this is true, I am possessed of a deepening conviction that

God is leading the world toward the time when peace shall reign and the nations of the earth shall know Christ as the Saviour of mankind. This is the goal God has set. It will never be reached till God's people, like Paul, shall "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," shall "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness;" and live it out in their attitude toward all men, all races and colors.

As the children of Israel gave heed to the God-given direction and went forward against seemingly impossible odds, the way was opened to them for a larger life under more favorable conditions as long as they followed the leadings given. There is every reason to believe that the same experiences will be ours, as individuals and as a denomination, if God-given leadings are followed.

Beloved of the Lord! God help you and me to keep prayerfully and steadily pressing forward toward a blissful eternity with him as he leads. Christ our mighty captain leads against our foe. God help us each to realize the importance of pressing forward day by day toward the perfectness of faith and peace in Christ Jesus.

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND

Many years ago a Christian church in Mexico established a beautiful custom of bringing to its sacred shrine at Christmas great quantities of flowers. One year as hundreds of people brought their tokens of remembrance of the birth of Jesus, a poor child stood beside the highway and wept bitterly as she watched the people pass with their arms full of flowers. When the pastor of the church saw her he paused and asked why she cried on such a joyous day. She sobbed out that she had no money to buy flowers to present to the Christ child.

The resourceful priest bade her dry her tears and pluck the tall plant that was right at her side. She turned to look at it and protested, "It is a weed; I want flowers!"

"Pluck the weed!" commanded the priest. "Obedience is much!"

In her hand the large green leaves began to glow with a soft red light; and when she placed her gift upon the altar, it seemed to all who saw it the most beautiful gift of all.

It is said that since that night the poinsettia plant has been the best loved Christmas

flower in that land where it grows so plentifully. But whatever the origin of the lovely flower, the legend is true that Christ always recognizes the spirit with which the humblest worshiper brings his gift.

—The Secret Place.

CHRISTMAS GOOD WILL

Christmas is almost here. The day we celebrate with gladness and with mirth and gift giving and receiving is nearly upon us. On buses and on the streets the topic of discussion is no longer the war; but, rather, I hear people say: "Have you finished your Christmas shopping?" or something like, "How crowded the stores are this year!"

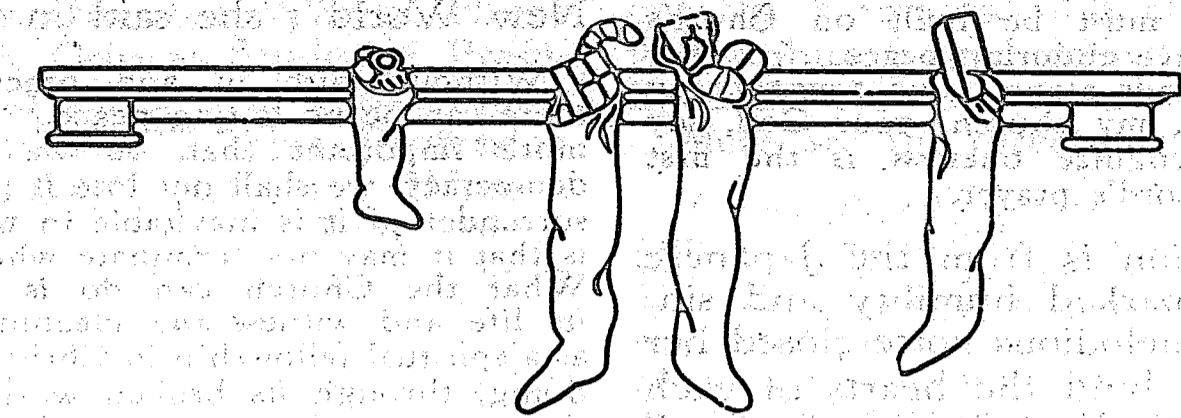
Yes, the day called "Christmas" is almost here. It will not be quite such a happy Christmas as we sometimes have, for loved ones are far away and in danger. But, for many Christian men and women and children upon the earth, there will be no Christmas celebration. Oh yes, they know and are thankful that the Christ child came to bring them new life; but how can they be glad, how can they give gifts when they are wandering homeless and hungry? How can they show joy in the thunder of the guns and bombs?

Christmas comes because over nineteen hundred years ago a baby was born in a stable at Bethlehem in Judea, Palestine, who was destined to become the Great Teacher and the Saviour of all men who come to him. This is God's greatest gift to men. As you, in your mind's eye, look in upon that stable scene with the baby and the mother and Joseph and the shepherds, remember Jesus' words: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," and add an extra gift to your Christmas list for the poor, the unfortunate, the war-stricken people of the earth. Send such gifts, marked for overseas relief, through your church treasurer to the treasurer of the Denominational Budget. Help to make this Christmas a time of rejoicing, a time of relief from want and despair for the countless victims of war's ravages. — Committee on Overseas Relief.

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any things as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God."

Woman's Work

Mrs. Olooy W. Davis, Selom, W. Va.



A Blessed Christmas—in homes—where Mother Concern fills stockings not only with gifts but hearts with love for the Christ whose birth as a babe we remember and honor

UNITED COUNCIL OF CHURCH WOMEN

A Report

By Mrs. Roswell Seager

The Second Biennial Assembly of the United Council of Church Women was held in Columbus, Ohio, November 14-16, with approximately six hundred women church leaders from all parts of the nation attending. To be sent to this assembly as a representative of the executive board of the women's societies of our denomination was, I felt, too great a responsibility for one as humble as I. Since I seemed to be the only member who could easily go, however, I accepted the privilege. I hope through this report to pass on to other women in a small measure some of the help and inspiration I received there.

