

Arkansas Methodist

Serving One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Methodists in Arkansas

"The World is My Parish"

"Go ye into all the world—" — Mark 16:15

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NO. 49

Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings From The Staff Of The Arkansas Methodist

The staff of The Arkansas Methodist takes this opportunity to wish for all of our readers that this Christmas time may be the happiest of holidays and the holiest of happy days.

May you find, in this holy season, a deep abiding joy through bringing to some unfortunate ones a happiness they did not know Christmas could bring.

It is our wish, also, that in some way this Christmas season may enrich and confirm your faith in the Christ of Bethlehem.

May the wonderful Christmas music and Christmas message the Christian church has produced fill your soul with a new appreciation of the imperative need the world has for what the church alone offers. As you hear again the old, old story, may it have a new, deeper, holier significance than ever before.

It is our prayer that each of our readers may be kept from the many possible hurts, spiritually, which a misuse of the Christmas holidays often brings.

Glad Tidings To All People

By RICHARD C. RAINES, Pastor, Hennepin Methodist Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

"... I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."—Luke 2:10.

THE soft, early dusk of Christmas Eve falls quietly upon a little village street. All is hushed and white. No sound is heard, save a gentle rustling as of angels' wings, in the churchyard pines. A little child stands breathlessly, hands clasped to her breast, her whole, lovely, little soul transfixed, caught up with the wonder and mystery and aching beauty of Christmas Eve, the Babe of Bethlehem, the silver stars looking down. She closes her eyes—opens them again, thinking that perhaps the singing angels with shining wings might stream across the sky.

Christmas, with its magic eve and magic morn; childlike hearts tremulous with expectancy and eager anticipation; adult hearts warmed and irradiated by a genial and kindly glow. Christmas Day, family gatherings, the festive board, the glorious tree and bells, and the cherished decorations preserved from year to year. Christmas with its surprises and secret consultations, its mysterious packages, its terrible but precious poetry, its holly, its mistletoe, its bulging stockings, its over-flowing good will.

Only Tawdry Tinsel

Is this wondrous and glorious beauty of Christmas but a bomb shelter into which we go for a day or two of escape, of security, and make-believe, before we enter again the bitter and block-busting realities of life? As the terrible midnight bell of reality tolls, as Cinderella's coach and prancing ponies become pumpkin and mice again, do the festivities and the brave outer show of Christmas disappear and become tawdry tinsel and meaningless make-believe? Is Christmas so flimsy, is it woven of such intangible and fragile dreams and pretending, that it cannot stand the harsh light of grim reality?

How was the first Christmas? Was everything auspicious for that occasion? Was everyone eager, expectant, friendly? Was there no discordant note, was all in tune as the heavens were riven, and spilled angelic music? They were sinister days. Everywhere the clanking armor of the Roman legions was heard.

And Herod was worse. One knew what to expect from the Romans, but not from Herod. Prematurely aged by revelries and debauches, he was filled with fears lest he should lose his throne, and thus the power to make and break, which was all that kept obedience and the seeming respect and affection of his servants. Murderer of his wife and his children, he became frantic, hysterical when he heard that a Child who was to be a King was born in his territory. Unable to lay his hands upon the Child and doom Him to death, he sent forth and slew all the little children of that area, thus appeasing his maniacal obsession. There is nothing worse today.

Joseph And Mary's First Christmas

Do we see that expectant mother and solicitous and tender-hearted Joseph coming on too long a journey, too many days, delayed somewhat by Mary's inability to travel rapidly? Arriving late, too late, in Bethlehem, they go from door to door, receiving the same answer, "No room, no room. Sorry." Mary's face becomes drawn and pinched with exhaustion, and Joseph is aroused and frightened for her. At last a kindly innkeeper, his hotel completely filled, places at their disposal a stable. But the day had taken too much from Mary. Her travail began, and there, as did the other women of her day, without skilled medical attention she brought forth her firstborn with no other help than that of Joseph.

But there is a brighter aspect to this timeless epic. See yonder a few miles from Bethlehem the swaying rhythmic pace of the camels who smoothly cross over the undulating desert carpet, bearing upon their backs men of spiritual insight, kings in mind, wise men, who in the midst of confusion and turmoil see hope, have

both the vision to see and the courage to follow a star, and come with gifts fit for the Babe born a King.

Huddled figures on a hillside outside Bethlehem crouched close about a fire, no movement save the occasional movement of the sheep and the stirring up of the fire to break the breathless stillness.

Then suddenly the sky catches fire and sheep and shepherds spring upright, transfixed with fear. Surely this is the end of the world; for out of the break in the sky there stream hundreds of angels. One of them hovers near and speaks reassuringly,

"Fear not, for I bring 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. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." "Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,



DR. RICHARD C. RAINES

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Good tidings out of the midst of turmoil and oppression and suffering; good tidings of peace to all men.

It should strengthen us to remember that there is no hindering circumstances today, there is no menace to our joy which was not present back yonder at the troubled yet glorified birth of the Babe of Bethlehem.

Let us thank God that the meaning and spirit of Christmas are not plumbed by tinsel and trees, evanescent good cheer, and the festive board. Let us thank God that we can still sing with utter appropriateness, "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye to Bethlehem." We can still sing "The First Noel," "Silent Night! Holy Night!" and above all, "Joy to the world! the Lord is come."

Yea, these are glad tidings that no earthborn noise can drown—glad tidings of a star that still shines and guides, glad tidings to all people. Glad tidings to mankind imprisoned in his own self-imposed tomb. Glad tidings to men upon whose hearts are written the moral law, the sense of right and wrong, which is not kept. No one of us, in the yesterdays, in the todays, or in the tomorrows will live by the best that we know. Yet every one of us knows that God is passionately, eagerly, continually, on the side of right and good will and justice, and utterly against much of the conduct marking our lives. Given the precious gift of freedom of choice, mankind has not used it to sit obediently at the feet of God to learn to do His will and live and find peace and joy. He has used it to set up his own house. Tremendous energies have gone into the building of civilization after civilization—skill and ability and diligence—

great structures have risen, and so each in turn crumbled and fell with a resounding crash.

Man: A Rebel

Man is no imperfect creature, waiting to be improved. He is a rebel. He needs repentance, and he cannot repent. Only a good man can repent, and only the evil man needs to repent. Repentance is not just eating humble pie. Repentance is tearing out from the warp and woof of us that which has been woven in us of self-flattery and self-conceit through the years. It is full speed astern, beginning over again, a killing of a part of us. And we cannot do it alone. Any man who has tried it knows he cannot do it alone.

Christmas comes with the good news, the glad tidings that God has made a landing upon our sin-occupied shores. He offers help, power, freedom. He brings us strength. We shall cast off the shackles of the enemy. Christmas brings us the glad tidings that the best is true; that this universe is so made that goodness, kindness, decency, integrity, moral character will be sustained by it; that God who made it and God who creates it and keeps it going intended that there should be peace, that men of integrity should be in places of leadership, that there should be good will. We do not work in a universe that is against us or indifferent to us; but one made for us, and for our best.

God's Gift—A Way Of Life

Christmas brings the glad tidings that we need not be alone; that the Blessed Companion has been born; yea, has been born and has grown to manhood. In Christmas is found all the life of Christ. In Christmas is found, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." In Christmas is found the Sermon on the Mount, and the Parables, and a face steadfastly set to go to Jerusalem, and a figure on a cross, and a "My God, why," and a "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," and a "Lo, I am with you always," "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him."

No man needs to be alone here on earth. Other refuge have we none; other refuge thank God, we do not need! Christmas is the food for which the heart hungers; without which it starves. Christmas is the glad tidings of a star that still shines and still guides, of peace that can come, of good will that is born among men.

It is glad tidings to all people, not simply to the Palestinians of that first great day of Bethlehem; but to the Ethiopians, to the Egyptians, yea, and the Roman legions, and the dwellers in Gaul, and those upon the islands called Britain; yea, to the man of the Middle Ages, and he who lived in the Renaissance, and those who live today in China, in Argentina, in Japan, and in Russia—TO ALL PEOPLES.

"To All Peoples"

We should not have heard these glad tidings if the first receivers of them had not heard, "to all peoples," and said to themselves, "We must not keep these glad tidings as if they were meant for us exclusively." Nay, if Paul and Peter had not heard the command, "Go ye, therefore—" if they had not been missionaries, we would never have received the good tidings. They came over to Antioch and over the Dardanelles and up into Europe, and finally around to England and then across the sea to us. We are debtors to men of missionary spirit.

We must become men of missionary spirit, to give the glad tidings to the peoples of the earth that do not yet know them. A part of the peoples of the earth that do not yet know the glad tidings and have not been redeemed by them are in foreign countries. To them we must send missionaries, humbly repentant as we realize that long since we should have done so.

A part of all peoples who hunger for and
(Continued on Page 5)

THE DEVOTIONAL PAGE

REV. H. O. BOLIN, Editor

BASIC FREEDOM

A man who is not free to practice his religion, to propagate it and to discuss it, cannot be really free at all. He may be at liberty to wander about wherever he pleases and to change his work as often as he likes, but if he is not free to be religious in the way that he believes to be right, he is not a free man in spirit and mind. The source of all other freedoms has been dried up. Then it is not at all surprising that the struggle for political freedom has been bound up with the struggle for religious freedom. How often, for example, we forget that our liberty in this country was largely the result of the work of men who desired above everything else to worship God in accordance with their conscience.—Dr. W. R. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul's, in "The Spiritual Issues of the War." Number 227.

In the plans for peace that are being discussed by statesmen the world around there is much talk of guaranteeing freedom from want and freedom from fear. Unhappily, we do not hear so much about freedom of religion. If leaders in government would review the history of the world's wars, they might be surprised to find how many of them had some sort of religious basis. Since religion is of most vital concern, it is perfectly natural for man to fight the hardest for its preservation. It is not too much to believe that if the nations of earth agree to guarantee to every man complete religious liberty, one of the most fruitful causes of war would be removed.—H. H. V. In Liberty.

TREES GROW IN PALESTINE

Recent visitors to the cities and villages, hills and valleys of Palestine remark about many things seen and heard—the almost nightly bombings, the scarcity of food, the struggle for power, the presence of the military, the lack of trees.

This rocky little land has long been famed for its trees. The great cedars of the Lebanon slopes, the gnarled olives, the oaks and others, lordly and humble, that figure in the only fable to be found in the Scriptures, are part of the Palestinian landscape, and their loss in comparatively recent years has been sad and serious.

Thanks to American school children, and others, trees are being planted in Palestine under the sponsorship of the American Christian committee. Whole forests of seedlings are being set out as memorials to the Jewish boys and girls who lost their lives during the war and before in Europe. The lives of those young people cannot be brought back, but new beauty can be brought to this land that has become enshrined in the hearts of God's people everywhere.

As the trees put out their roots and their branches, the leaders of Arab and Jewish groups may, it is to be hoped, remember that the righteous man is like a tree planted by the river of waters.—In The Christian Advocate.

It is a belief in the Bible, the fruit of deep meditation, which has served me as the guide of my moral and literary life. I have it a capita safely invested, and richly productive of interest.—Goethe.

PEACE

By S. W. YOUNG, Ph. D.

Yes, universal peace will come,
The time by prophets long foretold,
The time when nations shall no more
Employ the tactics of cruel war
With all its bitter hates and deaths,
Its desolations and distress;
The time when instruments of toil,
Of husbandry and prosperous trade
Shall take the place of bombs and tanks,
And every craft and agency
Of modern man to crush his foe.

Then men of vision, wise and brave,
From every nation, every clime,
The claims of brotherhood shall own,
And, gathered in world-councils, plan
The welfare of the human race,
The honor of the only God,
Supreme o'er men and nations all.

—In The Union Signal

THE COMING OF THE WISE MEN

(Please read Matt. 2:1-15).

