

end times
messenger



DECEMBER/1978 VOL.42 NO.12



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When Christmas Will Be Superseded Page 9



by IRVIN W. ELLIS

Giving Ourselves to Christ by IRVIN W. ELLIS

In the midst of our gift-giving, we need to be reminded once again that Christmas is *supposed* to be *His birthday*. There is a danger of giving such attention to others that we lose sight of the most important person of all, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conscientious Christians sincerely desire to give Christ His proper place of pre-eminence in their lives, not only during the month of December but the remaining months of the year as well. With others, seasonal sentiment has taken the place of sacrifice and service, which God expects from every true believer.

It is at this time of year that we have particularly impressed upon us the truth of God's "unspeakable gift" coming to us as a babe in Bethlehem's manger. Keep in mind, however, that "Jehovah-Saviour" not only came to us but also *for* us. The message of the angels to the shepherds, that eventful night on the Judean hillside, is for all men everywhere.

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

A Saviour promised — a Saviour provided. A Saviour Who must be personally recognized and received, if His redemptive work on our behalf is to benefit us.

Once we realize our need of Christ and receive Him as our personal Saviour from sin, we are then in a position to make what is known as the "great exchange."

"For the love of God constraineth us: because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14,15).

The Lord Jesus Christ did pour out His life on Calvary for you and me. He *"gave Himself a ransom for all,"* to buy

us back from the enslavement of sin. The Lord Jesus Christ now not only claims us by right of creation (for He made us), but His far greater claim by right of redemption. The Apostle Paul puts it this way:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

We have been liberated — made free to serve our new Master, not because of fear, but by the inward compulsion of divine love being shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. He deserves our wholehearted devotion rather than mere lip service.

What God expects from you is not primarily your time, talents or means, but *YOU!* The totality of your being — body, soul and spirit. If He succeeds in getting you, all these other things will be His also. Have you given yourself to God in a once-for-all, absolute and unconditional act of surrender. Remember, He can only use as much of you — your time — your talents — your money, as you give to Him. The extent of your usefulness will be determined by the extent of your yieldedness to God's plan for your life.

It was Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, who sent an ultimatum to Ahab, king of Israel, demanding unconditional surrender and complete subjection. The king of Israel complied with these words, *"I am thine, and all that I have."* Have you said this, and meant it, to God? If not, make this Christmas your most memorable by giving yourself, without reservation, to the One Who came to bring you peace with God and the forgiveness of your sins.†



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STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada Inc., is a Fellowship of Full Gospel churches holding forth the message of the power of God and the Gospel of the Grace of God.

WE BELIEVE: 1. In the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. 2. In the existence of One True God who has revealed Himself to this world as the Father, as the Son and as the Holy Spirit. 3. In the Saviour of men, the Lord Jesus Christ, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very Man. 4. In the creation, test and fall of man, as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness. 5. In the Gospel of the Grace of God, how that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day for our justification. 6. In the salvation of sinners by Grace alone, through faith in the perfect and sufficient work of Christ on our behalf upon the Cross of Calvary. 7. In Water Baptism of believers by immersion in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8. In the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation, with the scriptural evidence; namely, speaking in tongues. 9. In the Gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians, being exercised and practiced as manifest in the early Church. 10. In the Lord's Memorial, commonly called Supper, for believers. 11. In the healing of the body by Divine Power, or Divine Healing in many aspects as practiced by the early Church. 12. In the eternal life of the believer and the eternal punishment of the unbeliever. 13. In the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world, and the perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith. 14. In the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church.

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When God Came Down

by LORNE O. PRITCHARD

Christmas texts abound. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son . . ." (John 3:16). "When the fulness of the time was come God sent forth His son,

made of a woman . . ." (Galatians 4:4). "For unto us a child is born . . ." (Isaiah 9:6). These are but a few examples of the many wonderful texts of Scripture.

But perhaps the most profound text of all is found in I Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh . . ." What a profound statement is here. "God manifest in flesh." However, that is the true meaning of Christmas.

Twice this year, over 500 bells were heard ringing in the streets of Rome. The bells were telling the world that a new Pope had been elected. We were able to view the scenes on television as the crowds were shouting, the bands marching and the bells ringing.

Then a hush came over the assembled crowds as the new Pope prepared to speak, to offer his first blessing. To many it was a great event. Roman Catholics around the world were moved by this making of history. There is no question about it, the election of a Pope has an impact upon the world.

But these very recent events, although literal, historical and important, fade into nothingness in the light of an event of two thousand years ago. An event that outshone and outshines all others.

For Christmas is a reminder that Christ came. It declares a fact above all other facts, God was manifest in the flesh. What a profound statement! What a tremendous fact!

God was manifest in the flesh. If that statement is not wholly true, then, like many other Bible statements, it is wholly false. In no way is it partly true and partly false. It is to be wholly rejected or wholly accepted. There is no other logical ground.

If this text is not true we can ignore, reject and destroy our Bibles. The basis of our Christian faith is gone. Then there is no Christian faith, for this faith rests on the fact that God was manifest in the flesh.

Christmas has become so commercialized that its real meaning is almost totally lost. We all get so busy and burdened with our buying and baking, our shopping and spending that our minds are incapable of true reflection.

Think! Think about it! Think about

this text! God was manifest. Make no mistake here. God is. God is before all things. God has created all things. "In the beginning God." But now, since His creating of things, since His creating human beings, so very recently, only nineteen centuries ago — this God of creation is, in a very special way, manifested.

The word "manifest" arrests me. In the book "Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words," V.E. Vine states that the word "manifest" means: "open to sight," "visible," "clear," "known," "to appear."

So we could translate the text. God was made open to sight. God was made visible. God was clearly shown. God was made known. God appeared! The work was not done in the dark. The true light had come into the world.

What is to be remembered at Christmastime? This great fact of all facts. God was made visible. God was here in human flesh. Christmas means this or it has no meaning at all.

The doctrine of Mary and the Virgin Birth does not seem incredible in the light of all this. If God and Christmas are so interlocked and interlinked, we must expect the unusual to be a part of that wonderful Christmas story. How could it be otherwise?

God manifest in the flesh. "Flesh," what a subject that is. Said the prophet, "All flesh is as grass . . ." Flesh as we know it is temporal. Flesh as we know it is fading. "Change and decay in all around I see." To become flesh means to come into the realm of time as we know it.

To convey these facts is beyond me. God was manifest — that fact lifts the Person of Christ above all others. Before His coming there had been no one like Him. Since His coming there has been no one like Him. He stands apart. He stands alone. Says the writer of the Hebrews, "Consider the (not a) Apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." He is above us.

But, God was manifest in the flesh. God became flesh. He came among us. He became one of us. He became one with us in our humanity. If we were using the language of the Old Testament we would write the word "selah." Pause here. Think about that before you read on.

Christmas is still saying this. Christmas means that Christ came out of eternity into time. Out of limitless space into the limits of space. From celestial glory to the realm of the terrestrial. He came from heaven to this earth. That is the meaning of Christmas.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise; When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. And the Angel said to Joseph, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us!" No more words are necessary. That child born, that son given, at the first Christmas Day was and is none other than Emmanuel! Emmanuel! God with us. How great the mystery. "God was manifest in the flesh."†



FOR UNTO US

a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Isaiah 9:6; John 3:16.

LORD JESUS

THE WAY

THE LAMB

SON OF GOD

THE LIFE

No Other Name Saves!

In his defence before the Sanhedrin the fearless apostle Peter declared it was the name of Jesus Christ that assures the salvation of every one that believeth. It was a tremendous declaration of Christian faith, but abundantly substantiated by the Scriptures and the saints of every century.