I arrived in Columbus by bus Monday evening, and, although I had wired for reservations, I was assigned to a dormitory room with five other women. We represented five different states and six different communions. This situation proved to be one of the rich experiences of the meeting for it afforded the opportunity of knowing somewhat intimately women of fine character. During waiting moments in our room we talked over the day's sessions; perhaps each told of something she had heard in her particular group discussion. Then we exchanged ideas on bringing up children, and on our religious beliefs. We agreed that we were in the broader sense all members of the same church working toward the same goals.

The daytime meetings were held in the large and beautiful ballroom of the Deshler Wallick Hotel. As I entered the room that first morning, I was impressed, first of all, by the quietness of such a large company of women. The first "We Worship Together" was about to begin, and Margaret I. Applegarth, chairman of our World Day of Prayer program, led it. On the stage was a large poster beautifully done in colors by a native of the city. It represented the world with the cross of Christ in the center and surrounding it a chain of clasped hands of all races. It aptly illustrated Miss Applegarth's thoughts which were based on 1 Corinthians 12 and particularly verse 13: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit." She applied this Scripture to the ecumenical idea around which our program was based—ecumenical, translated "beloved community." She defined this as "The whole family of the whole church of the whole world working together as the whole family of God."

Other worship services were led by Mrs. Way Sung New, president of the Board of Directors of Ginling College in China; Zella Saule, Principal of the School at Khandwa, India; and a Japanese woman, Madam Soong, who, to me, was the most impressive of all. Some of their thoughts were as follows:

All are one in the body of Christ. We must have common unity of spirit, of purpose, and of action. . . . During this war a Protestant, a Jew, and a Catholic have been buried in a common grave. Must people be put in graves to show

unity—why not have it in life? . . . If we do not love our brothers whom we have seen how can we love God whom we have not seen? . . . The present war was built on pride and exploitation. Human relationships must be built on Christ's ideals, if we are to have enduring peace. . . . Before God no man stands alone, your country, my country, your church, my church, your God, my God. . . . To recognize oneness is the first step to praying the Lord's prayer.

This last quotation is from the Japanese who spoke with marked humility and sincerity, and in her melodious voice closed her prayer with "Lord bind the hearts of each of us to our neighbor's and all of us to thee." If one had any prejudice in her heart against Japanese in general, certainly she experienced a change of heart after hearing Madam Soong.

World Missions

The programs for the three days centered around "World Missions" under which come our World Day of Prayer programs, "Social Issues" that require united action in every local community (May Fellowship Day), and "A Christian World Order and the Price of Enduring Peace." World Fellowship Day comes under the last named.

Mrs. Harper Sibley of Rochester, N. Y., the newly elected president of the United Council of Church Women, gave the key-noting address which was based on Psalm 19: 4; the theme being, "The women who publish the tidings are a great host." "Women have been too satisfied simply to sew flannel petticoats to go to the mission fields, and have not sufficiently dedicated themselves to interpreting the life and mind of Christ in his Church. Let us take as our motto: 'God gave the word. Great is the company of women who hear the tidings.'"

The evening sessions were held in the churches of the city, the first in the Congregational Church. The inside of this church with its grey cement walls and massive columns, first impressed one as cold and uninviting. Soon a colorful procession came in, first the robed choir, then the ecumenical group of members of the Board of the United Council of Church Women, fraternal delegates, presidents and executive secretaries of national denominational organizations, and local ministers; all in robes with touches of color in their hoods. As the choir began to sing, hearts were warmed and soon the whole church reflected warmth and beauty.

Dr. Georgia Harkness, professor of applied religion, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill., spoke on "Church Women and the New World"; she said in part:

Without faith in and practice of democracy there can be no lasting peace. It is, therefore, the more important that, as we fight to preserve democracy, we shall not lose it in our midst. Some surrender of it is inevitable in wartime; the danger is that it may not terminate when the war is over. What the Church can do is to demonstrate in its life and witness the meaning of the kingdom as a spiritual fellowship in Christ. This it is already doing, through its broken world mission, through the ecumenical movement, through its efforts to establish a foundation for a just and durable peace. In spite of grave shortcomings when viewed in the light of its call to be one in Christ, the Church is already a world society transcending nation, race, and class. It is thus equipped, and in the providence of God is called to be the nucleus of a new international order.

Another dynamic personality and brilliant speaker of the assembly was Mrs. Harrison Elliott, general secretary of Y.W.C.A. A digest of her address will appear in a coming issue of the Recorder.

Men Speakers

Among the noted men speakers of the assembly were Dr. Walter Van Kirk, from the Department of Justice and Good Will, Federal Council of Churches; Dr. Walter Judd, Congressman from Minnesota and for many years medical missionary in China. Of Dr. Van Kirk's address on "The Church and World Order" I feel as one who introduced him said, "It takes one mightier than I to report his message." The gist of his thought, however, was that the peace treaty he built on higher aspects than that ruled by emotions of war. He said:

"It is convenient for rulers to forget the Atlantic Charter. Christians must not. . . . Our people should be educated to the idea that we will have to pay a price for peace as we do for war. . . . Good physicians purify bloodstreams. We should let the Great Physician do that for us."

Dr. Judd, who had just returned from a trip to Africa and China, defended China and its rulers against recent attacks made upon them. He stated that Chiang in all his dealings had tried to be Christian, and that it is hard for him to understand criticism from the country which had taught him Christian ideals.

Group Discussions

I have not yet told of the most interesting reports of ten commissions appointed two

years ago and prepared by various Council of Church Women groups from all parts of the nation. Such topics as "A Realistic View of Missions after the War at Home and Abroad," "A Critical Study of Prejudice, Its Cause and Cure," "A World View of the Color Problem," "Our Profession Versus our Behavior," "Can the Women of the World Prevent Another War?" were challenging. These and other topics were typed in copies available to all.

The group discussions which followed the programs each morning were very well attended if one could judge by the jams in the halls and elevators as we went to the rooms to which we were assigned. In one study group where I sat on the edge of a radiator, there were women sitting on the floor. Some subjects discussed in these groups were: "Racial Tensions," "Education for Family Living," "Postwar Employment," "Church Women and Community Co-operation."