Christmas turns our minds to many great events that took place in the long ago. The coming of these wise men was a very interesting affair. We find ourselves wishing we knew more about them. Tradition has it that their names were Casper, Melchior and Balthasar, but this is not a proven fact. We are told that they came from the east, but the particular country is not named. Some scholars think they came from Babylonia, if so, then they came from the land where the human race is supposed to have had its origin. This was the original home of Abraham, the father and founder of the Hebraic race. This was the land of Jewish captivity. No doubt the Jews gave to their masters their conception of God and the promise of a coming Messiah who would rule the world. This land was also the home of the Hebrew Daniel who wielded a great influence in kings' courts and prophesied concerning the setting-up of an eternal realm. If these men really came from Babylonia or any other country where great numbers of Jews lived for years, then we do not wonder that they were familiar with the fact that the Jews were to give the human race the Messiah. There are many lessons in this event that we might well ponder.

The first thought is that these were wise men. Since the coming of Christ the wisest people of all generations have followed him. The writer was once trying to help a man who called himself an infidel. He insisted that he could not believe that Christ is what the Bible teaches he is. It was discovered that he had a great respect for the wise people of history. His attention was called to the fact that most of these people were Christians. The question was then raised, "Can it be possible that people of this type were mistaken?" He saw the point and gave his heart to Christ. The great English statesman William E. Gladstone said that he knew sixty of the master-minded people of his day. They represented many occupations. Some were philosophers, doctors, scientists, educators, statesmen, ministers, etc. They were all noted for their intelligence

and training. Fifty-four of the number were consecrated Christians.

Yet another lesson is the fact that in the darkest hour some star of hope is shining. It was a dark time when Jesus came. The world was in a state of political confusion. Slavery was widely practiced. The poor carried intolerable burdens. They could scarcely get enough of the necessities of life to keep body and soul together. Disease was rampant. Women were degraded. Religion had deteriorated to the extent that Christ called the leaders hypocrites; generations of vipers; off-springs of snakes. It was truly a dark hour, but in the darkness a star shined forth. It was the Star of Bethlehem proclaiming the fact that hope had been born in the world. We, too, have come upon a dark day. We are now at the crossroads: Great issues are now before the world, the settlement of which is likely to determine all future history. In a day like this in the long ago the wise men followed a star. The light of that star is still shining. It remains to be seen if the leaders of our day have wisdom enough to follow it.

Another thought is, those men came to worship. They raised the question, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Nothing is more important than worship. Through it people come to know Christ and have fellowship with him. It is born of trust and adoration. It brings strength to overcome the temptations of life and meet the obligations of service. These men traveled a long way to worship that day. Some say it was at least a thousand miles. With their mode of travel, it took months to make the trip. Their deed stands as a testimony against at least half of our modern church members; those who never darken the doors of our houses of worship. We thank God for our freedom to worship as we choose, but if this privilege is not more widely and faithfully used it will finally be taken away.

These men recognized the fact that sacrifice is a part of worship. They brought their gifts—gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. We very

FREEDOM TRAIN

Not from her mountain height does
freedom speak
But from our crowded streets. Her
words recall
Above the traffic's din that we must
seek
The sentry's post with her or we
shall fall
Before the hordes that do not know
her voice—
The flesh-pot keepers, slaves with
cunning eyes,
The promise-makers, shrieking loud
their choice
Of other flags for folly's paradise.
How many times must blood of ours
be shed
Before this land is safe for liberty?
By homes that we hold dear, by
hallowed dead
Whose graves are eloquent, we will
be free
To walk erect the path of common
good
And share with all the gift of
brotherhood.

—Elias Lieberman
in the New York Times

often hear someone in a public worship service say, "Let us continue our worship with the offering." That is well-said. The offering is a part of the worship. Until a person's religion has touched his pocketbook, it has not really touched his life. To be true worship one's offering should represent sacrifice. Jesus was present at a public offering. He noted that many out of their abundance cast in large amounts. But he said the widow with her two mites gave more than all. She gave until it hurt. Her sacrifice was true worship. A blind woman in Paris gave twenty-seven francs at a missionary meeting. The minister told her that she could not afford so much. But she explained that it cost her fellow straw workers twenty-seven francs a year for light, and that as she saved that much because she was blind, she could give it to shed light to dark heathen lands. That was true worship.

The last thought we wish to note is, God's great overruling care. He has given man free-moral agency. He, therefore, cannot directly rule in the affairs of men. People take the very strength that God has given them and use it against him and his cause. They thus retard the coming of his Kingdom. God does, however, overrule. Men do their worst and he makes their very wrath praise him. God's purpose will finally be fulfilled. Tennyson could truthfully say, "Yet I doubt not through the ages one increasing purpose runs." Herod sought to kill the Christ Child but God had other plans. Jesus was physically immortal until his work was done. He was constantly reminding people that his hour had not yet come. Finally it did come and he went out to keep his rendezvous with death.

May we during this Christmas season follow the example of these wise men of old as we seek a closer walk with Christ.—H. O. B.

It is good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.—George Horace Lorimer.

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A WEEKLY MESSAGE

By FORNEY HUTCHINSON

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."—Luke 2:6-15.

"Here is One who was born in an obscure village. He never wrote a book. He never went to college. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone. Today he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that one solitary life."—Phillips Brooks.

"Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

THE address of Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Lewis is now Ozan, Arkansas.

REV. J. A. REYNOLDS writes that his address is Vilonia, Arkansas.

ON Sunday, December 1, the services of First Church, Hope, were broadcast over station KXAR, a new station serving the territory in southwest Arkansas.

REV. R. E. CONNELL, district superintendent of the Conway District, was the speaker at the monthly meeting of the Methodist Men's Club of the Methodist Church of Russellville on Wednesday night, December 17. Rev. W. F. Cooley is pastor.

MRS. W. L. RUSSELL writes: "It may be that some of the friends of Rev. W. L. Russell do not know his address since he retired at the last Annual Conference. His health is such that he is confined to his room and to his bed a part of the time. We have a home in Ola and would be glad to have friends call on us here."

REV. J. E. COOPER, pastor of First Church, Hope, has announced several gifts for the church as follows: New pulpit furniture, consisting of a pulpit, chairs, communion table, baptismal font, an illuminated cross and two flags, a Christian flag and our country's flag. These gifts were presented by Mrs. R. M. Briant in honor of her husband. The cross and the flags are the individual gifts of Mrs. O. A. Graves.

AS a Christmas gift from the people of America to the people of Russia, the American Bible Society recently presented to Metropolitan Gregory, of the Russian Orthodox Church, 10,000 Russian Bibles, 5,000 New Testaments and Psalms, 100,000 Russian gospel portions, and 1,000 Greek New Testaments. These scriptures are all in the new Russian orthography, and in the Holy Synod Version first set up in St. Petersburg in 1860. These new books were all published from new type in the United States.

REPORTS from Mexico City indicate that more than one million Mexicans were taught to read during the past year through the Mexican National Campaign for Literacy, inspired by the world-renowned missionary, Dr. Frank Laubach, and using methods devised by him for teaching Spanish. Forty thousand teaching centers, most of the schools and churches, were used in the campaign; there were thousands of volunteer teachers, President Miguel Aleman being one of them. The Committee on Fundamental Education, of UNESCO, is now meeting in Mexico City to plan its world fight against illiteracy. Dr. Alfred D. Moore, one of Dr. Laubach's associates in the Committee on Literacy of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, has been named consultant to the UN committee.

THREE major groups of people overseas, and three in the United States will be partakers of the gifts laid on the altars of churches on thousands of American communities on the first

Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Son of God, Love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Guiding star, lend thy light,
See the eastern wise men bring,
Gifts and homage to our King.
Jesus, the Saviour is born."
—Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber.

With my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

According to our custom there will be no issue of the paper on Christmas week. So that our readers will not miss one of Dr. O. E. Goddard's Sunday School lessons, we are running the lessons for December 28 and January 4 in this issue.

Friday in Lent—February 13, 1948—when Protestant church women from all states and in many foreign lands observe "World Day of Prayer." Home and foreign mission agencies will use the day's offerings, under the general direction and sponsorship of the United Council of Church Women, an interdenominational agency. The beneficiaries of the gifts will be: Christian college students in China, India, and Japan; the illiterate of the Near East and Africa; foreign students now in the United States; schools and hospitals serving the American Indians; Negro sharecroppers in southern states; and migrant agricultural laborers and their families.

AIMS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION STRESSED

Grand Rapids, Mich. — (RNS) — The kind of Christian teaching that does not awaken people to their personal responsibility to others in this world is "inadequate and practically worthless," Dr. Marshall T. Steel of Dallas, Texas, told delegates to the Methodist Conference on Christian Education here.

Speaking on "Teach Christ or Perish," theme of the conference, Dr. Steele asserted "our generation is left desolate if it ignores Christian principles."

"You and I must teach Christ and Him only as did St. Paul — not to buttress a tottering Deity because Christ has been crucified before — but to save this generation," he said.

"Many people are much concerned about money, but no amount of money can save the homes of America. If they are saved, it will be because someone taught and preached Christ."

CHINESE GOV'T HONORS U. S. METHODIST LEADERS

Foochow, China — (RNS) — Three American leaders of The Methodist Church will be honored by the National Government of China, according to an announcement at the 100th anniversary celebration of The Methodist Church in China here.

The three, who will receive government decorations, are Bishop Herbert Welch, chairman of The Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, New York; Dr. Paul Hutchinson, editor of The Christian Century, Chicago; and Bishop Ralph A. Ward, Resident Bishop in Shanghai. All had given years of service in China.

Highlight of the celebration was the reading of a message of greeting and exhortation from Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek both Methodists.

Methodist work in Asia, including Korea and Japan, had its origin in the arrival during 1847 in the city of Foochow, of Judson Collins and the Rev. and Mrs. Moses White. In the following 100 years, The Methodist Church has become an active force in the educational, medical and moral life of China.

At least 60 per cent of the fatally injured pedestrians were under the influence of alcohol in the 51 motor vehicle fatalities investigated during 1945 by the St. Louis County Medical-Legal Department, according to a report of the department released by its director, Dr. Hube S. Breyfogle.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 1-5-47.

Though we travel the world over to find beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.—Emerson.

NEARLY HALF A MILLION GIVEN TO WORLD SERVICE IN NOVEMBER

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 10.—Greater interest in world-wide missionary and educational work of The Methodist Church was revealed by Methodists of the nation last month when contributions to the World Service fund showed an increase of \$4,791 over the same month of 1946. Total giving for November amounted to \$481,501, it was announced by the Rev. Dr. Thomas B. Lugg, treasurer of the General Commission on World Service and Finance.

Receipts for the first five months of the fiscal year, beginning June 1, totaled \$2,397,147. This is a gain of \$140,379, or 6.2 per cent, over the same period of last year.

"Since World Service is the agency through which every local Methodist Church renders Christian service beyond its parish boundaries, annual receipts to this fund serve as a measure of the interest of local churches in Christian world missions," Dr. Lugg said. "In this immediate postwar period, when millions of people are receptive to the Christian gospel, it is desperately important that Methodists respond to this opportunity through an enlarged World Service giving," he added.

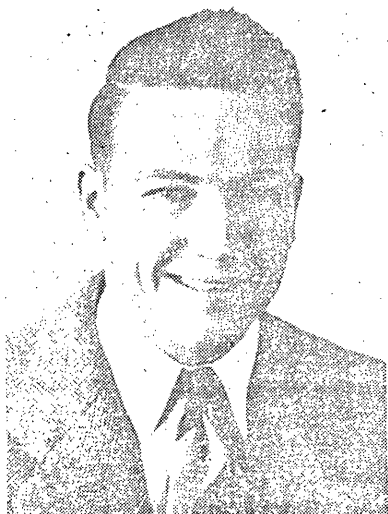
In addition to World Service giving, Methodism's more than 8 million members contributed \$258,804 to the denomination's Fellowship of Suffering and Service fund during the June-November period. Crusade for Christ relief and reconstruction fund receipts totaled \$26,986,779 through November 30.