It was by His death on the Cross and by His resurrection that He became the world's only Saviour. On the cross He bore our sins in His own body, paying the redemption price in His own blood. By His resurrection He becomes our guarantee of God's satisfaction with His sacrifice and unveils God's righteousness in saving sinners who come to this only Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

But Jesus Christ has many names, and they each reveal something about His character and work for man. In Matthew 1:23 we read, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name *Emmanuel*, which being interpreted is, God with us." As virgin-conceived, and virgin-born, Christ's deity is revealed and His humanity is protected from sin.

He called Himself the *Son of Man*. In Matthew 20:28 He said, "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Only as man could He offer Himself without spot unto God. Though it was the Prince of Glory Who died on the cross at Calvary, yet He died as man.

John the Baptist called Him, "*The Lamb of God Which taketh away the sin of the world*" in John 1:29. As a lamb, we see His innocence. We see His harmlessness. We see Him Who offered no retaliation to wicked men who beat Him, who jeered Him, who spit upon Him, who mocked Him, and finally slew Him on a cruel cross.

But also we see Him as God's Lamb. He was God's own offering unto the world and unto sinful men, as their substitute. He was divinely foreordained, divinely planned, divinely given, and divinely offered as a sacrifice for sin.

O, the love that drew salvation's plan,
O, the grace that brought it down to man,
O, the mighty gulf that God did span
At Calvary.

John the Baptist also bore record of Jesus that He was the *Son of God*. Not "a" son, as some would have us to believe, but "the" Son of God. The Creator Himself. The One Who was ever in the beginning with God and was God. No wonder we see the meaning of His name, Jesus: JEHOVAH IS THE SAVIOUR.

Jesus calls Himself *The Way* in John 14:6. Thus He designates Himself as the One and Only Way to God. There are no deviations with Him. There may be thousands of ways leading to sure destruction and damnation, but the straight and narrow Way is Christ. Yet He leads all THE WAY to God, all THE WAY to heaven, all THE WAY to the Father's house of many mansions, all THE WAY to eternity's glory and perfect fellowship with God.

Jesus calls Himself *The Truth* in John 14:6 also. In other words, He would have you rest your case with Him as the only Truth. He is the Truth to be known. He said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32) Free from sin's curse and power, Free from Satan's clutches. Free to serve God with a clear conscience.

Again in this verse He calls Himself *The Life*. This is eternal life. He is the Author and Sustainer of Life, and the Giver of Life. As He is Eternal Life, we should be humbled indeed, to realize that He left Heaven's glory to come to earth to reveal God to sinful man, that he might receive Him and share in His Eternal Life. Our life here is short at the most, but with Christ as Lord and Saviour, we shall one day enter into the unending eternal life in the glory. Our life here is limited, but in Christ, the quality of the life that shall be revealed in the glory strains the imagination, and faith only can take us through.

Jesus calls Himself *The True Vine* in John 15. As His disciples are the branches, we can easily see that our sustenance to live not only depends on Him, but also our ability to reproduce lies in His Life-giving power.

In John 20:28, Thomas called Him, "*My Lord and My God*." Note, Jesus did not rebuke Thomas for making a false confession. He accepted the title and commended Thomas' faith. This all took place after Christ's resurrection. Thomas saw a body. He saw the imprint of the nail-wounds in Jesus' hands, and the spear-wound in His side. Thus, this risen Jesus, this living Jesus, this One Who had been slain on a cross, buried in a tomb, not only alive and that forever more, but also He was Thomas' Lord and God, and is to be trusted as such by all today.

Peter called Jesus *The Judge* of the quick and the dead in Acts 10:42. We must see this, that every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ shall stand before His judgment-seat to receive of the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad. This, of course, is not for salvation, but for rewards or the loss of rewards. The rewards depend on the faithfulness of those who claim Christ as Lord and Saviour, and should produce a solemn thought to every child of God that our works shall be examined by our Lord Jesus, as to our motives. However, everyone who is not a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ shall face Him as Judge at the Great White Throne, spoken of in Revelation twenty. Only the unsaved shall stand before Him then. They shall be judged according to their works, but none shall escape the Lake of Fire. No doubt there shall be degrees of punishment to each unbeliever in that day, but all Christ-rejectors shall suffer the eternal conscious torment of Hell fire.

In First Timothy 2:5 and 6, Paul calls Jesus Christ the One *Mediator* between God and man. There is no other. There is none who qualified to be the One Who mediates between two such parties, God and man. It is Christ alone Who made peace, and that by the blood of His cross, and thus He and He alone can be the mediator of the terms of peace. He is the only One Who died for man's sins. He is the only One risen and seated at God's right hand. He is the only One Who makes intercession for those who come unto God by Him. No other terms will God accept. No other intercessions will God honour. No other sacrifice will satisfy God. Christ, and Christ alone, is the Mediator of the New Covenant. He, and He alone can plead His shed blood. He, and He alone, made the perfect atonement.

continued on next page

In Hebrews 4:14, He is called the *Great High Priest*. Seated at God's right hand, He makes intercession for His own. He has made a new and living way into the holiest of all, into the very presence of God, by presenting His own blood offering. Here, as our great High Priest, He hears every confession made by His own. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (First John 1:9) Here we come for grace and mercy. He loves His own to the very end and has made perfect provision for them. In taking our place on the cross, He has settled every claim against us. Though Satan may condemn us, we are accepted in the Beloved Son, and there is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. At every accusation of Satan, He holds forth His pierced hands and that is enough. He is a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec, and, therefore, we need no other priest. We do not deserve anything but the depths of Hell, but, by His infinite grace, we are lifted to eternal heights.

In Hebrews 13:8 we read: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." This same Jesus which was taken up into heaven, shall also come again in like manner. He alone changes not. Does not this very thought speak volumes to your heart? He Who took little children into His arms, and rebuking those who would hinder said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Mark 10:14) This One is the same today. Every little boy and every little girl is the object of His love and concern. Do not hinder the little ones from coming in faith to Jesus. His tender heart will take such little ones under His wings where they shall safely abide forever.

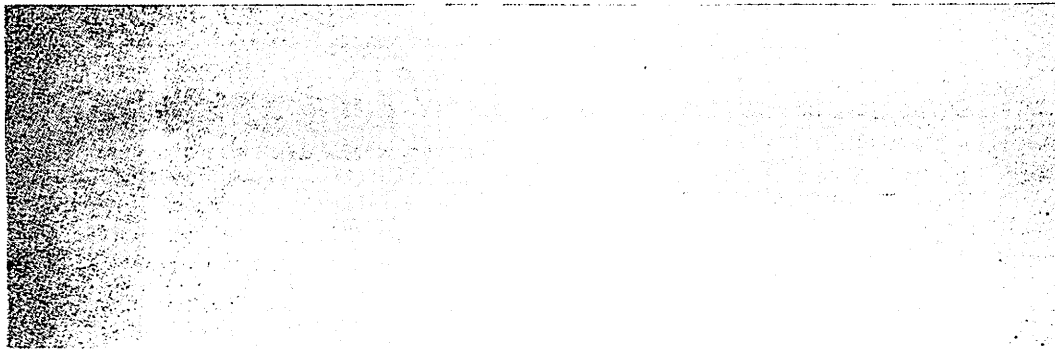
His heart is the same in tender forgiveness to the ones who have been taken in the sin of immorality. Remember the frightened woman of John 8, who had been taken in the very act by the bigoted Pharisees? As Jesus put the burden of accusation upon the one who would claim no sin, and defeated their self-righteous claims and exposed their sinful hearts, He then turned in compassion to this woman and spoke reassuringly to her. I don't know what He wrote in the sand that day, but, surely, it must have conveyed His love and supplied faith for this trembling woman's heart and, as she claimed Him as her Lord, He freely forgave. He had not condoned this sin, but in view of His cross and because He could not fail to respond to the call of faith, He saved her forever. **AND HE IS THE SAME TODAY.**

No doubt self-righteous Nicodemus, that man of the highest religious repute of his day, who surely could have felt that if anyone could gain the gates of Heaven on his own merits, it was he, who was shocked when he heard Jesus tell him that he needed to have a new birth, a spiritual birth, a supernatural birth from above in order to enter the kingdom of God. But our Lord was unswerving in His demands. The necessity of the new birth stems from the truth that man, in his natural state, is not only sinful, but also unless he is regenerated, he is unfit for God's Holy Presence. **AND JESUS IS STILL THE SAME TODAY.** Religion is not enough. Nicodemus had to come as a lost sinner to the cross of Christ, and that is the only way to God today.