One wished she could be in more of these groups—all of which had excellent leaders. I was fortunate to be in one group led by Dr. Van Kirk.

The assembly closed with a dinner which was served in the ballroom. The tables were gay with candles and flowers; the food, "turkey with all the trimmings." There were the usual songs and toasts; the installation of the new president; the introduction of representatives of different churches and boards, when I, even I, was called upon to rise and bow. The meeting closed with the singing of "Blest be the Tie That Binds" as each joined hands with her neighbors.

Salem, W. Va.

A Letter

Dear Friends:

You who were at the Assembly of the United Council of Church Women in Columbus heard the call for help with clothing for the Philippines. This letter asks you to use your every channel to give the women of your churches the opportunity to help answer this urgent need which seems to have come suddenly. Certainly the Philippines are a special responsibility upon us as a nation, and as a Christian Church that has sponsored the growth of the younger church there.

The call is for 450,000 garments. Our government is furnishing the cloth; the Cutter's Union is donating its work to cut the garments. "Bundles for America" is distributing and collecting them, and we hope the church women will do the sewing.

Here are the directions:

If your church will be responsible for sewing, write at once to "Bundles For America," 26 W. 58th St., New York 19, N. Y. The dresses are very simple and are in bundles of ten. They will mail the garments, all cut ready to sew, in a carton which you are to save in which to mail back the finished garments. Inside the carton you will find a return sticker which you can place on the top of the carton and mail the completed dresses C.O.D. to "Bundles For America." The only cost will be the thread and labor.

Here is another opportunity for service. We have faith that church women will do this job, and do it quickly so that the need, already urgent, will be met without delay. It is another chance to demonstrate the eagerness of Christian women to share the suffering of the world and to hasten to relieve it.

With gratitude for the devoted women in God's Church,

Ever sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ruth Mougey Worrell,
Executive Secretary.

CHRISTMAS

By Cozia Baker Bledsoe

In all literature there is nothing so universally known, so well remembered, as the Bible record of the birth of Christ. Little children recite it in its exact phraseology. Youth sings it in rhyme, Maturity portrays it in painting and sculpture, Old Age bows hoary heads above trembling hands and dreams of it. But familiarity has robbed us of the reverence we should have for it and commercialism has clothed it in the cheap trappings of tinsel and ornament.

He, who created the law and order of the universe, who gave the majesty and power of the sun to light the day, who pinned the curtains of darkness with innumerable stars and placed the moon as a sentinel in the sky, who covered the earth with grass and adorned it with trees, who scattered the flowers in profusion over fields and valleys, who draped the wild vines against the granite ledges and placed the holly and mistletoe

above the ermine blanket of the snow—he withheld his powers of creation in the beauty of ornamentation and suffered his only begotten Son a birthplace amid the bleating herds of a Judean stable.

No candles shed their soft radiance about his crude cradle. Only one lone star, flaming with unusual light and brilliance, arose to shed its beams above the place where the young child lay. No merry voices sang of sleigh bells and of snow, but an angel chorus sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." No one brought a gift to Mary nor exchanged gifts with the shepherds, but "Wise men from the East" knelt before Jesus and "opening their treasures, they offered unto him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh."

Gold was the usual gift made to a king, prophetic of the kingdom of Jesus. Frankincense was used in the Temple worship, proclaiming the acknowledgment of the Lord of the Temple. Myrrh was the bitter herb used in embalming the dead, looking toward that day when Jesus' body, a sacrifice for sin, would lie in Joseph's tomb. Mary talked not of festivities nor feasts, but "pondered all these things in her heart."

Then how shall we observe the birthday of Jesus, what shall we do to commemorate it? Christmas is not a date on the calendar. It is not the lighting of candles and hanging of evergreens. It is not the exchange of gifts nor the remembrance and greetings of friends and kindred. Christmas is personal contact with Jesus. It is the acceptance of his Saviourhood. It is opening the door of the heart and bidding him enter and abide there. It is finding that peace of which he is the prince.—Western Recorder.

NO ROOM IN THE INN

By Albert H. Finn

The holiday season is staring us in the face. It brings us visions and emotions. It warms our hearts and thrills our minds as we think back over the years and remember what Christmas has meant to us and ours and to the world.

Christmas is a great family and church festival with many manifestations. It is peculiarly the children's big period. They tell us of medieval celebrations that were far

from being Christian, but in our thought and purpose, Christmas is built about the world's greatest gift—the incarnated Christ.

Christmas — our Christmas — therefore is thoroughly Christian and manifests itself in love, in gifts, in service, in worship, in appreciation of the supreme purpose of the incarnation. Christ's life, his passion, his sacrificial death, his triumphant resurrection, and his claim on us for our love and service, toward the greatest purpose in all the world.

But on that first Christmas eve there was a social tragedy—for his divinely chosen mother in her birth travail there was no room in the inn, and the infant Jesus was born in the abode of the cattle—in a manger. We are shocked at the very thought of such selfishness, such cruelty, such lack of appreciation and helpfulness.

But let us not be so hasty in our judgment and decision. Not that there were mitigating circumstances for those who so thoughtlessly and so coldly turned aside the expectant mother and the divine child. The fact is that the world has not changed much in nineteen centuries.

Christ today is constantly meeting that same degree of inconsideration, by selfish folk, many of whom profess to feel, to know, to appreciate. Yet in their own hearts and lives and plans there is no room for Christ, his worship, his spirit, his plans, his purposes. Were it not so the whole world would have been won to him long, long ago.

Let each one ask himself in all sincerity, "Is there room in my life, my heart, my plans for Christ? Is he always the honored guest? Is he first in all my purposes? How much have I truly, honestly sacrificed that his work may go forward with vigor throughout the world? Am I a worthy ambassador for Jesus Christ?"