Of the 33 episcopal areas in this country, eight showed increased World Service giving in all Annual Conferences; nine reported increased giving in all but one Annual Conference. The greatest Area gain, \$41,224, was reported by the Philadelphia Area which is administered by Bishop Fred P. Corson.

If the power of the Gospel is not felt through the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness will reign with mitigation or end.—Daniel Webster.

CLARKSVILLE DELEGATES TO YOUTH CONFERENCE

Below are pictured Clarksville's delegates to the Cleveland Youth Conference which meets in Cleveland, Ohio, December 30-January 2.



They are Betty Jean Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Johnson, junior in Clarksville High School and member of the Beta Club and Student Council; Jerry Kraus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harlow Kraus, senior in high school and

co-captain of the football team this year. Mr. Kraus was recently named as all-conference tackle on the 4 A district team.



Both Miss Johnson and Mr. Kraus are very active in young people's work in their church.

A large number of delegates from all over Arkansas will attend the Conference.

OLD FORT STONE NOW METHODIST CORNERSTONE

A stone from the ancient ruins of the old city of Panama, which was built in 1519 by the Spanish and destroyed in 1657 by the English pirate, Henry Morgan, has been used as the cornerstone of the first unit of a school plant now nearing completion in Panama for the Methodist Church. The stone once helped hold the military might of Spain; today it is the cornerstone of a school that will hold more than 1200 students. It is a 26-room building and will house a secondary school that has outgrown its 41-year-old edifice. Dr. Matthew D. Smith and the Rev. Louis Fiske are the missionaries in charge. A Spanish Bible is among the mementoes in the cornerstone which was laid by Sr. Max Arosamena, Panama's minister of education.

They are never alone that are accompanied with noble thoughts.—Ex.

THE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM

'Tis Christmas night! the snow,
A flock unnumbered lies;
The old Judean stars aglow,
Keep watch within the skies.

An icy stillness holds
The pulses of the night;
A deeper mystery enfolds
The wondering Hosts of Light.

Till, lo, with reverence pale
That dims each diadem,
The lordliest, earthward bending
hail

The Light of Bethlehem!
—John B. Tabb

According to the Commerce Department, Americans spent a record \$8,700,000,000 on whiskey, beer and wine in 1946. This constitutes an average of \$89 for each person over eighteen years of age, and exceeds the previous high (set in 1945) by \$920,000,000.—Current History.

GERMAN METHODISTS COOPERATE WITH OTHER CHURCHES

Bishop J. W. Ernst Sommer, head of the independent Methodist Church in Germany, "a daughter" of American Methodist missions to that country, is taking a leading part in the formation of a "Council of the Evangelical Churches of Germany" for united consideration of their plans for the betterment of life in their nation. Pastor Niemoller of the Evangelical Church, is also associated in this movement which includes the Baptists, the Free Congregationalists, the Mennonites, the Methodists, the Old Catholic Church, and the United Brethren, as well as the Evangelical Synod of Nassau, Hesse and Frankfurt. The new organization is described as a "cooperative fellowship".

"We are passing through times of great distress and anxiety in Germany," writes Bishop Sommer to Dr. Ralph E. Diffendorfer of the Board of Missions and Church Extension. "But at the same time there are very joyful signs of a growing understanding and friendship between the established church and the free churches. . . . Recently at Frankfurt, after frank and brotherly conversations with President Martin Niemoller of the Evangelical Church of Germany, unanimous agreement was reached that it is impossible to turn a deaf ear to God's challenge calling upon the evangelical Christians of Germany to realize their responsibility for each other and for the service they must render to each other and the world. Impelled by this sense of responsibility, we agreed to recommend to our churches to call into being an organization for cooperative fellowship, and to prepare rules for the organization." This is the "Council" referred to above.

DAY DAWN OF THE HEART

'Tis not enough that Christ was born
Beneath the star that shone,
And earth was set that holy morn
Within a golden zone.
He must be born within the heart
Before he finds a throne,
And brings the day of love and good,
The reign of Christlike brotherhood.
—Author Unknown

GLAD TIDINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 2)

need the glad tidings are found here in our own beloved America. Many are the people of America who are not celebrating the birth of Jesus at all—people that jostle us in the street-car, people that greet us over the counter, people that walk our way here in America that do not know the glad tidings, do not heed them. We must give them the glad tidings.

A portion of "all peoples" whose birthright is to know the glad tidings may be some unregenerate portion of our own heart, as yet unreclaimed by the power and strength of God. To that unregenerate rebel in our breast, we must speak the glad tidings, that all people, all of this person, all of America, all the round world, men of every clime and station and creed shall be redeemed through, know and live by the glad tidings meant for all peoples.

Significance of "A Christmas Carol"

Ah, this Christmas spirit through the centuries has begotten a copious stream of art and literature and beauty and joy. One of the most precious stories, certainly, in the secular realm, is "A Christmas Carol".

What is there about it that has held every generation for a hundred years, and holds us? Is it this whining, sniveling, this inhospitable, this squeezing, wrenching, grasping,

scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner, hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel ever struck out generous fire—why is it Scrooge lays hold upon us? Perhaps it is because his lusty, inhospitable sentiments are seen to be overlaid with humor and humanity—we feel instinctively he is not so bad, really, down underneath. He is possible of better things. Perhaps it is that we see written in large, vivid style that which is beginning in our own heart, that of which we, too, might be capable.

We wonder, fascinated, whether Scrooge can be redeemed, whether the spirit of Christmas can get under his old hardened shell. So we watch him, and we listen as Marley's ghost comes and Scrooge seeks to placate the ghost by saying, "Marley, you were always a good business man." Scrooge could be agreeable, at least in the presence of ghosts. Marley's ghost responds, "Business, mankind was my business; the common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business; the dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business."

Why Interest In Scrooge?

Why are we interested in Scrooge? Because we hope against hope that he may be changed. We want to believe better things of human nature than Scrooge has shown us. We want to see his heart softened. It is almost as if we

were redeemed for the hangman's noose when we learn that Scrooge has awakened, actually not too late, that there is yet something he can do to redeem his past, perhaps to remake his present and remold his future.

Our shackled spirits break their clanking chains as we experience vicariously the joy of planning for others' comfort and welfare. If Scrooge can see the light, if this grasping wizened soul can awaken, if his withered emotions can flow forth freely; then something deep down inside us tells us that in any man whose fountain of good will and unselfishness may have been sealed can now be released, that there is no section of life so Sahara-like, so barren, that it cannot be redeemed and made fruitful by the irrigating waters of the love of God; no nation so bitterly hard it cannot be won by Christ's spirit.

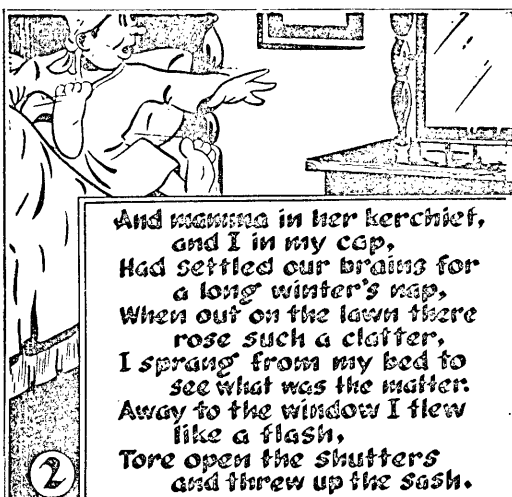
And that is what we long for and need most of all. That is the ultimate glad tidings—the belief restored that man is essentially decent, that he has capacity for hearing, believing, and being transformed by the Spirit and power of God. The good tidings leads to the ultimate conclusion and possibility that if we all do our part to own Him as Lord and Master, one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess Him Lord.

He is the GLAD TIDINGS TO ALL PEOPLE.—Used by permission of The Upper Room Pulpit.

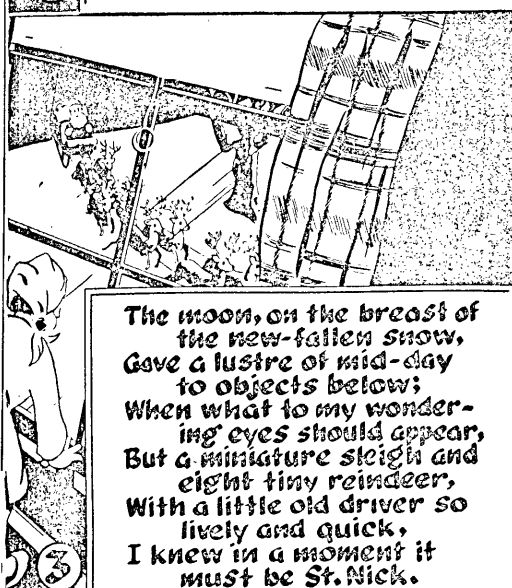


THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

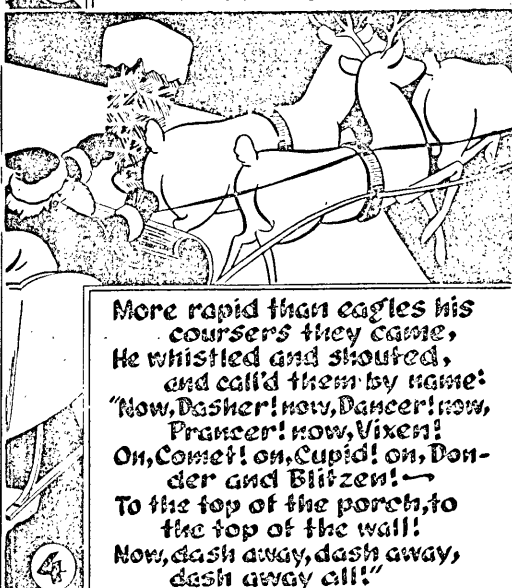
ANNIE WINZURNE, Editor



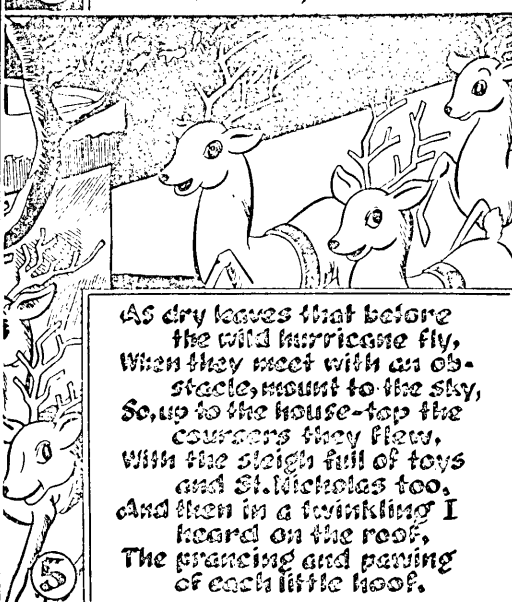
And mamma in her kerchief,
and I in my cap,
Had settled our brains for
a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there
rose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to
see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew
like a flash,
Tore open the shutters
and threw up the sash.



The moon, on the breast of
the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of mid-day
to objects below;
When what to my wonder-
ing eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and
eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so
lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it
must be St. Nick.



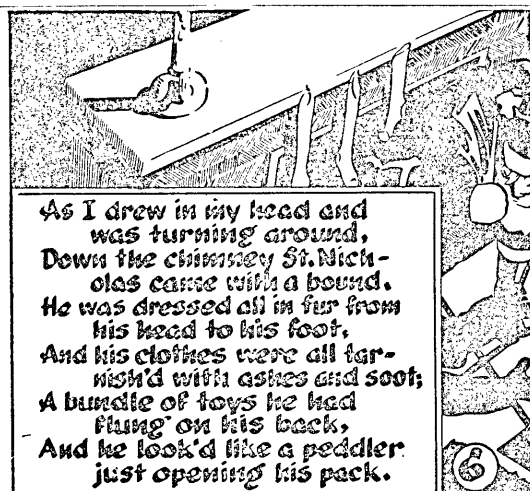
More rapid than eagles his
coursers they came,
He whistled and shouted,
and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now,
Prancer! now, Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Don-
der and Blitzen!"
To the top of the porch, to
the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away,
dash away all!"