Now, back to my text. We see the simplicity of that Only Name. We find that God's provision for salvation rests on one's trusting in this only Name under the heaven given unto men. We can search into every creed among man and adhere to it faithfully, but the creeds will not produce what the soul demands. We can join every good organization among men, and call ourselves after their names and strictly observe their rules and by-laws, yet our hearts remain empty, our minds continue confused, and our souls find no rest.

We can look and look for the perfect church. (And many claim they have this today!) We can seek to live by their customs and forms, follow their various modes of worship, align ourselves into their memberships, and call ourselves by their names, and yet, regardless of the names given among men, we shall still find our souls hopelessly lost, unless we find our way to the cross of Calvary's love, to the cross of Calvary's shame, to the cross of Calvary's suffering, to the cross of Calvary's redemption through the precious blood of the One Whose Name, JESUS, is above every Name, and there bow in humble repentance and faith, and confess that Jesus Christ is our One and Only Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

— Christian Heritage



When Christmas Will Be Superseded

by DANIEL W. BREEN



*"... Unto them that look for him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).
"... When He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).*

Christmas is a thrilling reminder to every Christian, that someone special came to visit. That that someone left all kinds of His belongings to insure His return. That that special One left treasures and valuables for us to have and use until He comes to collect them. This unusual guest just left enough indication of His identity of who He was and what He represented to excitedly anticipate the thrill of His return.

We will always celebrate His birth, a deep sense of His coming again, much like we are commanded to celebrate the Lord's table which lays glorious emphasis on His

return. Jesus came and lives among us to show how truly wonderful He is. He went away leaving so many precious reminders for all generations, of His having become flesh and tabernacled among us. Christmas is one of these happy reminders.

He is coming in a day that will glow with a splendor and be surrounded with treasures that will supersede and replace our Christmas day. Jesus' second coming alone, will fulfill all the joys and hopes that were born out of that first beautiful coming.

Christmas is so involved with comings — The day coming, children coming, special people coming. The excitement of happy anticipation. In our earthly and unfulfilled state, we always need the hope and suspense of something or someone coming. Christmas reflects at its base of celebration, the excitement of the second coming.

continued on next page

When Christmas Will Be Superseded

Christmas is not an end in itself. We celebrate it over and over, always, again looking for another day. It is true, that at Jesus' first advent real needs were met, real wants were realized and real hopes were made valid and sure.

In His birth, He revealed His person. He was indeed unique. He was above nature, biological laws and the rules of genetics.

In His living, He revealed His ministry that far superseded the limitations of human skills, the warmth of human feelings and inadequacy of human answers.

In His dying, He revealed a love and compassion in their intensity and scope that superseded anything that the best of man or in man could express.

In rising from the dead, He revealed an authority and power unrivaled, unrealized and unknown in the long history of man.

In His human begetal, there was a fusion of the divine and human, to create a being capable of appearing God and curing the effects and condemnation of sin.

In His birth, He brought heaven and earth together in an audible harmony of joy and hope. In His boyhood, He expressed and produced all God had intended for the development of adolescence and youth.

In manhood, He expressed the greatest example of obedience and yieldedness to achieve the highest potential of manhood in its relationship to heaven as it is involved with earth. In His death, He revealed man's deepest devotion to His own kind.

In His resurrection, He expressed what God intended for man by His power and glory.

In His ascension, He expressed His assurance to return with that which is ultimate, complete and eternal for His own.

He was not sent first from Bethlehem, but from above. He willingly assumed the form of a servant in His obedience to be made in the likeness of human kind, in order to provide for and set the stage for His second coming.

In this limited revelation, He was fondled as a baby, observed and worshipped as a child. He was marvelled at as a teenager. As a man, He assumed a unique and extraordinary role in ministry.

He left valuables everywhere, for all generation, all races and all people. He left His peace, His love, His power, His authority, His word and finally poured out His human life as a remaining and efficacious sacrifice for sin. He left a new life by His Holy Spirit which is vigorous and eternal.

All this shouts that He is coming again in a greater and complete revelation. All that we have now, glorious and all that these possessions are, at best, symbols and reminders that He is coming again.

He is coming again, Hallelujah!

This revelation will be much greater, much more expressive and glorious. His person will be complete and absolute. His ministry of transformation will be complete and eternal. The revelation will initiate changes and solutions that will be forever. The fashioning of our bodies will be transcendent. All the glorious revelation, ministry and deposited values of His first coming will lose their glow in the bright light of this greater revelation.

Here, we live from Christmas to Christmas. We celebrate from one celebration to another. By our celebrations we are always saying, "It is His coming that gave us so much of the riches we enjoy." But, what we really say by our repetition is, "All is not complete now. All is not realized. All is not absolute. There is another coming. Another revelation. There is a greater change and healing which is eternal."

Here, our celebrations are marred by empty seats at our celebration tables. Unwritten cards, unopened gifts. Bodies too old or too weak to participate.

There is another coming which will make all coming complete. All will be present. All will participate. None will be missing. All will share in the gifts and treasures of eternal everything.

This is the real and absolute hope of every born again believer. "Even so come, Lord Jesus."

Greetings.

As a believer, minister and church leader who sincerely believes and rejoices in the first advent of Jesus the Saviour, and who shares the faith and hope of the second advent, I wish all believers, ministers and their churches the great joy of sharing what we already are and have, and that the prospect of the greater revelation will enhance the joy of our Christmas celebration.

out
in heart.

PSALM 33.
1 Praise of God for his goodness. 20
Confidence in God.

REJOICE in the LORD, O ye right-
eous: for praise is comely for the
upright.

2 Praise the LORD with harp: sing
unto him with the psaltery and an in-
strument of ten strings.

3 Sing unto him a new song: pla-
tilfully with a loud noise.

! For the word of the LORD is right
d all his works are done in truth.
He loveth righteousness and
of the

**The Bible
does not hint
several hundred
times that
it is good
for us to
praise the Lord.
It commands
us to praise
him.**



FOCUS ON MISSIONS



"Glad Tidings of Great Joy."

30 Years in Malawi

by F.J. KOSICK

It was thirty years ago, this August, 1978, since Sisters A. Mitchell, and M. Maynard landed in Africa, as Apostolic missionaries. Under their pioneering ministry the Mponela Mission Station was opened. On August 18, 1978, these same missionaries visited the field again, and received a rousing welcome from their many converts and friends, especially from some 180 attending the annual Bible school training in Mponela.