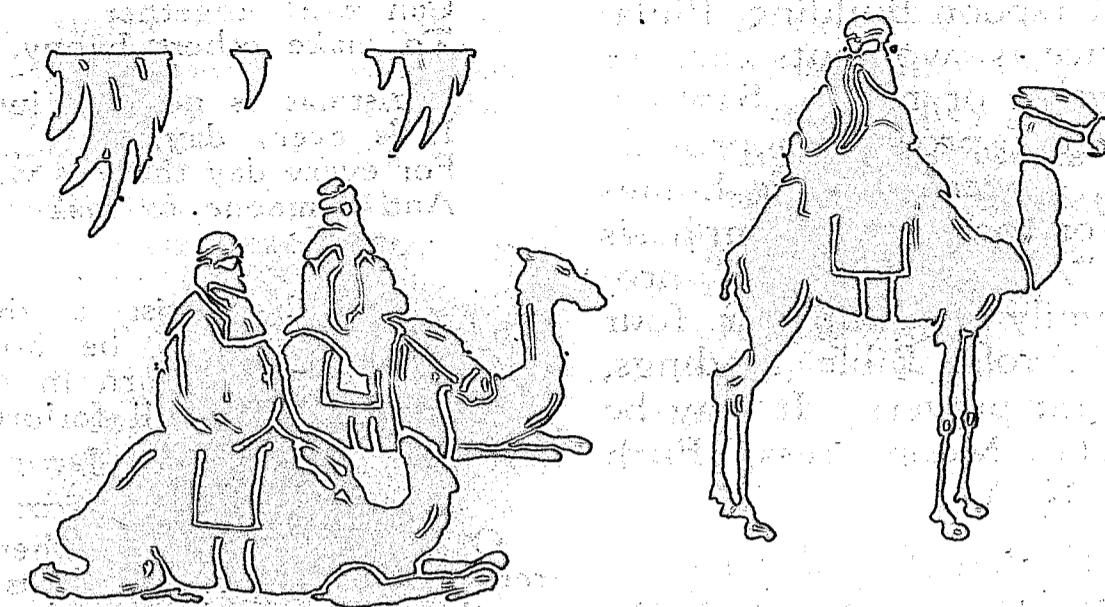
Our own heart and life is our aim. We control it. We, too, can refuse him his rightful place. So many there are who think they have welcomed Christ into their heart and lives. Possibly they have, but the place they have given him is so small, so meager that there is little time for his service, little money to sustain his work, little passion for the lost, little time even for prayer and meditation.

Unless he has the supremacy we too have turned him out.—The Watchman-Examiner.

Christian Education

Rev. Harlow Sutton, Alfred Station, N. Y.

Sponsored by the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education



WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS?

"'Silent night, holy night,' no signals so far and almost enough air shelters for all if the sirens should sound. 'O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,' all prepared with sandbags, machine guns, and antiaircraft to repulse the enemy air attack if it should come. 'Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,' lie refugee babies all over the world, with no crib nor the food and care that they need." This introduction for Christmas, 1942, from the "International Journal of Religious Education" reminds us that again this year there will be a wartime Christmas, and that this is a picture of what many peoples of the world face in reality. We will plan this Christmas to have renewed faith in the future when peace shall come and assurance for the present that there is strength from God for these trying times.

"What are you planning for Christmas?" usually means "Where are you eating Christmas dinner?" "Are you giving presents as usual this year?" When people ask "What are you doing for Christmas?" perhaps this year we shall be able to say—

"We are helping refugees," . . . "We are sending food to Chinese children," . . . "We are having a 'White Gift' service at our church so that every Sabbath school class and other groups give to worthy causes," . . . "We are having young people or adults of other races meet with our

groups," . . . "We are having study groups on what is a just and durable peace."

More about the "White Gift" service might be in order. The front of the church is to be decorated in white. Two young people dressed in white present the gifts made by Sabbath school classes and other organizations of the church. These gifts may be money designated for special worthy causes, or boxes of fruit and food for the needy. They may be placed on or near the communion table or at some focal point. The pastor or leader may read appropriate poems and Scripture as each gift is presented. This service may be used with a great many adaptations.

This story may be used to introduce the service: "The people who lived in the kingdom of Cathay loved their king very much. He was a peace-loving king and ruled his people with kindness and wisdom. Every year on the king's birthday the people brought gifts all wrapped in white, and in a great white room of the palace they were presented to the king. It mattered not whether the gift cost little or much, just so it was wrapped in clean white paper. These gifts were tokens of gratitude and esteem for the king. Because we love our King, Jesus Christ on this day which honors his birth we bring our gifts to others for him. 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me,' Jesus said."

Christmas is truly a home festival. The following materials are suggested for use in

services of worship for the home: "A Christmas Worship Service for the Family," a four-page folder, may be ordered from the Board of Christian Education, Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pa. The price is two cents each or one cent each for twelve or more. Sabbath schools might make it a project to provide these for each home, especially those homes where there is need for some added emphasis on family worship. "Advent Candles," provides a plan for family worship for four weeks. It includes carols, Bible readings, meditations, stories, and prayers. It may be ordered from "The Half Moon Press," Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

The Alfred Church has found that an afternoon worship service on Christmas day is very well received. The hour has been 4:00 p.m. The service is brief and worshipful. Families are urged to attend as a family and bring guests.

Sabbath schools will find helpful worship suggestions in the November "International Journal of Religious Education," and youth groups will find help in this same journal. "Church Management" for November and December both have helpful suggestions for candlelight services and helps for use in Sabbath school or church worship services. Anyone who desires more definite help in the plans for Christmas please write me and give the type of service for which you are to plan. Below are some Christmas verses.

A candle is a lovely thing
To light for him tonight;
A slim white candle, straight and tall,
To make the darkness bright.

Grace Noll Crowell.