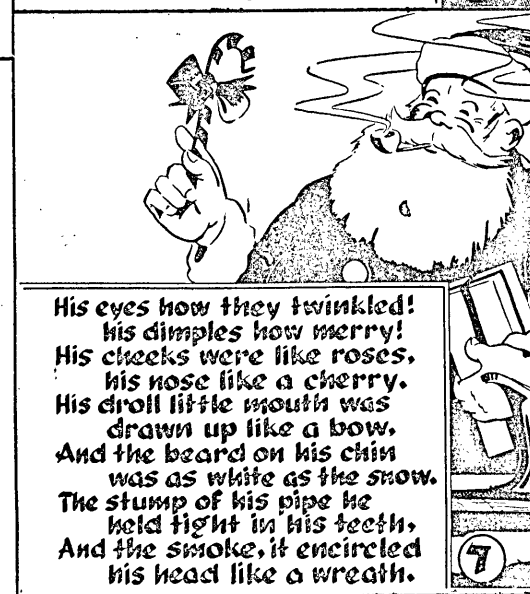
As dry leaves that before
the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an ob-
stacle, mount to the sky,
So, up to the house-top the
coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys
and St. Nicholas too,
And then in a twinkling I
heard on the roof,
The prancing and pawing
of each little hoof.



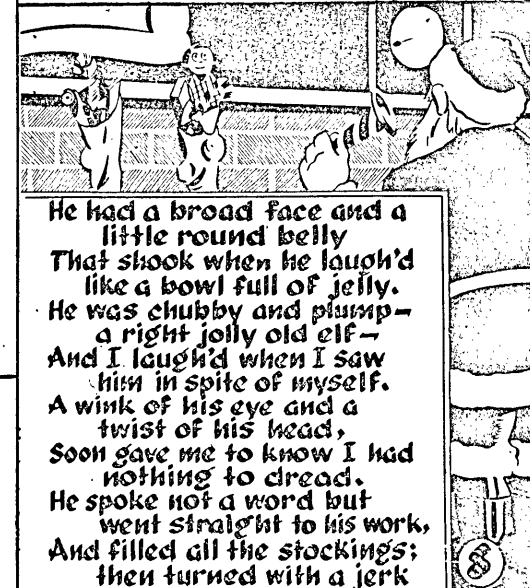
'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by
the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas
soon would be there;
The children were nestled all
snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums
danced through their heads.



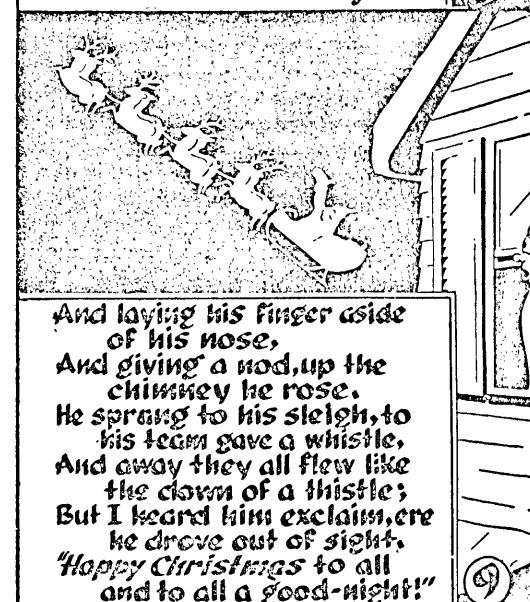
As I drew in my head and
was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nich-
olas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from
his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all far-
nished with ashes and soot,
A bundle of toys he had
flung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler
just opening his pack.



His eyes how they twinkled!
his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses,
his nose like a cherry.
His droll little mouth was
drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin
was as white as the snow.
The stump of his pipe he
held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled
his head like a wreath.



He had a broad face and a
little round belly
That shook when he laugh'd
like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump—
a right jolly old elf—
And I laugh'd when I saw
him in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a
twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had
nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word but
went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings;
then turned with a jerk



And laying his finger aside
of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the
chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to
his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like
the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere
he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all
and to all a good-night!"

BISHOPS PLEDGE CO-OPERATION TO YOUTH CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Fullest cooperation and virtually unanimous attendance of the denomination's bishops at the coming Methodist Youth Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, December 30-January 2, was indicated by Bishop Paul B. Kern of Nashville, Tenn., following the semi-annual meeting here of the Council of Bishops of The Methodist Church.

Speaking both as president of the Council of Bishops and as chairman of the Division of the Local Church of The General Board of Education, under whose sponsorship this unprecedented gathering is to be held, Bishop Kern described the plans that will enable the 10,000 young people from all parts of the nation to come in contact with their episcopal leaders.

"The total membership of the Conference will be divided into four sections," Bishop Kern said, "each of which will spend an hour in a special session where they will meet the 33 effective bishops resident in the United States and visiting bishops from abroad. A program of seven-minute addresses will then follow, designed to familiarize the young people with a bishop's function and the scope of his work. Also, each delegate will be presented with a booklet containing pictures and brief biographical sketches of the bishops."

Following are the subjects assigned to the bishop-speakers during the four get-acquainted periods:

"What Does A Bishop Do?"—

CHRIST'S FIRST LULLABY

*I like to share the stillness that is part of Christmas night,
With only God for company and only stars for light;
I like to think the shepherds knew such stillness as they kept
Their lonely quiet vigil while the world about them slept.*

*I think the gentle animals that shared the Savior's bed
Most surely sensed the holy hour and ceased their restless tread.
I like to feel that Mary held the Christ-child to her breast
And let the silence close about her—she whom God had blest.*

*Oh, silence is a lovely thing with which to fete a birth,
Just silver-frosted stillness and winter-tinted earth;
The angels brought glad tidings and hosannas filled the sky
But I believe that silence was the Christ's first lullaby.*

—Neva McMillan Upton, Little Rock,
in The Arkansas Democrat.

Bishop William C. Martin, Topeka, Kan.

"Why I Entered the Christian Ministry."—Bishop James C. Baker, Los Angeles, Cal.

"Methodism as a World Church."—Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Atlanta, Ga.

"Our Riches In Negro Youth."—Bishop Robert N. Brooks, New Orleans, La.

"Methodism in the Social Scene,"—Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, New York, N. Y.

"What Can I Do for Christ Right Where I Am?"—Bishop Charles W. Brashares, Des Moines, Iowa.

You cannot murder truth, though you silence the voice that utters it.—E. H. Harding.

PREDICTS FREEDOM FOR NON-JEWISH RELIGIONS IN PALESTINE

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Mrs. Goldie Myerson, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, said here that the status of non-Jewish religions in the proposed Jewish state in Palestine "would not differ essentially from that in other democratic countries."

She predicted that conditions in the Jewish state would probably be adapted as far as possible to Jewish religious law, but stressed that this would not affect the rights of other religions.

"For example," she asserted, "Saturday would be the day of rest, but Moslem and Christians could keep their respective Sabbaths."

PROTESTANTS INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS BY 66 MILLIONS

BUCK HILL FALLS, Pa.—(RNS) —Twenty-six Protestant denominations in the United States and Canada belonging to the United Stewardship Council contributed \$678,087,478 to benevolences and local church expenses during the past year, according to statistics released at the Council's annual meeting here.

The total was larger by about \$66,000,000 than last year, when a record sum was reported. The gain in total benevolence gifts alone was put at 17 per cent over last year, while the membership increase was placed at 1.1 per cent.

A series of Stewardship Conferences in various cities is planned by the Council, according to an announcement by President Arthur H. Limouze, New York, who is director of promotion for the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

Dr. Robbins W. Earstow, service director for Church World Service, told the Council that "never before has there been such an insistent demand for the full exercise of the privilege of stewardship not only for regular and normal causes but also in hearty support of the relief and reconstruction programs of the churches, whether channeled through Church World Service or carried on independently."

He stressed the Church's unique responsibility in the realm of spiritual recovery and its part in world relief and reconstruction.

Let World Service Carry Your Christmas Gift To The World!

A Christmas gift through world service will . . .

- . . . help fulfill the Angels' song, "Good will to men!"
- . . . back brave missionaries abroad and across the land!
- . . . put heart and hope into Christian workers around the world!
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- . . . undergird services of comfort and healing to thousands who look to us for help!

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WHILE THE WORLD HUNGERS

By Lucia Mallory

"This has been a happy day, Doris! I'm sure it's been the nicest Christmas I've had since you and I were children."

It was evening, and we were sitting in front of the fireplace in my sister's basement playroom, where her own and some of the neighbors' children were popping corn and filling a big pan with the fluffy white kernels.

My sister's eyes lighted with pleasure. "I'm glad to hear you say that, Lucia," she replied. "It proves something I've been wondering about. Didn't you notice that our dinner was rather meager—that we didn't have as much to eat as usual?"

"No, I didn't," I answered. "I'm sure everyone was most generously served."

"Generously, but not lavishly," Doris continued musingly, "and yet everybody was content. We shall have no lavish dinners here, even at Christmas time, while the world hungers, Lucia. Of course, I want my children to store up as pleasant memories of Christmas as you and I did in our old home, but I do not want any of us to be selfish—certainly not on Christmas Day."

"I was being very selfish this year," Doris went on, "until a chance conversation I overheard at the bus station a couple of weeks ago brought me to my senses. Two women were sitting beside me, waiting for the Ivywild bus. One of them carried a bulging shopping bag, and the other had her arms full of bundles."

"Have you stocked your larder for Christmas yet?" the first woman asked her friend. "I began weeks ago to gather up all the scarce articles I could find, so that my children wouldn't have to go without anything in this year of food shortages."

"The other woman winked across the mound of bundles she carried. 'Oh, yes,' she answered, 'I, too, am seeing that my children shall have plenty of everything this year. They've had to do without things long enough!'"

"Do without things! I almost gasped. Didn't those two well-fed mothers know the reason for our food shortages? Didn't they know we've been sending food across the sea to keep other mothers' children from starving? How would they feel if their children were big-eyed little skeletons?"

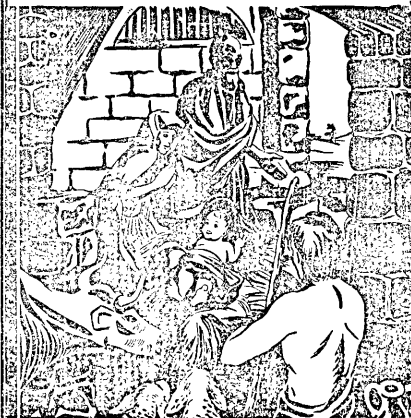
"I was about to make some indignant protest to those complacent

creatures, when I looked down at the bundles I myself was carrying and realized that I wasn't doing much better than they. True, we had voluntarily limited our use of foods that could easily be shipped and, of course, we had given money for famine relief, but here I was preparing the most elaborate Christmas celebration my family had ever had.

"All at once I resolved not to encourage my children to overeat just because it was our season of rejoicing. Queer how we rejoice, isn't it! And what a dreadful way to do it when in many parts of the world children and grown men and women

A Christmas Prayer This Day of Joy

*As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed the light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.*



*As with joyous steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed, --
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.
Amen*



CHRISTIAN CIVIC LEAGUES PLANNED IN KENTUCKY

Louisville, Ky., (RNS)—Organizing of Christian Civic Leagues to campaign for better local and state governments has begun over Kentucky.