We were thrilled with the way the Lord blessed the ministry of the Word, as Brother F.J. Kosick, L.E. Schuetz, Field Superintendent of the African field, Sisters Mitchell and Maynard and Brother and Sister Lapka shared in the ministry of the Word. A good number of pastors attending from surrounding villages, returned to their own villages edified to share these truths with their own people. Brother Kosick spoke in the evening evangelistic rallies, with a wonderful manifestation of the Holy Spirit, where many were filled and re-filled with the Holy Ghost. The Bible school closed with a "feast" in the sanctuary African style, with the Malawi brethren extending to all a hearty welcome with both hands.

A similar Bible school was also conducted in Namitete, where the Lord blessed and confirmed His Word. Sisters Isabelle Duncan and Anita Cole are presently on a well deserved furlough in Canada.



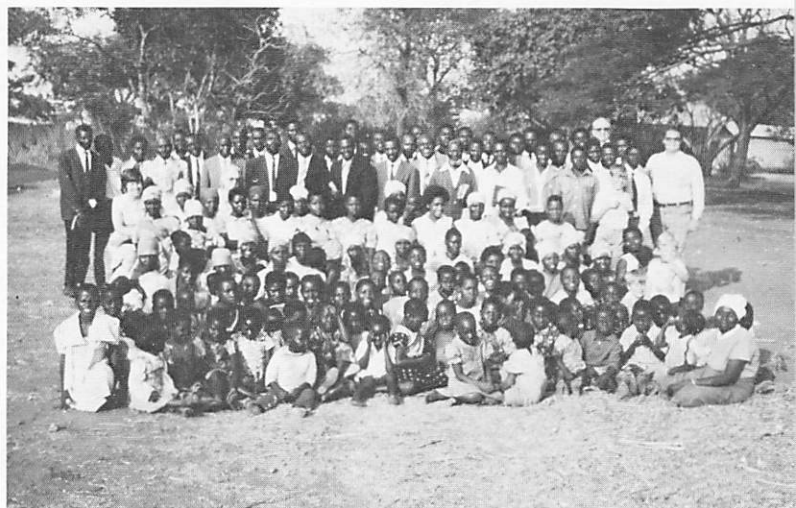
Interpreters at conference were Walter and Clifford shown here with missionary-evangelist Frank J. Kosick.



Delegates attending multiracial A.C.O.P. conference in Rhodesia. Chaplain Vai Rajah (rear left) is the newly appointed assistant superintendent.



The Lapka family with veteran missionaries Anna Mitchell and Marion Maynard with F.J. Kosick inside the Mponela church.



Those present for the observance of A.C.O.P.'s 30th anniversary in Malawi.

Rhodesia Conference Report

by L.E. SCHUETZ

The Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Rhodesia met in conference in Salisbury, Rhodesia, September 11th and 12th with the manifest presence of the Lord in our midst. Forty-four delegates, made up of pastors, evangelists, church workers, and a few lay representatives, as well as missionaries from various parts of Rhodesia, attended this multi-racial conference.

Rev. F.J. Kosick of Canada was our Guest speaker, challenging our hearts with his timely message from the Word of God. The anointing of the Holy Ghost was mighty upon the gatherings as our Brother ministered the Word of the Lord to us for these difficult days through which the church in Rhodesia is passing. We wanted to hear from God, and we feel He has given us direction. "We will move *forward together* in Jesus' name, *under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, evangelizing, teaching, training and preparing* the Church for whatever lies ahead . . ." To this end we earnestly covet the prayers of God's people everywhere.

The Executive Council and General Conference in Session dealt with the various items of church business. The reports given from the various

districts encouraged everyone. In spite of very trying and difficult circumstances through which the country is passing, the Lord is mightily at work in building His Church. Rev. Val Rajah, pastor of Bethany A.C.O.P. Bulawayo, and who is also a chaplain, was chosen to serve as Assistant Superintendent of the A.C.O.P. of Rhodesia, to work along with Brother Lloyd Schuetz in the overseeing of the work of the Church.

This year's conference was hosted by the Mashonaland District Salisbury, where Sisters Anderson and Kellond ministered who truly did a tremendous job. Bulawayo District have invited the conference to meet next year in Bulawayo, the Lord permitting.

In many ways this conference was a milestone in the history of our work in Rhodesia, and we do thank the Lord for what He is doing in each district. We do look forward in the Will of God for a great year of blessing in the work throughout this country. The harvest indeed is ripe and must be gathered in while the doors are so wide open, and people are so hungry for the Gospel. Please pray much for the Church in Rhodesia.



Malawi pastors and wives attending seminar at Mponela, conducted by Frank Kosick.



by FRANK J. KOSICK

The giving of gifts at Christmas is without scriptural warrant. When confronted with the question of giving gifts we usually say, "Well it was always practised." Yet to our surprise the practise of exchanging gifts has really no Bible foundation. It is said that the early Christians made presents to their children on Christmas morning, under the pretense that they were the gifts of the Christ Child. This practise has become so commercialized that the real meaning of Christmas story is completely lost. Yet we know that God gave us the greatest gift when He gave us His only begotten Son. The exchange of gifts was not between man and man, but between God and man. Therefore, Christmas ought to be a time when we acknowledge "His unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).

Let us for a few moments examine

God's most precious gift to a sinful world. Its value cannot be computed in silver and gold. There is no human evaluation that can be set on Heaven's most expensive gift to the undeserved sinners.

A Promised Gift

In the dark shadows of Eden, when Adam and Eve were expelled out of the garden, God promised man a glorious gift. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). In this glorious package is wrapped up a promise that a Messiah, born of the virgin would come and bruise Satan's head, and redeem the human family back to God. The prophet Isaiah catches a glimpse of this generous promise by prophesying, "Behold, a

virgin shall conceive, and bear a son" (Isa. 7:14). Thus throughout the ages the human family looked for the fulfillment of the promised gift.

A Precious Gift

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious" (1 Peter 2:7).

One could almost exhaust the human language to appraise the meaning of the word "precious." It must surpass the evaluation of anything in terms of material, be it rubies, diamonds or gold. This is impossible to appraise. It is Heaven's best, and who is there that can place a price tag on that which the Father himself prepared and delivered. Yes, to us who believe. Jesus is very precious. Ask those who have experienced deliverance through His "precious blood," and they will all say, "He is precious."

A Perfect Gift

Material gifts, as lovely wrapped and expensive as they may be, yet they are not perfect. They soon lose their lustre, and become damaged and often destroyed. At best man can only give a perishable gift, that is soon disposed of and even forgotten. But no so with the "perfect Gift," that Heaven gives in the person of Jesus Christ. "This is my beloved son," was the Father's appraisal of His perfection. Sinless gift wrapped up in a napkin of sinless flesh. Like the veil that once wrapped the "mercy-seat" when transported from place to place, so in the veil of sinless flesh, the Father wrapped up "His Perfect Gift" addressed to us personally in the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21). Therefore, when we accept Christ, we instantly receive a perfect redemption, and a perfect justification, so that we can be accepted in the beloved. This is God's perfect Gift, and only God can afford so expensive a salvation absolutely free.

A Priceless Gift

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa. 55:1). The Bible says that by no amount of money can this gift be purchased. It is freely bestowed because it's already paid for in full by "the precious blood of Christ." †

you were asking

by ART & GRETA SHEPPARD



"I hear that in certain quarters, Pentecostals are having 'wine and cheese' parties. I'm concerned about these trends."

Many of us, especially among the clergy, share your concern. There is only one stand for true believers to take and that is total abstinence. Personally, I have had to counsel some Pentecostal alcoholics and I know something of the destruction to families, testimony and personal Christian growth.