Only a child—his Christmas gift
Heralded by a star,
But a light was set in the dusk of years,
And the rays have shined afar.

And ever in faith when eyes of men
Behold the star in the night,
Their steps are turned to the Way again,
And they find in the Christ their Light.

Author unknown.

Christmas is a time of singing and
Of bright holly berries, candles,
And brightly dressed Christmas trees.
Christmas is a time
Of laughter and fun.

But most of all
Christmas is a time of remembering;
Of remembering Jesus,
And how he worked along with God.
A time of remembering of how we too
Can work together
To make others happy.

Christmas is not for just one day,
It is every day,
For every day there is work to do
And someone to make happy.

E. F.

Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If he's not born in thee,
Thy soul is all forlorn.

Jacopone Da Todi.

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF 1944

By Lois Sutton

(A student in the University)

Amidst the great sorrow and strife of the present turmoil, another Christmas has gently advanced upon the threshold of time. Once again the Christmas season is here, spreading its simple message of truth and love over all the earth. But who is there to stop and listen with true sincerity to its simple beauty? Does the spirit of Christmas still prevail in the hearts of men in this tumultuous year of 1944?

Let us look out across the earth to our neighbors over the seas. In past years Christmas has been a great occasion for them. It meant joy and hope to everyone from the poorest peasant to the richest nobleman; but this year, the people, both rich and poor, are homeless and starving. What can Christmas mean to those suffering, half-alive millions who are stricken by the war? How can they associate Christmas with the good things in life as we do?

As Christmas approaches, perhaps, if they

pause just a moment to look up amidst the deafening explosions and blinding flares to gaze into the same starlit sky that hovers over us, they will find a strange peace and contentment. The starry heavens will take them back to a time centuries ago when over the peaceful countryside a sudden light shone upon the shepherds and a multitude of angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

If they search for the star that guided the wise men to the tiny babe sleeping in a manger, they shall find comfort and joy. As their souls are uplifted in hope, they will feel our prayers and thoughts, and they will see our outstretched arms and tears as our hearts reach out to them. Surely they will hear God's voice pleading with them to wait a little longer and pray with faith and hope. Surely they will understand the promise he sends them through the Christmas message that peace shall soon return to the earth.

And what of our own husbands, brothers, and fathers in the service, some of whom are away for the first time on this Christmas? Has the Christmas spirit ceased to mean anything to them? Perhaps as they rest after

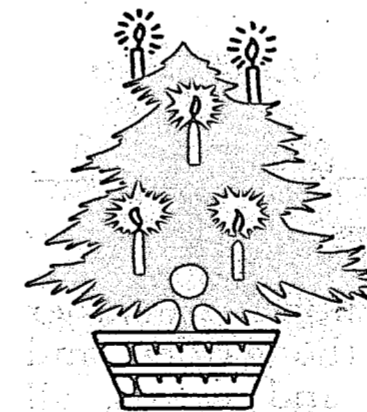
a hard day's battle their thoughts will take them back home. They will see snowflakes gently flickering down upon crowded streets of busy people bustling about to do their last minute Christmas shopping. They will see joy and happiness in the faces of their loved ones as they gather together to decorate a beautiful Christmas tree. They will see the enchanted, excited expressions on the faces of little children as they gather around their parents to hear once again "The Night Before Christmas."

As our boys over there gather together to sing Christmas carols, perhaps they are taken back to the time when they went caroling from house to house on a frosty Christmas eve, or to the candlelight services in their own churches. As they read together the ageless Christmas story they must surely realize that as Jesus was the Saviour of men, so are they the saviours of the world. The spirit with which they are dying that our Christmas traditions may live, is the true Christmas spirit. For they are sacrificing their lives as Jesus did that some day there shall truly be "peace on earth, good will toward men."

Alfred, N. Y.

Children's Page

Mrs. Walter L. Greene, Andover, N. Y.



To our Children
and Mrs. Greene:

The editor of the Sabbath Recorder and his assistant, Jeanett Dickinson Nida, wish you a Merry, Merry Christmas. May we say, too, that while you rejoice around your well-lighted Christmas trees you remember that the bright lights sym-

bolize "The Light of the World" who came to earth long years ago amid the angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." We trust also you will, in your joy, remember to share some of your blessings with children around the world less fortunate and happy than you.

OUR LETTER EXCHANGE

Dear Mrs. Greene:

How are you? I am fine. I am visiting Aunt Gladys and Grandma in Gypsum, Colo., Mother and I have been here for four weeks.

I have been going to school here. We are going home next week.

I am seven years old. My home is in Manhattan, Kan. I have a sister Mary and a brother Raymond. I have a big brown dog. His name is Nubbins.

Your little friend,
Gypsum, Colo. Gladys Brackett.

Dear Gladys:

As I have three nice letters this week, I'll have to wait until next week to finish my continued story, and in the meantime you can be guessing who "That Inquisitive Old Chap" is. I'm pretty sure we have all heard of him.

I had a little kitten once that I called Nubbins because he never grew very big, while his brother and sister grew so much larger. Now I am wondering why you call your big dog Nubbins. You'll have to tell me in your next letter.

Now I'll close so as to leave room for the other two letters.

Sincerely your friend,
Mizpah S. Greene.

Dear Mrs. Greene:

How are you? I hope you are fine.

Has it snowed very deep up where you are? It snowed down here a little Sabbath morning.

In Junior we have charts, and every week we paste something on them. In October on a Tuesday night the juniors went to Daretown to the C. E. Rally and had a nice time. And the juniors won the prize. We went to Daretown in a station wagon.

In school we have been having some harder work than we have had before. I have been getting good marks in school.

I played the violin in church once, and sometimes I play in Junior.

I hope you will have a nice Christmas. Both of my brothers are in the navy, and they won't be home for Christmas. This afternoon I have to go to church and practice the Christmas program. Well I guess I will say good-by now.

Your Christian friend,
Sonny Ayars.