The first of a series of 60 meetings scheduled over the state was held at a joint session of the Kentucky Christian Citizenship Council and the Louisville Christian Civic League.

The leagues will be patterned after the Louisville Christian Civic League. Similar leagues have been organized in several areas just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.

Dr. W. Earl Hotalen of the Methodist North Alabama Conference was principal speaker at the gathering here. He also will tour the state.

The civic leagues have in a number of instances prodded local and state officials into action regarding law enforcement.

have barely enough food to sustain life!

"Simplifying my holiday menus, yet nevertheless providing appetizing and adequate meals with little individual surprises, did not prove too hard to do. It did take a bit of figuring to let Freda and Joan each carry out her wish to cook something special for Aunt Lucia and still keep within the simple plans I had laid out," Doris concluded, "but we seem to have managed to do it to everyone's satisfaction."

"Indeed you have," I heartily agreed, "and you've given your children the best gift of all—a sense of the real meaning of Christmas. It was the One whose Birthday we celebrate who taught us long ago that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and His lessons are never fully understood until they are practiced."—Issued by the National Kindergarten Association.

Christmas Gifts of
Finest Luggage - - And the
Smartest of Leather Goods.

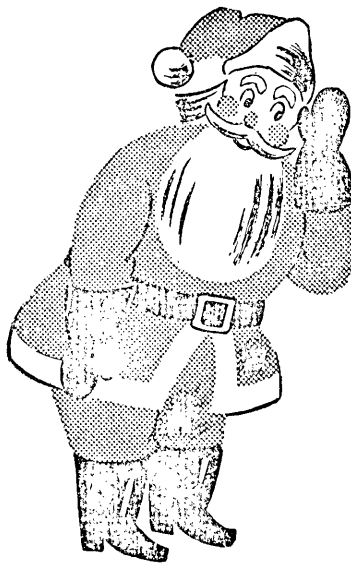


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By W. W. REID

CHRISTMAS MEDITATIONS



WE TURN to China at this Christmas season for aid in our devotional meditations — to two poems written under very different circumstances, by Christian na-

tionals of that land . . .

Just one hundred years ago, the first Methodist missionaries to China were beginning their labors in Foochow and Shanghai—and how they labored for one convert, for one ray of hope that the Christian message might be understood, for one friendly Chinese among the hundreds that shunned, or reviled, or persecuted them! How they would rejoice today in the new understanding, the new hope, the new interpretation of Christmas and of Christianity that come to us from Christian Chinese hearts and pens!

"Stars of Ice" was written as a Chinese carol by T'ien Ching-tu, a student at Yenching University, Peking, China. Professor Bliss Wiant, who wrote the music, says: "The author has created new imagery in that he has drawn upon Chinese epithets. The tune is a simulated Chinese folk-melody." Professor Wiant gives the English translation:

"Stars of ice, wheel of moonlight bright,
Shine on sheep with silvery light;
Humbles shepherds chatting circled round,
Sit content on grassy heights.
Sudden light! Hark, the angels sing!
Shepherds crouch in awe.
Mid the clouds the angels proclaim:
God's Son is born in Bethlehem.

"Dies the song, stars and moon gently fade,
Shepherds leap for very joy;
Leave their quiet flocks, homeward quickly fly,
Worship then the Holy Boy.
Wondrous news thru the streets resounds,
Glad praises fill every home.
Poor man's Savior, peasant's Friend,
Comes today to Bethlehem.

"Learned men from far eastern lands
Kneel before the Holy Child,
Bring abundant gifts, rare, luxuriant,
Miles on miles had they come to adore;
No distance seemed too far.
Boundless, saying, peaceful love
Now has come to Bethlehem."

The other is a Christmas meditation, written from a Japanese prison cell during World War II by Dr. T. C. Chao, faculty member of the School of Theology of Yenching University. It is one of many verses he wrote from that cell. This meditation was written in Chinese, but Dr. Chao himself has given us this free translation:

"Nature is conquered,
While man is not tamed;
Pride and avarice hold sway
To make wars in the world.
While here below man worships evil,
There in heaven He prepares self-sacrifice
To give life for conquest of sin,
To be the Word Incarnate in order to die. . .
Lord, have mercy on me, Thy unworthy follower,
That imprisoned as I am,
I may imitate Thy way;
In tears falling heavily, not for me
But for all who have need of Thee."

A REPORT FROM ATKINS

We begin the year at Atkins with a fine spirit of cooperation. On November 19 we had a fellowship supper in the dining room of the educational building when venison and turkey with all the trimmings were served. Our new district superintendent, Rev. R. E. Connell, and Mrs. Connell, were present. Some say it was the largest attendance at any supper ever given in the building. After the delightful meal Brother Connell held our first Quarterly Conference in such a brotherly and helpful way that he endeared himself to all of us.

Under the splendid leadership of Hays Gibson, our new chairman of the Official Board, the question of finances for the year was presented. An every member canvass was made and we accepted the budget system, using envelopes through the Sunday School which eliminates the offerings at both morning and evening worship.

The church raised the pastor's salary to \$2400.00 for the coming year. Our Sunday School shows a fine increase in attendance. The W. S. C. S., under the leadership of Mrs. A. B. Bates, carries a full program. The Sunday School, under the leadership of David Griffin, is growing splendidly.

We are looking forward to a productive year in the work of the Master.—H. C. Minnis, Pastor.

LARGEST PORTUGUESE
CLOCK CHIMES SACRED
TUNES

Lisbon — (RNS) — The largest clock ever made in Portugal is being exhibited here before being installed in a new Roman Catholic church in Oporto. Weighing three tons, and measuring over three feet high and twelve feet deep, the clock chimes and hours, halves and quarters with sacred tunes.

Make yourself necessary to somebody. Do not make life hard to any.—Emerson.

PRESBYTERIAN BIDS
METHODISTS HELP BIND
WORLD TOGETHER

Grand Rapids, Mich. (RNS) America's effort to avoid war is "like hunting elephants with pop-guns," Dr. Paul C. Payne, Presbyterian church official, told 500 Methodist educators here at closing sessions of the Methodist Conference on Christian Education.

Payne, general secretary of the board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church, USA, blamed the "shortsightedness that is characteristic of our time" as the cause of an "incorrect attitude" on atomic weapons.

"Americans are asking the wrong question about the future," he said. "Instead of 'how can we keep the dictator from getting the weapon', the right question is 'how can we keep any future war from arising' "

"We moved into the machine age and chose the machine gun for its symbol," he charged. We piled up enormous surplus of food and clothing but the only things we were able to distribute impartially were bullets."

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and a
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Contributing Editors:
Ira A. Brumley
Pryor Reed Cruce

CHURCH SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM

"Search Ye the Scriptures" is the title of the Church School Day program soon to be off the press. It has been built around actual experiences with the Bible enjoyed by children and youth making use of either the Group Graded or the Closely Graded Courses. A study of the program will recall meaningful times of Bible Study for each age and will be suggestive of helpful ways for the use of the program.

The stage setting may be made very simple, so that the service is within the possibility of even the small church. We will mail sample copies of the program to pastors in the near future. Additional copies may be had from the Conference Office for the observance of the day set for April 18th in the Little Rock Conference.—Roy E. Fawcett.

DELEGATES TO METHODIST YOUTH CONFERENCE FROM LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE

Arkadelphia District: Rev. Dan R. Robinson (adult), Miss Emogene Dunlap (adult), Hal Butler, Nancy E. Hunter, Eloise Lewis, Martha Sue Moore, Loyd P. Riddlehoover, Robert M. Scott, Willa Ann Stone, Ann Wade, Nancy Williams, Billy Jo Moore, Richard Jan. LeCroy, Joseph A. Gannaway.

Camden District: Rev. W. R. Burks and Rev. Fred Harrison, registrars, Rev. Chas. H. Geissen (adult), Sara Cannefax, Lillian Ruth Riechmann, Oliver Bass, Ruby V. Russell, O. Louise Martel, Forrest D. Windham, Glynn Cottrell, Winston E. Nesbit, Maurice McKinnon, Nat A. Slater, Ann Tennyson, Janice Rushing, Joan Powledge, Sue A. Coulter, Amy Harrell, Brooks Rice.

Little Rock District: Rev. Fred Schwendimann (adult), Mrs. V. B. Story (adult), Mary Rose Story, Eleanor Hill, Virginia Westfall, Barbara J. Brothers, Mary Ann Kincannon, Dorothy Alice Mabrey, Jean W. Dodds, John B. Hays, William A. Holmes, Suella Anderson, Hallie J. Hart, Edith Wheeler, Nancy L. Sanders, Louise Mulkey, Carolyn R. Ricketts, George J. Rice, Robert W. French, Robert P. Smart, Benjamin F. Mackey, Miss Jo Dorsey, Eileen G. Dodds, Mrs. J. Gordon Wilson (adult), Eloise Nelson.

Monticello District: Rev. M. W. Miller, Registrar, Marion W. Miller (adult), Marion M. Miller, Harvey W. Thomasson, Jr., Mary Nell Clayton, Mrs. Martha L. Davis (adult), Rev. Jeff E. Davis (adult), Charles Morton, James E. Constable, Eddie E. Pace.

Pine Bluff District: Rev. Bryan Stephens (adult), Jo C. Knoll, Margaret A. Dial, Bob Meeks, Billy Bob Arnold, Mary L. Schallhorn, Ovitta Sue Harris, Jack Hood, Carr D. Rapp, Jr., Bonnie L. Heien, Austin L. Grandgorge, Ann L. Evans, Patricia I. Owen, Richard W. Wilson, Marilyn Beverly.

Prescott District: Rev. C. Ray Hozendorf (adult), Mrs. Clyde H. Williams (adult), Melba Jean Brown, Jimmy W. Buckley, James M. Cole, Nona K. Eagle, Emily S. Hobbs, David H. Newbern, Dorothy O'Neal, Roy Shert, David W. Timberlake, David Clyde Williams, Mary Carolyn Wilson.

Texarkana District: Rev. Fred L. Arnold, Registrar, Mrs. Edward W.



Methodist Board of Education

"Unto You Is Born... a Saviour"

CHRISTMAS, 1947, began in a stall with cattle and wise men and shepherds, Mary and Joseph and Jesus, the Christ. With an infant born began new life, new hope, a new world. For as the teachings of Jesus have been learned of men, a new world has come, a different world, a better world today than on the first Christmas morn. Schools and universities, hospitals and orphanages; homes for the aged; great music, paintings, literature; democracy at its best; a demand for peace instead of war—these are some of the results of the first Christmas. Yet Christmas, 1947, finds so many who do not know Christ, and so many of Christ's teachings not yet learned. We must make Christmas not only a celebration, but a consecration.

Dec. 21



THE CRUSADE FOR CHRIST IN METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLS

QUONSET HUT CHURCHES DEDICATED IN TOKYO

Tokyo — (RNS) — Six quonset hut churches donated by the United Methodist Service of New York were dedicated here. Each of the churches is fully

Harris (adult), Helen Parnell, John Pinkerton, Babs Cargill, George H. Beasley, Jr., Elizabeth Kitchens, Fred H. Arnold.

equipped for holding services and contains a small apartment for use by the church pastor.

The first structure completed is now the Higashi Wakano church, built on the foundation of a former Universalist-Congregational church. Its pastor is the Rev. Ko Yuki, author of hymns, who conducts services for congregations averaging 80 persons.

BUFFALO ISLAND M. Y. F.

The Buffalo Island M. Y. F. met at Caraway on Monday night, December 8. There were 77 members present representing the following places: Caraway, St. John, Manila and Black Oak.

A devotional program was presented by Caraway consisting of songs, special numbers, scripture and prayer. Following the devotional program a business session was held. Officers were elected as follows: President, Walter Price of St. John; vice-president, Annabeth Davidson of Manila; Secretary and Treasurer, Roselee Cunningham of Black Oak; Reporter, Joey Welch of Caraway, and Adult Counselor, Rev. Theron McKisson of Monette.

