And the angel said unto them, fear not....

...unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:10-11
SOME DAYS could perhaps be dropped from the calendar as special days and the year not be damaged, but not Christmas.

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

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

It is Christmas again and we are glad!

A host of children are glad. They enjoy the decorations, music, and excitement of Christmas. And they should. But let us all who cooperate to make this a time of real pleasure for our children lead them to the true meaning of this birthday of our Lord. The story of Christ is more beautiful by far than the myth of Santa Claus. And it causes the joy of the child to be good and positive, for it is the true story.

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

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

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

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

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

It is good to have Christmas again!
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Today, as in the past for nearly twenty centuries, Christ stands at the heart's door, knocking for admission. His arms are full of precious gifts—ointment for blinded eyes, food for the hungry soul, tried gold to make one rich, white robes for the ragged garments. His gifts are yours for the taking. Christ, the personification of glad tidings, is at the door! Receive Him! Don't reject Him!

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

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

Many great masterpieces of Christian art have sought to give us a physical image of the Saviour, but all of these leave us more or less unsatisfied. It is only when His personality bursts in upon us in the presence of the Holy Spirit within our hearts that we are able to see Him as He really is—not the
The season during which we recognize the birth; of the Saviour should be a time of great joy for all who know Him. To the uncomprehending masses, it may be a time of pleasure seeking connected with physical and material things. But joy has rightly been called "the echo of God's life within us." It belongs to the heart, the soul, the spirit of the redeemed.

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

Christmas Beyond Bethlehem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the activities of exchanging gifts, we often forget whose birth we are celebrating. Try giving to Christ on Christmas! To carry on His work here on earth, He needs both us and ours. A special Christmas offering to your church will bring special blessing to you. The offering for the Ministerial Benevolence Fund opens the way for our active participation. The joy that we will feel will amply prove again to us the truth of our Lord's statement that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

The Cover...

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

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

By ALICE HANSCHIE MORTENSON

Above the din of a frightened world
And dread of the atom bomb.
There is peace on earth, for Jesus has come.
And the heart of the Christian is calm.

Yes, Jesus was born and He still lives today,
And the light of His love will endure
Forever! No power can extinguish that flame
Shining on—so steadfast and pure!

No missile at all can affect in the least,
In the air—on the land—or at sea,
The souls who are trusting in Bethlehem’s King,
The Light of eternity!

Christ, the Unspeakable Gift

By OVELLA S. SHAFER

Twas in a stable old and worn
God’s Gift “unspeakable” was born;
A radiant star gleamed in the sky
As angels sang His lullaby.

‘Tween God and man sin caused a rift,
Christ volunteered as Heaven’s Gift;
Thro’ Virgin-born, this Son of God
Came down to earth—to humble sod!

This “Prince of Peace” in Bethlehem
Received three gifts of costly gem;
But later men were rough and rude,
And hung this Christ on cross so crude.

At Calvary His life’s blood flowed
To pay the debt of sin we owed.
What shall we do this Christmas time?
Give Him our hearts in thankful chime
For God’s great Gift to every clime!

Our Christmas Gift

By TRESSA C. HANSEN

The Child . . . the manger . . . The Star
of Bethlehem . . .
The sheep on the hillside . . . The shepherds
Tending them . . .
The journey of the wise men on camels
Through the night . . .
Guided by the angels’ song . . . and the heaven-
ly light . . .
Bearing gifts of gold . . . frankincense . . . and
myrrh . . .
For the Holy Babe . . . the blessed Saviour . . .
Splendor . . . Humility . . . A light upon the
way . . .
Glimpses of glory . . . Learning to pray . . .

Pausing on life’s journey . . . Hearing His
voice . . .
Searching for guidance . . . Making Him our
choice . . .
King of Kings . . . Lord of Lords . . . We our
voices lift . . .
In praise and adoration . . . Our hearts, our
Christmas gift!

With Friends at Christmas

By PEARL BURNSIDE McKinney

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

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

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

Arise

By JACK M. SCHARN

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

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

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

Arise, ye sleeping shepherds;
He turns despair and sadness
To peace and hope and joy.

With Peace for Those Who Want to Know

By ALICE HANSCHIE MORTENSON

Again the Christmas message
Is ringing sweet and clear
 Across the many centuries
For any who will hear!