Bridgeton, N. J.

Dear Sonny:

We are having plenty of snow around here, and about every day it snows some more so that it gets deeper and deeper. Most of the roads, however, are pretty good. We call them "one track" roads; and it isn't much fun to turn out when we meet another car, as we found on a trip to and from Alfred this afternoon.

We, too, are practicing a Christmas program in the church. I am to be Santa Claus. Can you imagine that?

Your sincere friend,
Mizpah S. Greene.

My dear friend Mrs. Greene:

I have been intending all summer to write to you.

We are having a beautiful fall. I always thought the woods were so pretty at this time of year.

I believe I will tell you a true story, but first may I ask if you know how to make tatting trimming? My husband can, but I

cannot; I never could make the knot slip. When my mother was a young lady a young lady called on her. She thought she would show her friend the tatting she had just finished. She looked and looked around, but she couldn't see it. She remembered laying it on the window sill only a minute before. But after the trees shed their leaves she saw her beautiful trimming hanging from a bird's nest.

I am wondering how our young friends would like to live where the flies could not be shut out in the daytime nor the mosquitoes at evening; but I can remember when in the evening my brother would take a chip pan to start a little smudge to keep the mosquitoes away, for we would want to sit out on the lawn. In the house Mother would have a hot fire to do all her baking in the one room, for those were frontier days they were living then, some different from the way we live now. Not many books and papers then, and I guess most grandfathers and mothers are glad it is different.

My brother had the good fortune to have two pairs of ice skates given him during his boyhood days, and how he would hurry around Sunday to get his chores done and wood sawed up so he could go to the slough to skate. Oh, and he cut and pieced blocks for a bed quilt.

Well I must ring off before my letter gets too long.

Mrs. R. U. Daggett.

Dodge Center, Minn.

ARRANGEMENT

A child, desirous of presenting his father with a bouquet, goes into the garden and gathers a lapful of flowers and weeds, all mixed together. His mother selects, arranges, and binds the flowers, and makes the gift acceptable. So Christ makes over our poor services acceptable to God as a sweet-smelling savor.—Ambrose.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR DECEMBER 30, 1944

The Basis of Courage for the Future

Scripture—Matthew 16: 13-20; 2 Peter 3: 14-18;

1 John 3: 1-3.

Golden Text—1 Corinthians 15: 58.

Our Pulpit

GOD STEPPED OUT

By Rev. Charles H. Bond

Text: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 11.

Dr. E. Stanley Jones tells of a little boy who stood before the picture of his father and then turned to his mother and said wistfully, "I wish father would step out of the picture."

This little boy has expressed the deepest yearning of the human heart. We who have seen God at work in nature, in the hearts of men, and in the setting up of his kingdom, have said in times of depression: "If God would only step out of the mysterious darkness that we might walk with him. Then we would know his way, and life would be easier." And as these thoughts flash across our minds the Christmas angel reminds us "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

1. The Time

"This day." "When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son." God's clock struck, and he stepped out of the mysterious darkness into the light. Through the years he had been working and planning for "this day."

The prophets waited for the day and pictured for the people what his coming would be like. Jeremiah says, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, the Lord Our Righteousness." Jeremiah 23: 5, 6.

Isaiah could see a Righteous Judge among the nations rebuking the people, and he could see them beating their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, and he could foresee the day when nations would live peacefully together.

Habakkuk could see him coming forth for the salvation of the people.

Everyone had been waiting for the day when the Father of all mankind would step forth, and while they waited God worked

with them preparing the road. One writer puts it like this: "As the expectant mother prepared for her child, so God had prepared those times for his Son. The Hebrew nation had been prepared as the spiritual vehicle of truth. The Greeks had given to the known world of that time a universal and flexible language. The Roman Empire, with disciplined government and far-flung roads, had opened the way for his message."

As God had everything prepared he was ready to step out on "this day."

2. The Place

"In the city of David." Bethlehem was a tiny town in an obscure part of the world. It was here at the end of the wandering star that God stepped out.

Bethlehem is located about six miles to the south of Jerusalem. One might expect that the Son of God would make his appearance in the Holy City. He couldn't; and Dr. Edersheim, who has made a special study of this subject, tells us why. "These Jerusalemites—townspeople as they called themselves—were so polished, so witty, so pleasant . . . And how much there was to be seen and heard in those luxuriously furnished houses, and at these sumptuous entertainments! In the women's apartments friends from the country would see every novelty in dress, adornments, and jewelry, and have the benefit of examining themselves in looking glasses." Now do you see why? Jerusalem wasn't ready. In fact they were happier, in their way of thinking, without him. They did not want a righteous judge who would rebuke their evil ways: one who would talk of equality, the turning of the other cheek, and loving one another. These people were living as they pleased and to think of a change grieved them. Our Scripture tells us that "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him."

Then, certainly Nazareth would be the logical place, as it was the home of Joseph and Mary. Yes, it might have been expected that the child would be born there. But an "edict was issued by Emperor Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken. So everyone went to his own

town to register." Luke 2: 1, 3, Goodspeed. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem. But God through his spokesman, Micah, had long before named "the place": "And you, O Bethlehem . . . From you, one shall come forth for me, who shall rule over Israel." Micah 5: 2, Goodspeed. God stepped out making his personal appearance there in Bethlehem as angels announced his coming.

3. The Person Announced

"Christ the Lord." A tiny baby was born bringing "good tidings of great joy . . . of peace and good will." It was a child on the doorstep of the world ready to step out and reveal to the world God's greatness, and to divide time into the "before and after."

The Christ was not only a little boy; he was a world man in size and reach. He was announced "King of the Jews," but he came not to them alone. They were God's doorway. He came through the Jewish door to all the people of every race.

Christ could not be Lord of all unless he reached out and took in all. The one announced was to become the door—"I am the door of the sheep"—through which every man might enter into the kingdom. Is it any wonder that the "Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen"?