The meeting night was changed from the second to the third Monday night in each month. An offering of \$3.67 was received.

The meeting was adjourned for a recreation period during which games were played and refreshments of sandwiches, cookies and cold drinks were served.

The next meeting will be at St. John on Monday night, January 10. —Roselee Cunningham, Reporter.

\$400 STARTS SOOCHOW FACULTY COOPERATIVE

To cope with the high cost of living, inflation, and the black market—all of which plague China today—the faculty of Soochow University, Methodist institution in South China, has organized a "Faculty Cooperative" for the purchase of basic living needs! According to Dr. W. B. Nance, missionary leader at the university, this cooperative was organized with a capital of \$400—the gift of an American friend.

Writing to the donor, Dr. Nance says:

"Inflation has steadily continued through the year and prices have risen. When the \$400 arrived last month it was exchanged at the rate of 30,000 Chinese National Currency to 1 U. S. currency—yielding CNC \$12,000,000.

"A year ago such a gift would have been divided up among members of the Chinese staff to supplement their salaries. But as a result of haphazard attempts at cooperative buying of staple necessities, such as rice and kerosene, our group has acquired a lot of experience and this experience has led to a well worked out plan for the 'Soochow Faculty Cooperative', in which members will take shares, profit by lower prices for commodities purchased in wholesale lots, and share in any profits accruing. An initial capital was needed to start the scheme—our faculty members have very limited resources today—and your gift meets that need.

"In the name of my Chinese fellow workers in the fundamental task of developing Chinese youth of intelligence and Christian character, so sorely needed in this land, I express to you our deep appreciation of your gift and the spirit that prompted it."

Commitment Day, February 15, 1948, is of paramount importance.

Only when I know God shall I know myself. —Author unknown

CHRISTMAS COMES AGAIN TO THE CHILDREN AT THE METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

"OF THINGS TO COME"

LOOKING back over the year that has passed, we feel constrained to recount the good things which have come to us here in the Home. Of course the

boys and girls to really become a spiritual "strength" in the life of our nation.

With our faces to the future, assured of the support of our great church and the blessings of God upon our work, "things present"

and by-laws of the Methodist Children's Home.

A list of the names and addresses of the present Board of Trustees of the Methodist Children's Home.

Two issues of the Arkansas Methodist containing the appointments of the North Arkansas and Little Rock Conferences for the year 1947.

Some kodak pictures of children now in the Home, with their names and ages written on them.

Some pieces of recent descriptive literature about the New Home.

And finally, a letter from all the children, addressed to "THE CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE". Every child in the new Home signed this

The grace of our Lord Jesus rest upon and abide with you always.

With love and good wishes,
(signed by all the children.)

The building may well stand one hundred years. Because of the quality of work and material going into it, it might conceivably stand five hundred years. When it is torn down, some one will find these mementoes and this letter. What will their reaction be? Will there be an Arkansas Methodist in existence then? Will they republish the list of appointments of the two Conferences of 1947?

We know that however we may



days have not all been sunshine. We have faced disappointment, anxiety and frustration. But all these are as nothing compared to the joys that have come to us.

The kindness, good wishes and liberal support which the churches and individuals have given us, stir our hearts. Mere words are inadequate to express our gratitude. We can only say, we thank you. Then too, we are grateful for the large group of children which have been ours to work with through the year. Can there be any greater joy than watching the unfolding life of a child as step by step he develops in body, mind and soul? Surely, God gives us no greater opportunity for service than that of training children in the ways of truth and righteousness. It has been said that "children are the strength of the nation." Granting the truth of the statement, we must realize that this "strength of the nation" must be directed along Christian paths, else it will become a menace to the future welfare of the nation.

This year, as we approach the Christmas season, we have another cause for rejoicing. We are beginning to realize the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams of the past four years. In our new location on the pine clad hill adjacent to Oak Forest Addition to Little Rock, there is the first of our new buildings making its appearance. Day by day, bricks, tile, mortar and steel are taking form and developing into a cottage; a cottage for children.

It is one of the greatest joys of the year for us and for our children to go out and watch the workmen as they build this unit of our future home. Yes, it may be, that when Christmas of 1948 approaches, we will be in our new Home. That would be a Christmas never to be forgotten. It would mark the beginning of a new era of service and usefulness of the church in this field. Through the years that lie ahead, it would mean renewed hope and a new chance for countless

will merge into a glorious era of "things to come".

A MEMORABLE EVENT

A few days ago, a group of our children assembled at the new location where work is in progress on our first building. We had prepared in advance numerous articles to go into the corner of the building, there to await some distant day when the building should be torn down, and the contents made public. Sealed in a glass container, these mementoes were deposited by little Jimmy Sullivan, aged five, while the other children from the Home looked on. After placing the container in the corner of the building where a place had been prepared to receive it, Jimmy lays the



brick and tile over it and then the workmen seal it up.

Rev. Ewing T. Wayland, associate editor of the Arkansas Methodist, made the photograph. Dr. E. T. Wayland, editor of the Methodist, was also present.

List of Articles Deposited

A copy of the original constitution and by-laws of the Arkansas Methodist Orphanage.

A copy of the new constitution

letter. Here is what they said:

To The Children Of The Future

We, the children now living in the Methodist Home located at 1610 Elm Street, in the city of Little Rock, extend greeting to generations of children of the far distant future.

It may be one hundred years or more before this letter which we now deposit in the corner of this, the first building of our new home, will be found and read. Perhaps some of our children, or grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, may see and read this letter. If

try to preserve any material things, time will ultimately overtake our best laid plans, but we know also, that some things, like love, truth and kindly ministries are imperishable.

YES, CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE AGAIN

Many parcels and packages have already been received. How to keep them from prying eyes is a problem that keeps us on the alert. The most popular music now is the Christmas carol. We are grateful, not only for all the usual Christmas toys and presents, but for the large contributions of the more practical things, fruit, canned peaches, preserves, vegetables and many other varieties of food.

Some Christmas offerings are beginning to reach our office. One of our churches which sent us \$135.00 last year, sent us a check the other day for \$300.00. We are greatly encouraged over reports reaching us from over the two Conferences. The folks called Methodists are showing a real interest, we may add, a growing interest in our welfare and in the progress of our building plans. May Christmas bring joy and renewed hope to pastors and people throughout the two conferences.—

J. S. M. Cannon, Superintendent.

1340 CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES IN JAPAN

Tokyo — (RNS) — There were 1,340 Protestant and Roman Catholic missionaries in Japan as of October 30, 1947, it was announced here. Of this total Catholic missionaries numbered 1,120.

A total of 365 Catholic and Protestant missionaries have arrived here since September, 1945. Of the 220 Protestant workers currently assigned here, 203 have arrived in the past two years.

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

RECEPTION AT FIRST CHURCH HELENA

A reception was held in the parlors of the Methodist Church at Helena Tuesday evening, December 2, honoring Dr. and Mrs. Golder Lawrence. Dr. Lawrence was reassigned to the church at the Conference at Forrest City.

Fall flowers were used in the decorations and a greeting was extended at the door by H. G. Stephens, Sr. In the receiving line were Mrs. W. F. Evans, president of the W. S. C. S., Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts of California, parents of Dr. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Burks, Rev. Ethan Dodgen, district superintendent, and Mrs. Dodgen, Dr. and Mrs. R. O. McRae of Elaine and Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Watson of West Helena.

Serving at the tea table were Mrs. H. S. Horner, Mrs. E. S. Ready, Mrs. Herbert Hill and Mrs. Al Haraway.

The women of the church assisted in extending hospitality to the several hundred guests who called between the hours of eight and ten.—Reporter.

THE NAYLOR CHARGE

We are happy to find so many loyal people on the Naylor Charge. We have been here only two weeks and have been busy since the parsonage was pretty badly run down and our new church building is not finished. We have hopes that it will be finished in time for a dedication program this coming summer.

The Mt. Vernon school entertained us with a program and a fine Thanksgiving dinner, and Oakland entertained us with a nice program and a delicious Thanksgiving supper at the church. Mt. Vernon gave us a pounding and Bethlehem gave us a love offering last Sunday consisting of \$12.00 to buy a rug for one of our rooms.

Our district superintendent, Brother Connell, and First Church, Conway, have heard and answered the Macedonian call for which we are very grateful.

We have started a special Bible study class on Thursday nights here in Naylor and we intend to start a Youth Fellowship the second Sunday night of this month. We are also organizing a Youth Fellowship at Mt. Vernon in the near future. There is already a Youth Fellowship at Oakland.

Plans have been made to organize a Woman's Society of Christian Service at three of our points. We think this will be accomplished soon.—Rev. and Mrs. Fred M. Thompson.

THE WORK AT AMITY

Rev. R. C. Walsh has been assigned to the church at Amity for the Conference year. Amity was one of the churches in the Conference left "to be supplied". Brother Walsh preached here Sunday morning, December 7, and delivered a fine sermon. Other churches of the circuit will be supplied by the district superintendents of the Arkadelphia and Pottsville Districts.

We wish to thank our fine elder, Brother Harrell, for helping us fill the shoes of the man who next to the district superintendent is closest to the heart of most communities.—Wallis L. Lowmy, Jr.

BEN FEW SUB-DISTRICT MEETS

The Ben Few Sub-district of the Methodist Youth Fellowship met at the Mount Carmel Church Monday night, December 1.

The young people from Carthage had charge of the program. Their sponsor, Mr. Holliand, talked to the group on "Working With The Right Motives".

A brief business meeting of the presidents from each church was held to decide on what basis the loving cup could be won. It was decided to have different things such as stunts, percentage of attendance and the largest number present. At the end of three years the charge having received the cup the greatest number of times will keep the cup. At the next meeting the young people from each charge will give a stunt. The winner will receive the loving cup to keep until the next meeting.

Rev. Dan Robinson led the group in several songs.

Refreshments were served by the young people from Holly Springs.

A total of 132 were present. The next meeting will be at Carthage on January 5.—Bobbie Jane Hunter, Secretary.

FOUNTAIN LAKE CHURCH

Fountain Lake Church is one of our new churches. It is only three years old. The church was built during the pastorate of Rev. S. K. Burnett. It is a nice little stucco building with basement, which includes a kitchen, a class room, and a social hall. The main floor has two Sunday School rooms, one on each side of the pulpit. It has two pianos and very nice and substantial pews. Rev. C. H. Gilliam is now in his second year as pastor. It is a full time station, and bids fair to become a thriving and fast growing church. It is surrounded by well to do business men and farmers, who constitute the backbone and hope of its future prosperity.

It was the pleasure of the writer, together with Dr. Francis A. Buddin and Rev. J. D. Baker, to attend a men's fellowship supper at Fountain Lake last Thursday evening. There were some thirty odd men and boys present. The supper consisted of barbecued kid, pickle, bread and coffee. It was well prepared and very delicious. And the way some of the brethren ate it was a sight!

The program consisted of a number of impromptu speeches which were made in response to the host pastor and master of ceremonies, Rev. C. H. Gilliam, and a prepared address delivered by Dr. Buddin on the subject of "The Essential Features of a Successful Church", which was enjoyed by all.

Brother Gilliam announced that the men's organization would feature a fellowship supper once each month, and extended an invitation to all visitors to come back and fellowship again with the brethren. He also announced that he had raised \$2,000 since conference toward building a parsonage. We expect to see this parsonage up before the sitting of our next annual conference.—J. A. Wade.

All Methodism will make much of the First Sunday in Lent, 1948.

ALICIA M. Y. F. NEWS

The Alicia M. Y. F. met Sunday night, November 30, at the Methodist Church in Alicia. There were ten members and the counselor present. Officers were elected for the next six months as follows: President, Deleena Smith; Vice-president, Frances Sue Rogers; Secretary, Janice Harris; Treasurer, Monroe Smith; Reporter, Cleveland Rogers; Worship chairman, Janie Rogers; Recreation chairman, Barbara Pickett; Community Service chairman, Loka Rogers; Mission chairman, Ben Edwin Owens.