And heaven itself is bending low
Above a troubled earth,
With peace for those who want to know
About the Saviour’s birth!
NO CHRISTMAS TREE is really complete without a star on its topmost bough. Towering over the tinsel, baubles, strings, and other decorations, the star heralds the real message of Christmas. It gives the answer to the question, Why do we celebrate Christmas?

When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem, Christ was already born, but they had followed the star, and were faithfully following it the night the heavenly visitors brought the message to the shepherds on the hillside. That star also has a message for the modern-day celebration of Christmas. It was a leading star. It could not have been a falling star, for it would have travelled too fast and soon burned itself out. It was a star created for a specific purpose, to lead men to the Christ child. According to the Scripture it was "his star."

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

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

For some time many advertisements and greetings have wished us a “Merry X-mas.” The X, I am afraid, represented the mathematical figure of the unknown quantity or quality. This has largely disappeared, for which we are grateful, and we see it only occasionally now. But in reality men have left Him not only out of the spelling but also out of the heart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Isaac Watts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soft and easy is thy cradle;
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When His birthplace was a stable,
And His softest bed the hay.
The year 1698 is the date when Isaac Watts started his preaching. He became pastor at Mark Lane, near the Tower in London, in 1702. Here, too, trouble followed him, because he was seized with a physical infirmity that left him practically an invalid for life. This is probably the reason he never married. Although continuing in the pastorate, he relied upon an assistant for most of the church duties, and he gave his time to the writing and publishing of hymns and prose—fifty-two volumes in all.

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

BE YE ENLARGED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

The joyful rhythm of unselfish sharing which gladdens the lives of young and old at Christmas-time comes from the heartbeat of God, who "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

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

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

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

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

Serving Jesus in hard places

Brings a rich and sweet reward—
Just to feel His presence with me,
And to know He is my Lord.

What a blessed, rare contentment
Comes from Christ enthroned above!
When my load gets, oh, so heavy,
Then He lifts me with His love.

By EDITH ROBERTS

DECEMBER 23, 1964 • (897) 9
ALL WHO BELIEVE the Bible agree that the Lord is coming back again to this earth—the same Jesus, and in like manner as He went away. The writers of the Epistles take it for granted He is coming, simply stating it as something beyond all argument. There is thus no difficulty in a Christian holding this doctrine, since there is no disension about the fact itself in any church group. This is indeed valuable!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUST AS THERE ARE fringe benefits in work, there are "fringe benefits" in Christmas. The "take-home pay" of Christmas, if one may so speak, is of course the good news of redemption in Christ. Included is the forgiveness of sins. The angel's word to Joseph was, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

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

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

What many do not see is that most of the light we find in the darkness of our day is "indirect lighting" from that true Light which lighteth every man. After all is said and done, freedom and democracy are created and conserved by the values best taught by Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem almost twenty centuries ago.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Content or Contentious

The pity of so many who claim the name of Christ today is that they are contentious rather than contented. They would "earnestly contend for the faith" at the drop of a hat. Yet what they contend for, all too often, is far short of "the faith . . .
delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

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

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

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

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

On Being Friendly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CHURCH AT WORK

WORLD MISSIONS

E. S. PHILLIPS, Secretary

Moving Missionaries

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

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

Dr. and Mrs. William Sedat are on furlough from Guatemala. Their address is 6555 No. Oak, Temple City, California.

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

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Needed: Outdated “Nu-Vu” Materials

Rev. Paul Wire of Italy has requested any outdated Nu-Fu backgrounds and figures that local churches can send him. They are just getting Sunday schools started in many of their churches in Italy and have no Sunday school materials available, in the Italian language. With the Nu-Fu materials the teachers can tell the Bible stories in their own language to the boys and girls.

This is a new venture, as the people are not used to Sunday schools in Italy. Most churches do not have them. He will be grateful for any of these Nu-Fu materials that the churches can send.
Mail them to:
Rev. Paul W. Wire
Via Meccinesi 5/D
Florence 7, Italy

Send as "Printed Matter: no value."

With Our African Youth

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

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

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

One woman came to the altar and
confessed that she had stolen clothes
from her employer. She said God had
spoken to her and she was going to make
it right with this person. The next day
she came again to the altar and said
she had gone to this person. Satan had
tried to hinder her but she said, "Jesus
was there to help me and her employer had forgiven her. Her face
was radiant, for she really had gotten
through. This has been repeated many
times these last few days as people re-
pent and make things right. Surely this
is a sign of coming revival! Pray for us!