4. The Purpose

"A Saviour." It was a dark, stormy night; and a little child, lost in the streets of a city was crying in distress. A policeman heard the child and stopped to see if he could help. He found that the child was lost, and learned enough from the story to locate the home. Then the directions were given in this manner: "Just go down this street half a mile, turn to your right and follow the river down a little way, and you'll see then where you are." The poor child, only half comprehending, chilled by the wind, and bewildered in the storm, was turning blindly about, when another voice spoke and said in a kindly tone, "Just come with me." The little hand was clasped in a stronger one, the corner of a warm cloak was thrown over the shoulders of the shivering child, and the way home was made with ease.

In a way this parallels the story of the human race—man blundering around in the darkness, being told that this way and that was the way to God, and he started out in

all directions—confused as to which road was the highway to righteousness. Then a voice said "Fear not . . . for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour."

God did not just point the way saying, "Go!" But he stepped out and said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Don't worry about the way to the throne of God, because "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." "God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him."

5. The Person Addressed

"Unto you." Why has God stepped forth? "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Nothing could be more personal than "unto you." God's greatest gift is for you. "God so loved the world (you) that he gave." Let us accept the gift, for "as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become children of God."

You need not wait longer for the Father to step out into the world. Everything now depends upon you. The time for you to let him enter in is "this day." "The place"—"let every heart prepare him room." Take him into your heart and so live that your very actions and words will "announce" that Christ the Lord liveth in you. Then your life will have "purpose," and that purpose will be to "show forth his salvation from day to day."

Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born
If he's not born in thee,
Thy soul is still forlorn.

It was a star that led the Wise Men to that little town of Bethlehem and to the Christ child. And as they looked upon the Saviour something happened to them—God stepped into their hearts, and they "went back another way." Dr. Jones speaks the truth when he says, "No one can really see Christ and go back the same way. Life becomes different from that hour."

As you pause before the manger at this Christmas season do not leave until you are ready to go back another way. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

God stepped out to walk with you.
Won't you walk with him?

Little Genesee, N. Y.

DENOMINATIONAL "HOOK-UP"

Ashaway, R. I.

Dear Editor:

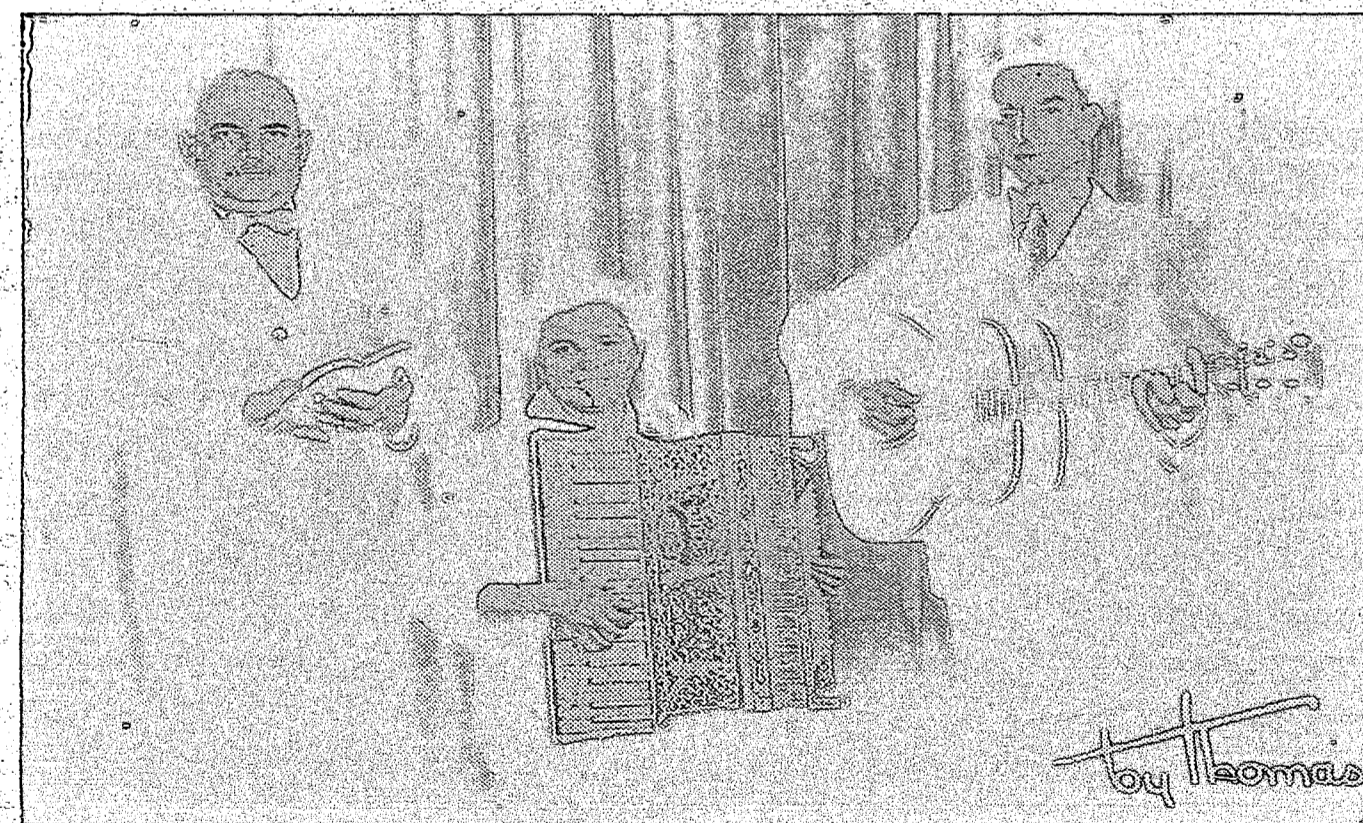
You have had some reports of the meetings we had when Mr. Stafford was with us; but as I promised you I would write all about them, I should tell you some more about the results and the follow up we are trying to make.