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

The effect of alcohol is devastating on the human body. Many are suffer-

ing in jail at this hour because of being rendered helpless in their actions and they committed gross sins, while under the influence of liquor.

The desire for wine, or whatever, by Christians is only glaring proof, that they are destitute of the fullness of the Holy Spirit of God. A complete, fulfilled Christian, who is full of Jesus and His Word, has not need or room for the fulfillment of fleshly lusts. There are some things that ought not to be even names among us. And this sin of drinking booze is certainly among them.

"Let us cleanse ourselves of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (I Cor. 7:1).

"Lotteries! Should Christians indulge?"

Alight survey amongst Christians here in the West Coast gave us a few opinions on this subject of lotteries and the believers. Some felt it was absolutely wrong. Others could see no harm in it.

The survey did reveal one startling fact — That many Christians today do not have strong convictions and principles like the early church had. Looselivers might be a good name for them.

Lotteries in our opinion are a form of organized gambling.

Many do it in the pretense that it is for helping some charitable organization, a good cause. If they are so concerned about that particular charity, then why not give them an outright donation?

Let's face it — lottery tickets are bought for one reason only — the love of money. Of course, we know what the Bible says about "The love of money being the root of ALL evil."

"The Sheppards would enjoy hearing your comments and opinions on lotteries, either for or against. Write in and let us know how you feel."

MY DECISION FOR CHRIST

REALIZING that I have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), that I am a guilty, lost sinner (Isaiah 53:6), but believing that Christ died for my sins on the cross and rose again from the grave (Romans 5:25, I Cor. 15:3-4), I here and now accept Him as my Saviour and Lord (John 1:1-13, Romans 10:9-10), depending upon Him to forgive all my sins (I John 1:7), to change my heart and desires (II Cor. 5:17) and to give me the witness of His salvation as promised in His word (Romans 8:16, I John 5:10-13). Beginning today, in humble dependence upon Him, I will confess Him before men (Matt. 10:32), will live for Him (I Cor. 6:19-20), will seek the fellowship of other Christians (Heb. 10:25) that I may grow in grace (II Peter 3:18), receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) and win others to Christ (Acts 1:8).

NAME DATE

ADDRESS
(For further spiritual counsel, contact the pastor of the nearest church affiliated with the Apostolic Church of Pentecost, or write to the Editor of the End Times' Messenger).

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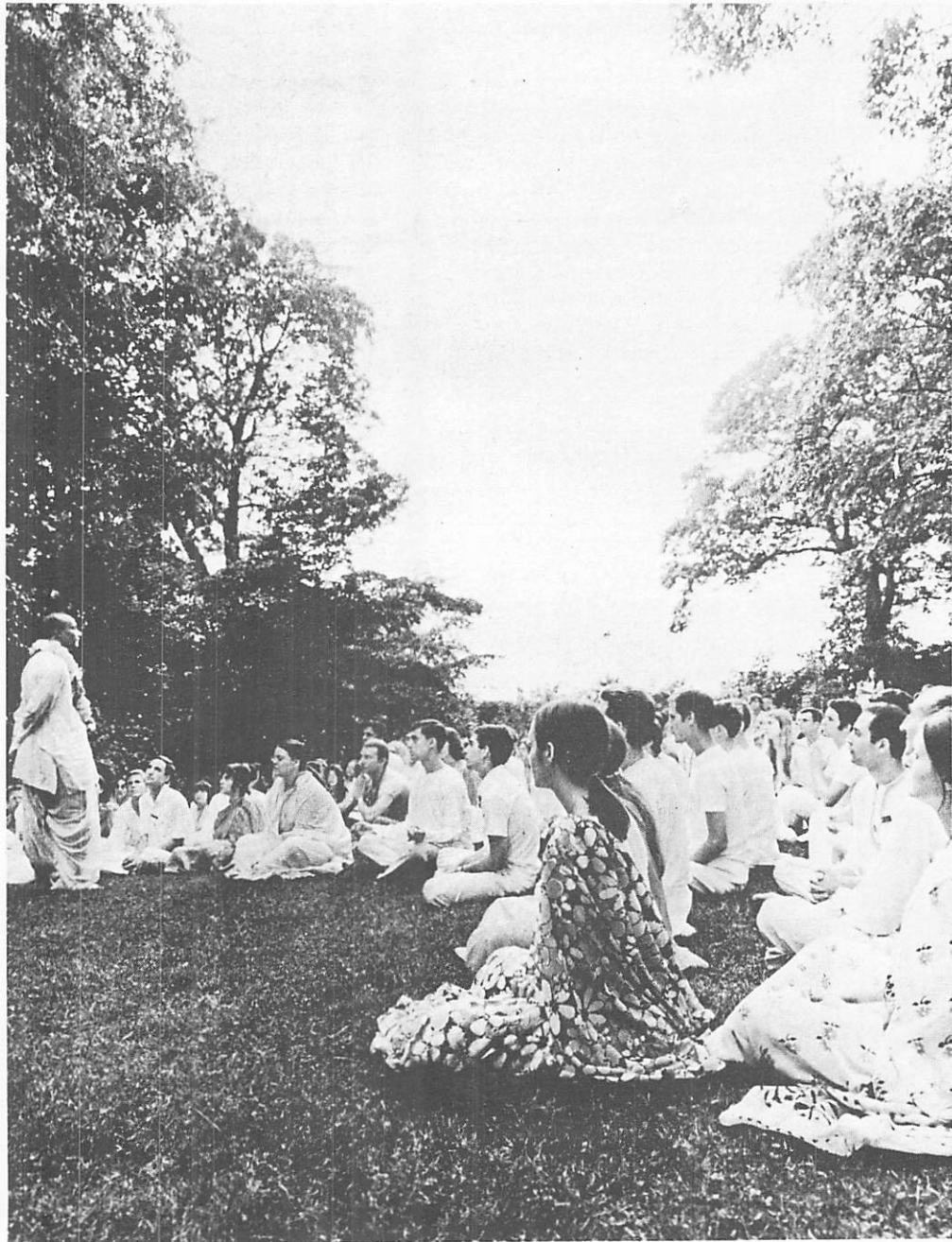
The Eastern Religions Are Out To Get You!

by ROBERT T. WILSON

The Bible speaks of those in the last days that will "give heed to seducing spirits (deluding) and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1). I hear some say, "But, transcendental meditation is great, it is not in this category!" However, I read in the daily newspaper such things as "Guru says, 1,000 years of peach to start November 8th," and follows with the statement, "Guru Maharji Ji, is classed in the same league as Jesus Christ, Mohammed, Buddha and Moses by his followers, and is the number one spiritual phenomenon of the 1970's," and also "Guru Maharji Ji is going to announce a concrete plan to bring World peace."

It was also said that one cannot receive the "real thing" by reading or by yoga but only by the grace of the living Perfect Master. The only test for a living Perfect Master is his knowledge.

These statements are completely contrary to the scripture and are evidences of "false prophets." Anyone who claims to be on the same level as Jesus Christ is "Anti-Christ." There is



Youths in New York concentrate on Yoga's secrets of peace and self freedom.

ONE God and not four. Compare I John 4:3, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is NOT OF GOD."

Transcendental meditation is presented in different forms such as "yoga, yogi, Guru, Spiritual Regeneration Movement, World Plan Centres, Guru's Divine Light Mission."