Baptismal Service
By BOYD SKINNER, Chile
In the afternoon, after a morning of
worship and prayer and fasting, we
journeyed to the Lluta River in two pick-up trucks to administer the sacra-
tement of baptism to seventeen of our
faithful believers. Some of these have
been attending our services for ten
years, one for nine months, but all have
passed the approval of the church board; so with rejoicing they went un-
der the waters of baptism. Some attend the Ashby Chapel; others attend First
Church in Africa—all are one in Christ.

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

In the early part of 1961, with six
young men and Brother Correa, our
Sunday school superintendent at Juan
Noc First Church, we traveled to the
valley to haul mud bricks and stones
to begin the construction. We spent
days moving the bricks. After each
day's hot, dusty work we had a
good dip in the "Ole Swimming Hole,
a pool that was fed by a spring. Each
weekday we shared a good noon meal
together.

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

Servicemen's
COMMISSION
PAUL SKILES, Director

MEET OUR CHAPLAINS
Major Clifford E. Keys, Jr.
Born 1 July, 1928, Burbank, Cali-
fornia, the son of a Nazarene minister.
He earned letters in athletics in both
junior and senior high. Cliff received
an A.B. from Eastern Nazarene College,
and then came to Nazarene Theological
Seminary, from which he received a B.D.
in 1953. His pastorial work includes two
years at a community church in White
Cloud, Kansas, while attending seminary.

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

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

Pushing Pencils and
Shuffling Papers

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

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

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

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

After surviving a year in the admin-
istrative game, my outlook has been
changed 180 degrees. My feelings must
be akin to those of our ministers who
most from the pastoral to an office
job" at our denominational headquar-
ters. I have learned that the pencil can

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

We are also in business—the business of bringing God to men, and men to God. Our profit and loss ledgers do not portray costly, obsolete inventories, but rather the spiritual status of immortal souls. As I spend hours poring over graphs, computing statistical deviations, reviewing the analyzing program implementation, and writing guidance directives, I sometimes question the investment of my time—but not for long! Benjamin Franklin said he could conquer the world with twenty-six soldiers—the alphabet. We can win the world by showing the lost the way of the Cross.

**Argentina Council Meets**

The Argentina Missionary Council met in the newly completed Bible school building, in Buenos Aires, on October 2. The members present were: Dr. and Mrs. John Cochran, Rev. and Mrs. Spurgeon Hendrix, Dorothy Altheman, Rev. and Mrs. Don Crenshaw, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Sav, Rev. Thomas Ainscough, and Rev. and Mrs. Norman Howerton. A beautiful spirit of love, harmony, and concern for the Kingdom work was manifested in both the devotional and the business sessions. Plans are being made to enter the new areas of Santa Fe as soon as possible. There are many open doors.

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

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

**DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**

**Alabama District**

**Preachers’ and Wives’ Retreat**

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

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

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

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

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

**North Dakota Workers’ Convention**

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

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

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

The missionaries were presented by the district N.W.M.S. president, Mrs. Harry Taplin; the young people’s interests, by District President Runyon; and the church school work, by District Chairman Wilbur Dodrill. Each one had a well-prepared, challenging program.

Pastor and people of the Dickinson church counted it a privilege to entertain the convention.—Vernon H. Ward, Reporter.

**Abilene District**

**Laymen’s Retreat**

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

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

Home missions, foreign missions, local church needs, district needs— all blended together into one great task of reaching the lost as Dr. Coultier probed our innermost thoughts. The Church of the Nazarene has been strengthened as a result of this retreat. It is our desire that our district is developing a permanent program for an annual laymen’s retreat.—Reporter.

**New Church Organizations Reported**

**Swayzee, Indiana, August 16, 1964.** Rev. Carl Olson, pastor.—Paul Uplike, district superintendent.

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

**THE LOCAL CHURCHES**

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

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

**Council, Idaho**—Evangelist Howard Mansfield was truly God’s man for the hour in our fall revival. The Lord used him graciously in our midst, and many outstanding and victories won. Fifteen souls sought God at the altar, and many others were helped. Four of these...
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."  
Luke 2:14

Season’s Greetings to all from International Headquarters and the Nazarene Publishing House
The people began a visitation program which is paying off. Our recent revival with Evangelist Richard W. Jaymcs is said to be one of the best in the church's history. We appreciated Brother Jaymcs's appointed messages. In a special singspiration on Friday night, ten people sought God at the altar and prayed through to victory.