It was planned that the M. Y. F. have charge of the community Christmas tree and program.

On Friday night preceding this meeting, the M. Y. F. had a weiner roast for their monthly entertain-

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*Let Christmas not become a thing
Merely of merchants' trafficking,
Of tinsel, bell and holly wreath
And surface pleasure, but beneath
The childish glamor let us find
Nourishment for soul and mind.
Let us follow kinder ways
Through our teeming human maze
And help the age of peace to come
From a Dreamer's martyrdom.*

—Madeline Morse

ment. Cold drinks and marshmallows were also served. Transportation was furnished for the outing which was held a few miles from the church. Twenty members were present and all enjoyed it very much.—Cleveland Rogers, Reporter.

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Merry Christmas
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Happy New Year!



We've served many of you during the year now closing, and hope to enjoy the same privilege in the years to come.

NEWS ABOUT HENDRIX COLLEGE

Varied Christmas Activities

Features of the pre-Christmas activities include the annual Christmas candlelight service in chapel and the annual concert by the Choristers and the Concert Band.

The candlelight service, presented by the Fine Arts Department, has been a highlight of the religious Christmas activities every year since 1932, with the exception of last year.

The program opened with the reading of the Scripture by Rev. James Upton, professor of religion, and prayer by Rev. Carl Keightley, associate pastor of the First Methodist Church of Conway.

Special music was furnished by the Choristers, under the direction of J. Glenn Metcalf, associate professor of music; and the Brass Choir, under the direction of Ashley R. Coffman, assistant professor of music. Soloists with the choristers were Jean McAnnally, soprano, and Robert McDaniel, baritone. Carolyn Moore, pianist, and Doyle Grogan, organist, accompanied the Choristers.

The gymnasium was decorated as a chapel with a large stained glass cathedral window in the background. As the Choristers sang "Holy Night" they formed an enormous cross.

The Concert Band and the Choristers presented their annual program of Christmas music in Axley Gymnasium December 17. Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Coffman were in charge of the program.

Among the many Christmas hymns and carols sung and played were excerpts from Handel's "The Messiah".

Other activities during the Christmas season included the Christmas Frolic December 13, a reception for Senior students held by the Dames Club at the home of President Ellis, open house at Galloway Hall and Martin Hall, and a student-faculty Christmas dinner at Tabor Hall.

Tabor Hall was appropriately decorated and special music was furnished during the Christmas meal. Turkey and "all the trimmings" were served by Mrs. G. A. Hulen, dietician.

1948 Warrior Captains Announced

Captains of the 1948 Warrior football team are to be Harry Buchanan, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Buchanan of Paragould, and John Douthitt of Batesville.

Lee Yarbrough, son of Mr. H. S. Yarbrough of Conway, was given his football jersey by Coach Ivan H. Grove, athletic director at Hendrix. Announcing that Yarbrough's number 13 would not be worn at Hendrix again, Coach Grove described him as "the best defensive back seen in 24 years of coaching."

Troubadour Ahead Of Schedule

The Troubadour, student published yearbook, is expected to be half completed by January, Tom Hervey, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Hervey of Pine Bluff, editor of the publication, announced. Fifty percent of the total pictures have been sent to the engraver. According to the present schedule, the 224 page yearbook will be ready for distribution in May.

Eric Wade, also of Pine Bluff, is business manager of the publication. —Harold L. Nance.

The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God.—Daniel Webster.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S RALLY

The Young People's Rally met November 30, 1947, at the Stanford Methodist Church. The theme for the program was "Proof of a Christian". There was a large attendance and everyone enjoyed the trip. It was stated that the Ebenezer Methodist Church will entertain the next rally in February, 1948. Everyone is invited to attend.

The program was as follows: Song service directed by Jess Gramling and pianist, Mrs. Earl Gramling; Prayer by Rev. Alvin Gibbs; Devotion by Mrs. Edna Poppe; Welcome Address by Rev. J. J. Pollard; Special song by Five Oaks Quartet; Reading by Stanford; Sunday School Lesson discussed by Brother B. P. Atkinson; Special song by Mrs. Christine Braman; Sermon by Rev. M. J. Pollard; Announcements by chairman and host pastor; Benediction by Brother Alvis Wright.

After church was dismissed, lunch was served at the church. Following lunch the young people met to discuss ways to improve the rally.

Quiet music was played by Mrs. Earl Gramling; Prayer by Mrs. Gertrude Simmons; Business by chairman; Piano solo by Patty Adams; Devotion by Ella Mae Stokes; Choruses led by Patty Adams; Special song by Five Oaks Quartet; Prayer by Brother John Simmons; Talk by Curtis Bass; Special song by Dixie Adams; Benediction by Rev. Albert Gibbs.

The churches represented and the number attending from each were: Stanford, 41; Morn's Chapel, 14; Cache Lake, 5; Gravel Hill, 5; Lonely Chapel, 1; Simmons Chapel, 1; Leonard, 2; Union Grove, 16; Hurricane, 9; Five Oaks, 12; Ramer's Chapel, 10; Liberty Hill, 4; Ebenezer, 7; Pleasant Grove, 3; and Smithville, 5.

Union Grove church received the banner for having the greatest number present.—Ella Mae Stokes.

Happiness is a by-product of proper living.—Ex.

Gist of the Lesson 1948

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DINNER FOR PASTORS AND WIVES OF ARKADELPHIA DISTRICT

Rev. and Mrs. R. B. Moore entertained the ministers and their wives of the Arkadelphia District with a turkey dinner at the First Methodist Church of Arkadelphia, Tuesday, December 9th. In keeping with the holiday spirit, red candles, red berries, and greenery were used to decorate the tables for this festive occasion. The delicious meal which Mrs. Moore had prepared, and was served by the women of the First Methodist Church, was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone present.

Dr. F. A. Buddin, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Hot Springs, was the spokesman for the

guests. He had to use much of his fine vocabulary to express to Brother and Mrs. Moore the appreciation of those present for the delicious meal, and the lovely fellowship enjoyed around the table.

Preceding the dinner Brother Moore met with the ministers in a business session to outline the district program for the winter months. Rev. Roy E. Fawcett of Little Rock gave the group some helpful suggestions concerning the Church School campaign in the Crusade for Christ program.

While the preachers were meeting with Brother Moore, the women assembled in another part of the church. There they had a "get acquainted" and social hour together. —John B. Hefley, Secretary.

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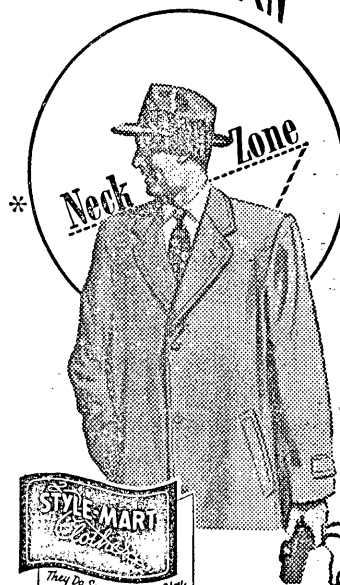
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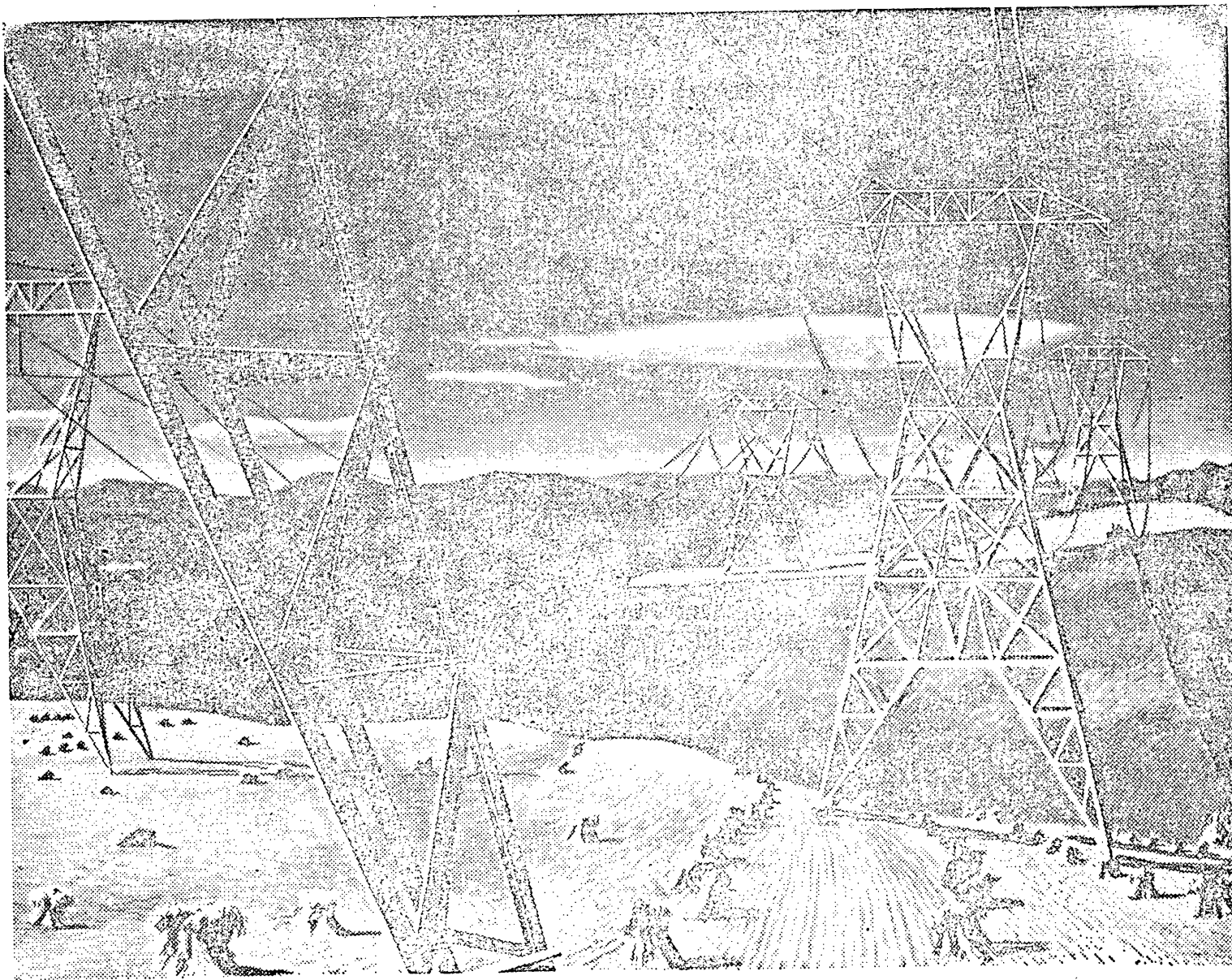
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You've sung that song many times—"God Bless America" . . . but have you ever realized just how much this great land of ours HAS been blessed—with abundance, with liberty, with endless opportunity?

With determination, toil and devotion the greatest democracy in the world has been built. Our sons and daughters have fought and died to defend it.

In all recorded history, twenty-two great civilizations have arisen but only seven have lived! Will American democracy survive the destructive forces which threaten it today?

We believe it depends upon our attitude, as individuals and a nation, to our homes, our churches and our schools—the basic institutions where the better way of American living should be taught by precept and example.

For remember this—the greatest nation ever built will not survive if the moral and spiritual fiber of its citizens has been destroyed.

Yes, God HAS blessed our America . . . let us give thanks by living the right way . . . the better way. And that means simply living His way.

ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY**HELPING BUILD ARKANSAS**

The Sunday School Lesson

By DR. O. E. GODDARD



GOD'S ETERNAL RULE

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 28, 1947

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Jude 24-25; Revelation 16-22; Matthew 2.