1. Phenomenal Growth of Transcendental Meditation:

Growth is not the measuring rod by which we prove a thing to be true or false. The so-called, "new morality" is certainly growing but in no way do we consider it to be the truth. TM boasts of 350,000 followers with a world plan to train 3.5 million. There are presently 50,000 Canadians who practice TM and of this number 5,500 are in the province of Alberta. The U.S.A. has 30 institutions, with 205 "World Plan Centres." In Canada the course is taught in universities, and the taxpayer is paying good money, and some teachers are taking good class time to promote it even on the elementary and junior levels. Why is it that some people become very upset if the Bible (written by several authors) is read, or religious instruction is given in our schools, and yet ONE MAN can introduce transcendental meditation and nothing will be said?

2. The Background of Transcendental Meditation.

Some claim that it is not a religion, and yet few have read the background which in no uncertain terms has its foundation in the "Hindu religion."

The present day teacher of TM is Maharishi Mahesh Yogi who bases his system of transcendental meditation on the meditation techniques of Ramakrishna. Rama-Krishna is the name of a 19th century Hindu holy man considered by some Indians to be their greatest prophet and saint.

After many years of meditation, he realized his identity with the God-head but this did not satisfy him. He then proceeded to test the universality of his experience by following the paths of Islam and Christianity. Thus, toward the end of his life, he was able to say with absolute authority that all religions are true and the ultimate reality could be known by any mem-

ber of any sect if he or she pursued the ideal with devotion and sincerity.

It was then that Jesus and Allah appeared to him in a vision and told him that meditation was the answer to all the world's problems. Rama-Krishna has told us to worship God as a universal power rather than any specific god, "We're sort of a spiritual united nations, seeking to unite all religions of the world through meditation," he said.

Perhaps you have also heard of "Hare-Krishna." Hare is the name of Vishnu, the Hindu god who offers delightful pleasure. He is referred to as the protector. Rama is the incarnation of Vishnu as the "Prince of Responsibility." Krishna is the "God-narrator" of the Bhagavadad-Gita, the sacred text of Hinduism.

Shiva - is the god of fertility. He has been worshipped in India for 5,000 years as the god of destruction and recreation. One of the most popular images of Shiva is as "nataraja" lord of the dance. Shiva is the god of rhythm and mysticism which also interests many in America. Blood sacrifices are also offered to Shiva.

3. What is the basic teaching of Transcendental Meditation?

The promoters of TM define it "as a simple technique for the progressive refinement of the nervous system through the regular alteration of meditation and activity." People all over the world are turning to TM because they have NO REST. Jesus said, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." However, unknown to most people TM is more than rest or relaxation. It is true that to "relax" your mind must be at ease, but may I briefly state what all this means.

TM is convincing yourself (your mind) that you are everything. Being is life . . . and everything is based on the essential nature of the mind - the omnipresent being.

The selection of a proper thought for a particular individual is a vital factor in the practise of transcendental meditation. This cannot be decided by any and every individual. Thus certain individuals have been "trained by "Marharishi Yogi" in the art of selecting proper sound or words to correspond to the special quality of the individual. These trained masters (not by a book but by the personal

instruction of Yogi) are in almost every country of the world in the centres of "Spiritual Regeneration Movement."

The idea of being as the ultimate reality is contained in the oldest records of Indian thought.

The external texts of Vida, the ancient sacred scriptures of the Hindus, comprise 100 books and form the basis of BRAH-MANISM (the religion and social system of the Hindus).

BRAHAMA - in the religion of the Hindus was absolute divinity, the supreme object of philosophic contemplation; later, the creator, or first member of the trinity, associated with Vishno, the preserver and Siva the destroyer.

Today, transcendental meditation comes to us from India by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. TM was passed on to him by his holiness Swami Brah-Mananda Sarasuati, a great teacher in India who died in 1953.

BASIC TEACHING ON BEING:

Being is the key to God realization. There is no mention in Yogi's book of Jesus. "God" is used in a broad term of "being in the Mind."

Being is the essence of eternal life.

Being is the field of eternal life.

- is the basis of all living.

- lies at the root of all creation.

- is at the root of all tendencies of man, complexities, behaviour and society. (In other words, sinful creation is something of the mind — dismiss the thought and there is no sin.)

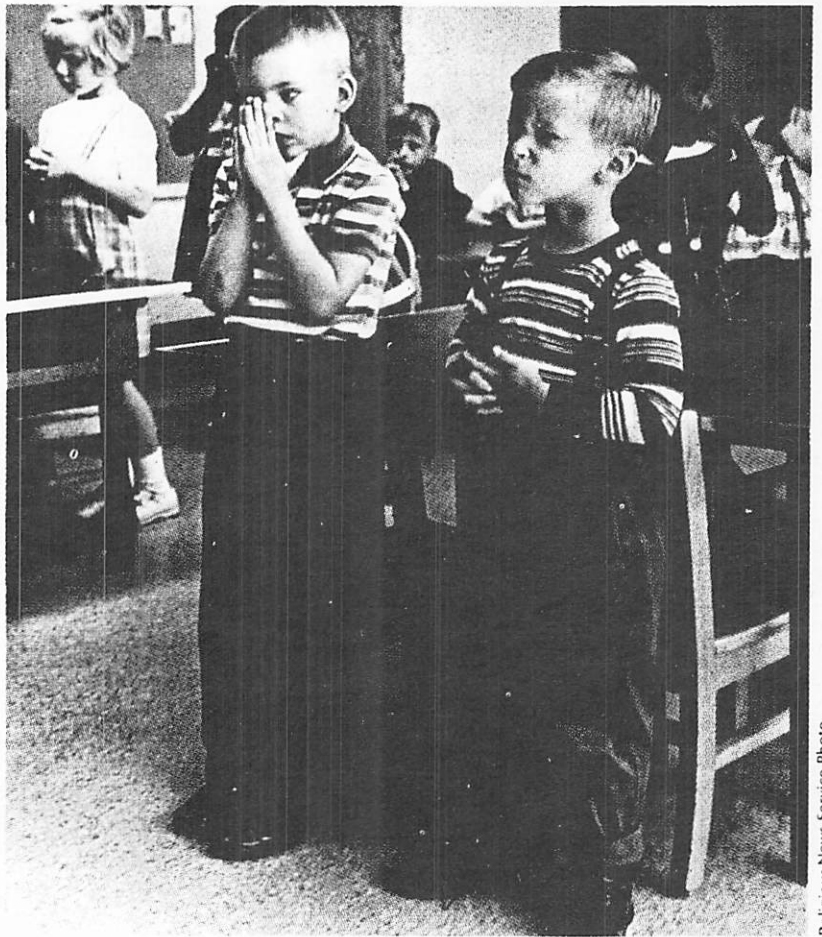
- is the place of cosmic life (cosmic the entire universe). This brings all creation into the realm of the mind of man.

- is the absolute and relative. The ultimate reality of all that exists.

TM, it is said, is not a religion. Yet on page 23 of Yogi's book I read, "Here is the fulfilment of every religion in the simple practice of Transcendental Meditation."

Do we get the impact of what this teaching on being is conveying to us? In simple words it is telling us that the MIND or THOUGHT is everything there is to life, there is no sin if you think right, eternal life, creation, God, etc., is all in the mind. This type of teaching is foreign to the Word of God. Our meditation must be on that which is wholesome, God-honouring and within the bounds of Holy Scripture. †

SURGERY



Religious News Service Photo

for a sick Sunday school

Coming upon a sick Sunday school situation too often familiar, one innovative worker administered some strong measures with encouraging results. Here is her prescription.

The Sunday school was mighty sick. At 9:45 — starting time — no one was there. By 9:50 several children wandered aimlessly in. They sat in semidarkness, eyeing six-month-old seasonal pictures thumbtacked to walls. A bedraggled clump of artificial flowers jammed in a vase graced the piano top. At 9:55 the superintendent arrived — maybe. Someone finally turned on the lights.