HACENDA HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA—Recently our church enjoyed what we feel was a most successful revival meeting with Evangelists Alva O. and Gladys Franks. Our congregation enjoyed their ministry the second time we have had these good folks, and we look forward to having them again in 1966. God blessed in giving more than one hundred seekers at the altar of prayer. Hearts were moved and shouts of praise resounded as God's outpoured Spirit brought unusual victories. Pastor and people are united; the work of the departments moves forward with dedication, aggressive leadership; and we are advancing, spiritually, financially, and numerically.—ROBERT W. GARDNER, Pastor.

Evangelist Bernice L. Revel reports: "At this writing [Nov. 19] I am en route to Des Arc, Missouri, for a revival, my fourteenth for the year of 1961. In addition to these revivals I have been privileged to serve as director of three vacation Bible schools and as children's evangelist in two district camps. I appreciate the calls extended to me by some twenty of our good churches and their pastor, not only to have a revival but to have the evangelist in two district camps. I appreciate the calls extended to me by some twenty of our good churches and their pastor, not only to have a revival but to have the evangelist in the week of the Lord's service. I am a Zoroastrian, to be sure, but I still appreciate the church and city alike; his labors will be long remembered in Sumter."

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

Evangelist Thomas Hayes writes: "The Lord is giving us some good revivals across the country. Had a good meeting in Pennsylvania; then in November in Tucson, Arizona, with Rev. and Mrs. Timms; from there on to Kansas, I have some open time for the spring after the middle of February. Then will be closing the Indian camp meeting at the end of March and have open dates for two tent meetings, with my big tent. I shall be glad to go as the Lord may lead. Write me, c/o our Publishing House, Box 527, Kansas City, Missouri 64111."

THE BIBLE LESSON

Topic for December 27:

Wise Men Come to Jesus

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

GOLDEN TEXT: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 60:1)

The colorful event of the wise men seeking out the Christ child and presenting to Him their gifts provoked happy and profitable thoughts. They probably gave up looking directly at the star as they approached Jerusalem and, thinking the event was not relevant, but from there, allowed their logic to interfere with God's leading. There was extra rejoicing when once again "they saw the star." God is faithful to all, and often must need forgive us our blunders when we try to do things our way. But God doesn't scold. He just comes along with His patience and love and by His gentle guidance seems to say, "Child of Mine, try to follow more closely next time."

The gifts these men brought represented the finest of things that are associated with mankind. We would be wise to save the best for the best. Could God ever be satisfied with anything less than the same from us? He wants the best of our devotions, our time, and our talents. He wants young lives before they become tarnished and tarnished with sin. He wants hearts that are pure and wholehearted. God wants the best of our devotions, our time, and our talents. He wants hearts that are pure and wholehearted. God wants the same thing from us.
when Gordon Cooper was circling the earth he prayed a prayer which in part is as follows: “Father, thank You, especially for letting me fly this flight. Thank You for the privilege of being able to be in this position, to be in this wondrous place, seeing all these many, many, many, wonderful things You have created. Help, guide, and direct all of us, that we may shape our lives to be better Christians, trying to help one another, and to work with You another rather than fighting and backing.”

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

Thank You for the privilege of being able to understand the purpose of life, especially for letting me fire this flight. Thank You, especially for letting me fly this flight.

The verse to which you refer is part of Paul’s explanation as to why he thought, in the conditions under which the Early Church lived, it was better to remain unmarried (I Corinthians 7: 29-36). Verse 34 reads, “The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but that she is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.”

If you will read the whole passage, you will see that it is not being unmarried that makes a woman holy in body and soul, but her caring for the things of the Lord. Paul’s thought was that “ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction” (v. 35).

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

Would you please explain Hebrews 6:4-6?

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

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

In the saved life, how can Christ abide nature remains? I thought He had no carnal, and walk as men?” (I Corinthians 3:1-3) These were “babes in Christ” and yet carnal.

Christ doesn’t have fellowship with sin. This is exactly the source of the inner conflict the unsanctified Christian experiences. Paul makes this clear in Galatians 5:17: “For the flesh [not the physical body, but the carnal nature, as you can see from verse 21] lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that we cannot do the things that we would.”

Paul also says, “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” (1 Cor. 3:1). For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envy and strife, and divisions, are ye not in the heart of a man while the sin fellowship with sin.