That a good impression was being made on the community by the meetings we had about a month ago was shown by the fact that the attendance increased steadily during the meetings and that a splendid spiritual atmosphere seemed to prevail. Since the meetings closed there has been evidence of renewed interest in the church. Two or three young people are planning to be baptized as a result of the meetings and of the work of a fine corps of evangelistic Sabbath school teachers. A special church membership class is being planned.

An effort is being made to keep up the interest by making our Friday evening services more evangelistic in nature. These services have included something to attract the children and young people and to add interest to the service for all. One week a flannel board talk was given on the sinking of the Zamzam and the wonderful way in which the missionary passengers experienced God's care. Another evening a message was given on the good Samaritan using new colored slides to illustrate it. The following week the sound motion picture, "On the Road to Damascus," was used to illustrate a brief message on the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Time is also taken for united prayer in these services.

We feel that Secretary Harley Sutton's visit to us on the Sabbath of November 25 was of value to us as plans are being made for some Bible study program as a result of the discussion meeting held the evening after the Sabbath. Pastor Coon.

GOSPEL TEAM



Rev. Judson Harvey Stafford, evangelist
Raymond and Margaret Prati, musicians

These workers were blessed in the meetings at Ashaway, R. I., and Shiloh, N. J. Mr. Stafford will begin work in Sabbath evangelism—as a work of faith—at Columbus, Miss., early in January, 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Prati are needed and are willing to go "on faith."

The Tract Board has no funds allocated to this work. Some contributions for such labor were handed the secretary on his western field trip. No solicitation is being made, but anyone interested in this effort can make a freewill offering for it through the American Sabbath Tract Society. Such contribution must not be made at the expense of the Denominational Budget.

Christmas Verse

CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

By Phillips Brooks

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
 Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
 Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
 Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
 Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and bright,
 Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
 Christmas where old men are patient and gray,
 Christmas where peace like a dove in its flight,
 Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;
 Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
 For the Christ child who comes is the Master of all;
 No palace too great, no cottage too small.

BETHLEHEM INN

By Alice Annette Larkin

The inn at Bethlehem was full.
 In splendor seldom seen they came:
 Great men from distant Galilee;
 And scribes who would enroll each name;
 Fair ladies in their silken gowns;
 Lords honored for their wealth and fame;
 And servants quick to heed their call.
 The keeper found a place for all.

But when two humbler guests appeared,
 One riding on a donkey's back,
 And asked for just a little place,
 There was no room for them, alack!
 To turn such lowly folk aside,
 The keeper had the power and knack,
 So in a manger, Christmas day,
 The baby Jesus quietly lay.

Lone shepherds, watching o'er their sheep,
 Had seen a sudden heav'nly light
 And angels in the sky above,
 To any man a startling sight.
 They'd heard the songs of joy and peace,
 And glory to the Lord that night,
 So wonder filled the hearts of them
 As off they sped to Bethlehem.

Christ comes to waiting hearts today.
 He comes midst war and gloom;
 He comes where sound the marching feet,
 He comes when dangers loom;
 He comes to homes of wealth or woe
 And asks this question, "Is there room?"
 He longs our joys and griefs to share.
 Where need awaits, he would be there.

Some day, God grant it may be soon,
 Will halt the sound of marching feet.
 And men of wisdom, chosen well
 To plan the future peace, will meet;
 And anxious folk are asking now,
 "Will Jesus have a seat?"
 His Spirit, guiding heart and brain,
 Alone can change to joy the pain.

—The Westerly Sun.

CHRISTMAS

Now, o'er one half the world, no star—
 But tracer bullets stab the evening sky
 And lurid flares reveal the shuddering towns
 To aerial armadas riding high.

No angel song—but bursting bombs,
 The crash of falling walls, the crackling beams,
 Curses and groans of men, frail women's sobs,
 And little children's piercing screams.

No cradle safe in cattle stall;
 No gold for Christ child—that must go to Mars;
 No sweet perfume but odor of dark death;
 No camels—only armored cars.

What, in our safe half-world, say we
 Where—though we have our "practise-raid-alarm"—
 We still may carol in the peaceful night,
 Or gather at our hearthsides warm?

Why, this! We'll celebrate the birth
 Of Christ, Who gave his life to bring us peace,
 With deeper meaning, holier thoughts, and joys
 That sympathy and love increase.

Shepherds, for whom the very stars
 Were 'live with God, and wise men understood
 The message of that star and angel song;
 They worshiped when no others would.

So pray we for the eyes to see,
 The ears to hear, and minds to comprehend
 Anew, that only love divine can bring
 To men the peace that has no end.

—P. G. M.,
 in World Council Courier.

WERE YOU THERE, LITTLE LAMB?

Were you there, little lamb, on that glorious night,
 When Judea was bathed in ethereal light
 And the shepherds became "sore afraid" at the sight?

Were you there—little lamb—were you there?

Were you there when the heavenly host loudly sang,
 "Peace on earth and good will toward men?" How
 it rang

Till a joy never known gave to life a new tang!
 Were you there on that night, little lamb?

Were you there when the shepherds who followed
 the Star

Met, in Bethlehem, wise men who came from afar
 To present their choice gifts—treasures nothing
 could mar?

Did you see that rare sight, little lamb?

Were you there when they knelt at the manger
 to pray,

As his dear baby hands were outstretched in the
 hay,

And the wee "Lamb of God" gave mankind Christ-
 mas day?

Were you there—little lamb—were you there?

—Lillie Kronk Lee, in
 Our Dumb Animals.

The Sabbath Recorder

Vol. 137

PLAINFIELD, N. J., DECEMBER 25, 1944

No. 26



George Benjamin Utter
 Editor, The Westerly (R. I.) Sun.

(See editorial entitled,
 "George Benjamin Utter Honored.")

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