Sunday school classes, up through the sixth grade, comprised the "Downstairs Department." I had always thought that to "Upstairs People" (adults) downstairs was merely a hole in the floor. They knew *something* was down there, but they were a little hazy as to just what. Like the proverbial sweeping under the rug, you swept the kids in there as soon as they entered church. To some par-

ents, I suppose, it was a baby-sitting place.

This was the situation when I was asked to take over. I agreed on the condition that the superintendency was my only job. I am convinced you cannot teach and superintend also. Teachers may need supplies or help with discipline. Or a child wants to make a spiritual decision away from the other class members. There are all sorts of little emergencies which a teacher cannot easily resolve when in charge of a group. If the superintendent is available, these can be smoothly cared for.

First, I went to a good book-and-Bible house. There are many excellent books filled with ideas for every age level. Most are priced at about a dollar and worth far more. I thought of my

teachers and helpers and carefully chose one for each. I bought one for myself. Mine contained suggestions for the opening. I cannot praise these books highly enough. If you do not have constructive ideas when you begin reading, you will by the time you reach the second page.

I became so enthusiastic about what could be done that it spread to my group of teachers and assistants at our initial meeting. They took a new lease on life and soon I even had volunteer substitutes. Others offered suggestions of things to do.

Everyone goes dry at times, but others are there to encourage. Each worker is a needed member of the body. The superintendent must know this and convey it to the rest.

Extra helpers and workers were

ANONYMOUS

chosen to supplement the tired little group of discouraged teachers. Soon I had a staff of eighteen! This seemed a little ludicrous for fifteen pupils, but as we did our part the Lord gave the increase. Our department doubled in size very shortly. With this many staff members one is free to take off a Sunday occasionally without feeling he is removing the supporting pillar of the church.

Of course the size of the Sunday school determines the number of staff needed. In addition to teachers and a helper for each class we have two prayer warriors (a dear elderly couple who faithfully pray daily for the whole department), one song leader, one piano player, one counselor, one secretary (who is there at 9:30 to greet each child as he comes in), one always-prepared substitute teacher, two pre-session teachers, one department superintendent and one general superintendent. Several of these also double as substitutes or piano players. One is also our missionary storyteller.

At the beginning of each quarter I jot down on a calendar an idea for the opening for each of the following thirteen Sundays. The first Sunday of each month is missionary-oriented, with stories, pictures, slides, all enthusiastically presented.

Many times a holiday or the lesson itself will suggest a theme. You will find various church members most cooperative if you ask them well in advance to give a story for a particular Sunday, especially if you tell them the topic. They will not need to go barrel-scraping as might happen if you snagged them the night before. And you will not have that panicky Saturday night feeling either, because your program has been planned well in advance and is running smoothly. You can be excited and looking forward to Sunday morning. It will not be a drag!

A jeweller in our congregation gave one of our most effective object lessons. He brought a large pendulum table clock. When he turned it around and opened the back, the children saw the wheels turning. (Of course they had to be very quiet to hear it tick!) He explained some parts. Then he showed how a bit of fuzz could stop that big clock. He worked in the

spiritual application of sin in our hearts which hinders joy and happiness. Two children went to class late because they stayed behind to get "fuzz" out of their lives. Had the superintendent been teaching, this fruit might not have been harvested.

An elderly prayer warrior supplied special music on his harmonica one Sunday and told of his own experiences at their ages eighty years before. He exhorted them to live for Jesus. No generation gap here — kids identified with the old gentleman who told them he prayed for them daily. They must not let him down!

Andy's dad is a truck driver. He visited our department one Sunday morning in his freshly laundered uniform, and with overnight case and logbook in hand. At one end of our long room he placed a chair on a table and set Andy in it — back to audience — holding a real steering wheel. This showed how high he sat in his truck. He pointed to the far end of the room. "That's how long my truck is." He explained how his bag must be always packed and ready to go; his logbook must be open for inspection.

"Boys and girls, you know what I'm talking about, don't you? Is *your* bag packed? Is *your* logbook ready for inspection?" Solemn-eyed youngsters seriously considered these questions. Afterward Andy enjoyed stardom as boys clustered around him. "I didn't know your dad drove a *truck*!" Andy's father appreciated his son's pride in him. The bonus was that another parent became aware of Downstairs and involved in it.

Everyone wants to "go where the action is." Having teachers and workers sit in on the opening with the children makes the Sunday school attendance appear larger. It helps in the singing and everyone is blessed by hearing the story. An interesting and spiritual opening sets the stage for the staff and their following lesson.

I stressed to teachers the importance of personal attractiveness for their class members. This does not mean a large wardrobe — kids do not mind if you wear the same outfit every Sunday. But remember the wonderfully sweet scent your teacher left behind as she walked past your desk when you were in grade school? An

apple-blossom cologne is delightfully fresh in warm months, a spicy hand lotion in winter. How heartwarming to have a child give you an adoring look and say, "Teacher, you smell good" or "You look so pretty."

It took a little educating to start Sunday school promptly at 9:45, as the children were not accustomed to arriving on time. They soon learned they missed something exciting when they came late. But when I suggested a pre-session starting at 9:30 many said, "It'll never work."

Two high school girls conduct hand-work for the fifteen-minute pre-session time. There are excellent books on this also. The children love this period and two wonderful byproducts have resulted: it helped the youngsters discharge a little energy that normally would have been released to disrupt class, and their early arrival brought Upstairs People to adult opening on time. Many feel pre-session gave new life to the whole church! Because this period ended at 9:45, the high school girls were not kept from their own classes which were important and needful to them.

Finally, one of the most important aids to interest in our department has been a weekly bulletin notice, "Downstairs Data," neatly boxed and filled with special items to make Upstairs People aware of Downstairs People. Some of these are attendance awards, special musical numbers, decorations, storyteller of the day.

The Downstairs Department presents the opening for the adults on the last Sunday of each quarter. It is an exciting day for the children to star. They grow accustomed to being in front of an audience — useful in eliminating stage fright later on. They sing songs practiced during the previous twelve Sundays. They receive pins for attendance. (Before this was stressed, no one had perfect attendance. Now 50 per cent of our enrolment does!) Teachers, as well as students, are honoured for various accomplishments. The "Hall of Fame" — photographs or snapshots of Downstairs teachers — is on display in the foyer. Upstairs People are kept aware that Downstairs must be a really groovy place!

If your Sunday school is sick, maybe surgery or a new diet is needed.

B.C. District Conference

The feeling of excitement about what God is doing, and the anticipation of what He is about to do in our local churches, was expressed by all who attended our provincial conference of Full Gospel churches held recently in Valemount.

That which was discussed, during our business and open forum sessions, will have far-reaching positive results in our province, as we endeavour to serve the Lord in an effective way.

The church building at Valemount is now in use and was dedicated to the Lord on Tuesday evening, October 24th. There is some finishing work yet to be completed for which an offering of over \$1100.00 was received that evening. The new church is a very attractive and functional facility which is a credit to our Lord in that community. Brother Art Shepard spoke at the dedication service on the subject of "Faith" and stepping out for God. The following quotations from his sermon are worth noting:

"The moment you see faith, it is no longer faith . . . Our problem is that too much of what we believe is in the Book, when it should be in our mouth."†

by W. LOWENBERG

New Church and Education Building Dedicated in Surrey

November 15th to the 19th was a very special time for us here at People's Full Gospel Church in Surrey, B.C. On the 19th of November, we dedicated to the Lord our new enlarged and completed facilities of both sanctuary and Christian Education building.