The remedy for this condition is that the sin nature, “our old man,” be crucified with him (Christ), that the body of sin might be destroyed” (Romans 6:6; see again Galatians 5:24). As Frederick Godet said, “God deals with sin not by patronizing it, but by destroying it.”

I would invite those who do not like the term “crucification” to take it in Bible terms, “crucifixion” and “destruction.” It all comes out about at the same place.

Conducted by W. T. PURKISER, Editor

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

I think you have misunderstood Paul. The verse to which you refer is part of Paul’s explanation as to why he thought, in the conditions under which the Early Church lived, it was better to remain unmarried (I Corinthians 7: 29-36). Verse 34 reads, “The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but that she is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.”

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Conducted by W. T. PURKISER, Editor

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

I think you have misunderstood Paul. The verse to which you refer is part of Paul’s explanation as to why he thought, in the conditions under which the Early Church lived, it was better to remain unmarried (I Corinthians 7: 29-36). Verse 34 reads, “The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but that she is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.”

If you will read the whole passage, you will see that it is not being unmarried that makes a woman holy in body and soul, but her caring for the things of the Lord. Paul’s thought was that “ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction” (v. 35).

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

Would you please explain Hebrews 6:4-6?

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

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

In the saved life, how can Christ abide nature remains? I thought He had no carnal, and walk as men?” (I Corinthians 3:1-3) These were “babes in Christ” and yet carnal.

Christ doesn’t have fellowship with sin. This is exactly the source of the inner conflict the unsanctified Christian experiences. Paul makes this clear in Galatians 5:17: “For the flesh [not the physical body, but the carnal nature, as you can see from verse 21] lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that we cannot do the things that we would.”

Paul also says, “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” (1 Cor. 3:1). For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envy and strife, and divisions, are ye not in the heart of a man while the sin fellowship with sin.

The remedy for this condition is that the sin nature, “our old man,” be crucified with him (Christ), that the body of sin might be destroyed” (Romans 6:6; see again Galatians 5:24). As Frederick Godet said, “God deals with sin not by patronizing it, but by destroying it.”

I would invite those who do not like the term “crucification” to take it in Bible terms, “crucifixion” and “destruction.” It all comes out about at the same place.
Church Far Exceeds Thanksgiving Goal

The Plymouth, Michigan, Church of the Nazarene went over its goal of $2,800.00 for the Thanksgiving offering. The total giving was in excess of $4,000.00, more than $2,000 per member. Rev. U. B. Godman is the pastor.

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

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

Evangelist's Quadrennial Calendar Available

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

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

Furloughed Missionaries to Be Feted

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

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

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

English Services in West Germany

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

The Church of the Nazarene in Frankfurt am Main is located at Huggestrasse 113. The Kaiserslautern church is at Bremerstrasse 35, and is pastored by Rev. Rudolf Quiram, who served as pastor for three years on the Washington Pacific District before returning to Germany.

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

H. H. Davies' Fiftieth

Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Davis, Springdale, Arkansas, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, November 25. Mr. Davis served in the active ministry for forty-six years, retiring five years ago.

Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Davis have ten living children, twenty-six grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren.

To make it possible for all the children to attend, a family reunion in honor of the golden wedding anniversary was held earlier.

Leadership Changes

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

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

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

Washington Star Defends Student-led "Grace"

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

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

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

This issue arose when the A.C.L.U. announced it would challenge the Fairfax County (Va.) school board on its right to permit the practice, contending the student council is a quasi-administrative body. An A.C.L.U. spokesman said that on this basis it viewed the intent of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on prayer handed down in the New York Board of Regents Case and in another test case in Maryland.

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. (F.P.)—Evangelist Billy James Hargis was given thirty days (which began November 16) to show cause why the Internal Revenue Service should not revoke the tax-exempt status of his anti-Communist Christian Crusade.

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

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

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

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

Gambling Propositions Beaten in Three States

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

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

Says Scottish Evangelism Failing

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

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

He warned that "the church must not become a ghetto where we gather with our like-minded... imprisoned and alienated from the life of the world around us."
The new sanctuary of the Fairgrove Church in La Puente, California, seats 350 persons, with additional seating easily available. It is the third building in a four-unit plant. The present property is valued at $175,000. The church had 306 in Sunday school on Rally Day. Rev. Eugene A. McDowell is the pastor.

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

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

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

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