GOLDEN TEXT: Thy kingdom is a everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.—Psalms 145:13.

Retrospective And Prospective

Today's lesson is the last lesson of the quarter and the last lesson of the year 1947.

The gospel of John furnished our text for the first quarter of the past year. The second quarter we had the rise and fall of a nation; for the third, ancient writings and modern problems; then the fourth, General Epistles, Hebrews and Revelation.

For the ensuing year, 1948, first quarter, "Great Christian Teaching"; second, "Captivity and Return of the Jews"; third, "Unheralded Bible Characters"; and fourth, "Literature of the Bible".

This appears to be an interesting bill of fare for 1948. Perhaps the most practical lessons of last year were those of the third quarter, "Ancient Writing and Modern Problems". It was most profitable to find how helpful the wisdom books are to us today, as touching the problems we face. I can not surmise which quarter's lessons are to be most needed and most desirable to study, but I am sure that "Unheralded Bible Characters" will claim a large interest.

A Mysterious Book

I frankly and humbly confess that there is much in Revelation that I do not understand. I suspect I am confessing also for the major part of my readers. I have seen some good people who thought they had the key to its interpretation. Some have become so confused that they were pronounced "cranky" and "unbalanced" even to the extent that they have been placed in an institution for nervous diseases, in order to protect their families from violence of them under their craze.

If I am cranky, myself, it is not because of excessive reading and pondering on this book. My advice to you is to read the book occasionally. Get all the spiritual help you can from it. Pass up the indigestible and incomprehensible parts. I am rooted and grounded in the eternal verities of the gospel. I got the major part of the fundamentals of Christianity from Jesus and Paul.

Jesus Has Gone To Prepare A Place For Us

He has not only gone to prepare a place for us, but he has promised to come again and receive us unto himself. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know." (St. John 14:1-4.)

What Bodies Shall We Have In Heaven?

But some one will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind

of body do they come?" You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

"But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For all flesh is not alike, but there is one kind for man, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are celestial bodies and there are terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power." I Corinthians 15:35-43, Revised Standard Version.

What Shall Become Of The Living When Jesus Comes?

"Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For the perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality." I Corinthians 15:51-53, Revised S. V.

What And Where Is Heaven?

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: For the first heaven and the first earth were passed; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:1-4.

Is this a picture of our eternal world redeemed? There is no statement that we shall ascend to this place, but it says it shall come down to us. When this book was written, Jerusalem had fallen and the Jews were a conquered people. They felt worse than we would have felt had the Germans invaded our country, captured Washington City, and subjugated us. The temple was the center of their religious and political life, dearer to them than our Washington City is to us. The desolation and destruction was unbearable to the Jews. We cannot conceive of their utter despair. The inspired writer was trying to cheer

them by giving them a picture of what the world would be when fully redeemed by Jesus Christ. I think our eternal heaven beggars description! Eyes can not see it, ears cannot hear it, and the brain of man cannot conceive it. We have no vocabulary with which to describe it. It is a celestial world. Ours is a terrestrial world. Heaven is too ethereal, too divine, to be described with our materialistic words. The immaterial heaven may fill all the immensity of space.

Who Will Be There?

All who trusted in Jesus Christ, were loyal to him, and by reason of their committal to Jesus had a righteous life. All will be holy there, all will be sanctified. All will be Christ-like. No unclean, dishonest, self-centered, insubordinate person will be there. It will be God's one great family, forever and forever.

Hymns About Heaven

"There is a land of pure delight,
where saints immortal reign;
Infinite day excludes the night,
and pleasures vanish pain.
There everlasting spring abides,
and never-withering flowers;
Death, like a narrow sea,
divides this heavenly land from ours."

—Isaac Watts.

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.
O the transporting, rapturous scene
that rises to my sight,
Sweet fields arrayed in living green,
and rivers of delight."

—Samuel Stennett

"I will sing you a song of that
beautiful land, the far away home
of the soul,
Where no storms ever beat on the
glittering strand, while the years
of eternity roll."

—Ellen C. Gates

"How happy every child of grace,
who knows his sins forgiven!
'This earth' he cries, 'is not my
place, I seek my place in heaven,
A country far from mortal sight,
which by faith I see;
The land of rest, the saints' delight,
the heaven prepared for me."

—Charles Wesley

"Hark, hark, my soul! angelic songs
are swelling,
O'er earth's green fields and
Ocean's wave-beat shore;
How sweet the truth those blessed
strains are telling
Of that new life when sin shall be
no more!

Angels of Jesus, angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of
the night.

—Frederick Faber.

Think More And Talk More Of Heaven

And the time I graduated from Hendrix College, I was notified that I had been accepted as a foreign missionary to China but might not be sent for a few years. I was eager to learn all I could about China. I searched all the available books to learn as much as possible about my future home.

Millions of Christians have the witness of the Spirit, that is, they have been informed by the Spirit that they have a title to a mansion in the sky which they are to inhabit for millions of years. Should not all people be intensely interested in heaven? Why has the subject of heaven been tabooed in polite conversation, and soft-pedaled in the pulpit?

Some weeks before he passed on, I called on my very dear friend, Dr. J. A. Anderson, and found him in the wheel chair on the porch. He said, "Oscar, I have been sitting here thinking of heaven, wondering how it looks, and what we shall do over there. What do you think about heaven?" My reply was, "It is difficult for me to visualize hea-

(Continued on Page 16)

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GOD'S ETERNAL RULE

(Continued from Page 15)

ven and still more difficult for me to vocalize my conception of heaven. My vocabulary is so materialistic that I find it hard to conceive a purely immaterial realm. I doubt whether we while in the flesh can conceive of heaven as it is." Then he said, "What kind of bodies will we have?" I said, "My best venture would be that our risen bodies will be like the risen body of Jesus. He passed through closed doors. He ascended from the earth. His body passed through solid substances and did not seem to be subject to the laws of gravitation."

"Beloved it does not yet appear what we shall be but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like Him."

"O, that will be glory for me, when I shall see Him face to face, and tell the story, saved by grace."

Another question he raised, "What about locomotion and transportation?" I said, "It may be by thought. Psychologically, we can think ourselves into London in an instant. It may be something like that in heaven. In our immaterial bodies we may be able to think ourselves across a distance of a million miles a second." "Well," he said, "We need not worry about it. All our thinking is too inchoate. Thank God you and I shall soon know as we are known. We shall soon really know what it is to be there."

The thought of such an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled, ought to fill us with joys unspeakable and full of glory. I believe without a doubt that Christians have a right to shout. Hallelujah! Amen, and amen!

BELIEFS THAT MATTER

LESSON FOR JANUARY 4, 1948

SCRIPTURE TEXT: John 20:30-31; Acts 16:11-15; I Timothy 4:16; I John 5:1-5.

GOLDEN TEXT: Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and every one who loves the parent loves the child.—I John 5:1. R. S. Version.

Our subject for the first quarter of the year 1948 is, "Great Christian Teachings". We shall deal much with the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. This should prove interesting and profitable, as we learn more of the basic doctrines of Christianity. A doctrinal sermon is not a sermon on the mode of baptism, the form of church government, nor on who was Melchizedek. Basic teachings do not include any of the mooted questions among the churches. They go to the roots of the Christian way of life.

The Most Foolish Sayings

Many foolish and inconsequential sayings get into circulation. Some of them may seem wise, to some people, but many of them seem foolish. Here are examples: "Bad boys make the best men." "A good beginning makes a bad ending." "Plant potatoes in the dark of the moon." (A better place is in the ground.) "Friday is an unlucky day." "Never begin anything on the thirteenth." The most of such sayings are silly or misleading. Most all of them are untruthful. But the silliest and the most untruthful of all is this: "It matters not what you believe, just so you live right." This is the quintessence of foolishness and inaccuracy.

Belief The Genesis Of All Action

A free man's conduct is determined almost wholly by what he believes. A man's belief about God determines his action toward God. What a man believes about the church motivates his action toward the church. What a man believes about his country determines whether he is a loyal or disloyal citizen. What a man believes about his fellowman actuates all his conduct manward. What a man believes about virtue is indicative of how he will act when action in the matter is involved. Of all the silly sayings evolved by shallow brains, the silliest of all is, that it does not matter what you believe just so you act all right. All right action stems from right beliefs, and all wrong action emerges from wrong beliefs. A man's conduct toward his fellowman, his government, and his God is determined by what he believes.

Belief Energizes, Unbelief Enervates

Belief makes heroes and heroines. Unbelief makes cowards and weaklings. There is no heroism apart from belief. Unbelief never made a martyr or a hero. The Romans were invincible as long as they believed in their gods, and felt that Mars was leading them on to victory. Rome was made mistress of the world by soldiers and statesmen who had an ideology and were willing to die for that ideology. When they began to doubt that ideology they became flabby and the barbarians overran them and they went down in shame. A strong ideology based on an error is stronger than an ideology based on truth but only half believed or doubted.

In World War I, the Russians had a Christian ideology, vaguely held, and half believed. Their basic truth was sound but they were not gripped by it so as to impel them to desperation. They were weak, vodka-soaked, worthless soldiers. Should World War III come upon us (I am writing this lesson October 8, 1947) they would go into it gripped, possessed, obsessed, by an ideology that would make them desperate soldiers. Their ideology is based on an error but they believe in it so intensely that it makes them heroes and heroines. If the democracies of the world had the sublime faith in the principles of democracy, that the Soviets have in Communism—such an ideology would make them invincible and dominant in war or peace all over the world.

God Wants Us To Have An Intelligent Faith In Him

God inspired John to write the Gospel of John in order that we might learn more of Him: "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and believing ye might have life through his name." St. John 20:31.

God wanted to share his love for humanity as exhibited by the love of a new convert under Paul's ministry. "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord had opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, if ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us." Acts 16:14-15.

God further wanted to show how He is revealed in Christ. "Take

need unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." I Timothy 4:16.

God wants us to know that He will overcome the world by Christ. "Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and every one who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we are the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" I John 5:1-5.

The Purpose Of The Four Lessons In January

The purpose of today's lesson and the three other lessons of January is to clarify the ideas of adults about God. If a careful study of these lessons does give us a clearer and more intelligent conception of God, we shall be amply repaid by such study.

God Wants Us To Know Him

God has been through all the past centuries trying to reveal himself to us. Abraham received a revelation. "Now the Lord had said to Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee. And I will make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the families be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3.

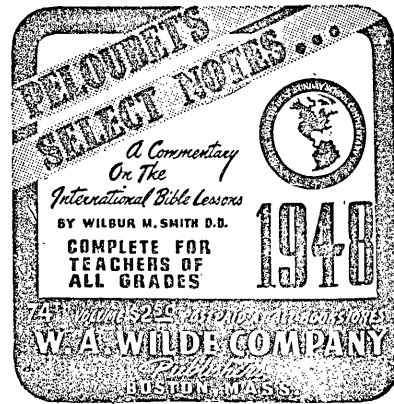
God revealed himself to Moses. (Please read the entire chapter of Genesis 3).

Isaiah, Jeremiah, and all the prophets, great and small, were the recipients of revelations from God. Paul had revelations and visions galore. Indeed the Bible from Gene-

sis to Revelation is a perpetual revelation of God. God wants us to know his goodness, his omnipotence, his omniscience, his omnipresence, and above all his fatherly love for us.

If we adore Him, worship Him, love Him, and obey Him, we shall become like Him. We assimilate the character of the object which we worship. "We shall be like Him for we shall see him as He is." The final objective of all revelation from God is that we may know Him in the fullness of his power, and glory and salvation! May his power, his love, and his spirit, be yours for a larger and greater service in bringing men and women to know him "Whom to know aright is life eternal."

When everything seems to be going dead wrong, take a good look and see if you are not headed in the wrong direction.—Construction Digest.



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