Our church also hosted the Western Regional Fall Conference for the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies, a group of brethren, mostly from the United States, among whom our Moderator, Daniel W. Breen, has ministered for quite a number of years. It is through his association with this Fellowship over the years that our local church has been chosen to host this convocation.

For three nights, Wednesday, November 15 through Friday, November 18, Rev. David Crabtree, an outstand-

ing preacher from Des Moines, Iowa, was our guest speaker. Not only did Brother Crabtree minister in the evening services on those three days, but he also conducted workshops in the morning and afternoon.

Brother Crabtree pastors a large church in Des Moines, and is a much sought after conference and convention speaker. His ministry blessed and thrilled our hearts.

Other ministers who shared during the convention included Brother Zettersten, Brother Whitesell and Brother Caple as well as others.

During those days, the Missionary Council and Presbytery Board of our Fellowship also convened at our church here in Surrey.†

by PASTOR DONALD CARMONT



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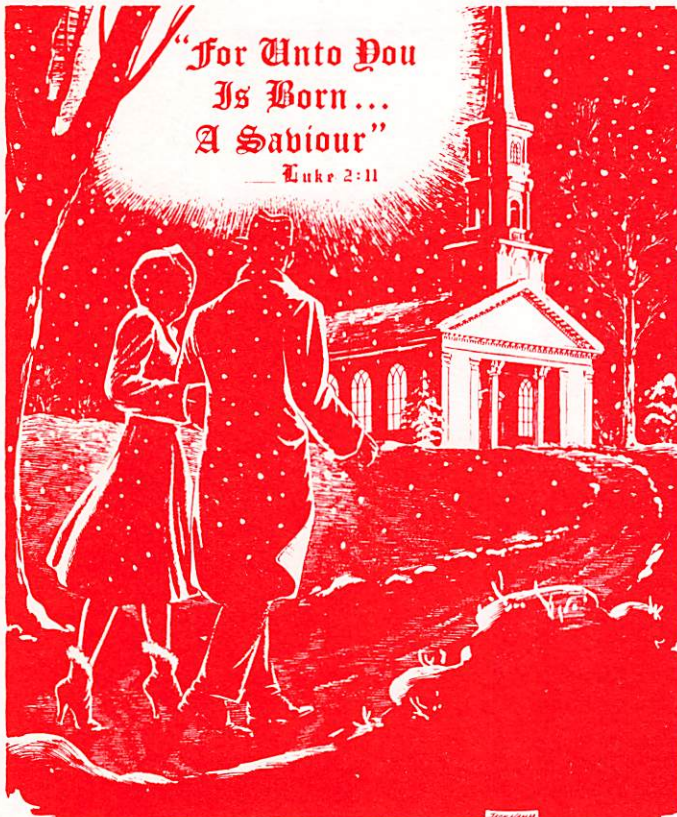
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The Christmas Story

'Silent Night'



by ST. LUKE

Translation According to Smith-Goodspeed

In those days an edict was issued by the Emperor Augustus that census of the whole world should be taken. It was the first census, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So everyone went to his own town to register. And Joseph went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he belonged to the house and family of David, to register with Mary, who was engaged to him and who was soon to become a mother. While they were there, the time came for her child to be born, and she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped him up, and laid him in a manger, for there was no room for them at the inn.

There were some shepherds in that neighborhood keeping watch through the night over their flock in the open fields, And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terribly frightened. The angel said to them,

"Do not be frightened, for I bring you good news of a great joy that is to be felt by all the people, for today, in the town of David, a Saviour for you has been born who is your Messiah and Lord. And this will prove it to you: You will find a baby wrapped up and lying in a manger."

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a throng of the heavenly army, praising God, saying,

"Glory to God in heaven and on earth! Peace to the men he favors!"

When the angels left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

"Come! Let us go over to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has told us of!"

And they hurried there, and found Mary and Joseph, with the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they told what had been said to them about this child.

And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, but Mary treasured up all they had said, and pondered over it. And the shepherds went back glorifying God and praising him for all that they had heard and seen in fulfillment of what they had been told.

**labourers
together**



by R.A. LARDEN

The Gift and Other Gifts

Our God is a bountiful giver. "He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again," the song writer exclaims.

"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

In order for God to give "the gift of eternal life," He had to first give "His only begotten Son," which He purposely did. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son" (John 3:16). Then the Lord Jesus Christ had to give His life a ransom for us. "Who gave Himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4). "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as a Lamb without blemish and without spot (I Peter 1:18,19).

"Who was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). Having fully satisfied the demands of Divine justice on our behalf, He was raised from the dead and ascended into glory, as Peter declared on the Day of Pentecost. "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:32,33). What they saw and heard was believers receiving "the gift of the Holy Ghost," which our risen Lord has given (Acts 2:38).

"When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." "He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:8,11). He gave gifted ministries to the church for edification, comfort and evangelism.

The risen Lord has given to the church, the body of Christ, "diversity of gifts," "spiritual gifts" (I Cor. 12:4). "The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" (vs. 12). Nine spiritual gifts supplied to the church that the supernatural quality of the body of Christ might be perpetuated until Jesus Christ returns again.

"As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever" (II Cor. 9:9).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Cor. 9:15).

Let us make this Christmas a celebration of praise to God for His abundant grace displayed in the manifold gifts.†

Quotables

Life is like a game of tennis — the player who serves well seldom loses!

* * *

A man can consider himself so important that no one else does.

* * *

The greatest burden you have to carry is self.

* * *

Be sure to put faith before feeling.

* * *

Remember the Devil may wall you round but he can not roof you in.

* * *

If you must speak your mind, then mind how you speak.

* * *

God is a substitute for everything, but nothing is a substitute for God.

* * *

God gives every bird his food but he does not throw it into the nest.

* * *

Compiled by JOHN E. SOUTHARD



TO OUR READERS

Our contributing editors and writers of our regular columns, together with others who share their ministry through the **End Times' Messenger**, join me in wishing you a truly joyous Christmas. May your understanding be opened to the true meaning of the miracle and message of the Saviour's birth.

— IRVIN W. ELLIS, EDITOR

Why Did Christ Come?

Why do the bells at Christmas ring?
Why did the host of angels sing,
To express the joy that Christmas brings.
To herald forth the new-born King.

Why did the Christ come down to earth?
Why granted such a lowly birth?
He came to seek and save the lost;
Came down to earth at infinite cost.

Why did the Lord not take the throne?
He was rejected by His own.
He came in humble, peasant dress
To save the souls in deep distress.

Why did the ruling class reject,
Why to such shame did they subject
This Christ, Who holds the universe;
Who came to save man from the curse.

Of sin, because of Adam's fall,
Who came to save both great and small?
The ruling class feared that a king
Would usurp power, new order bring.

He came not to show how to live.
Why did He then His own life give?
He saw man must be cleansed within,
And then a new life he'd begin.

Christ's blood alone can cleanse from sin.
By His own blood He entered in
Once, and obtained ransom for all,
Who come as sinners on Him call.

Why was the Saviour crucified?
Why was it on the cross He died?
He died to save us from the curse.
'Twas on the cross He bore that curse.

From this curse of the Law we're saved;
For by the Law we were enslaved.
Offending in just one point, condemns
The soul, who for the Law contends.

Then come as sinner to the Lord,
Confess faith in His Holy Word,
Believe He died to save your soul
From death and hell, and be made whole.

Now, Christmas has a joyous ring,
For, we now worship Christ our King.
We give Him full allegiance now,
As at His feet we humbly bow.

— Laura A. Beck
(Pangman, Sask.)

end times messenger



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