



GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

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Penns Creek, Pa.

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.

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Making Christ Known to this Generation

THE TASK of the Christian in this age is far superior to that of any generation past. The present world is in one of the most perplexing conditions it has ever experienced. Atheistic Communism is doing everything possible to persuade the populace of the world that their godless doctrine is the answer to all of earth's problems; while at the same time, worldliness is on the march in the Church world to persuade even those who profess the name of Christ that the old-fashioned way of truth and right is not necessary to please God. Then the various cults of the land are confusing the average thinker to the point of indifference. Yes, the task of "making Christ known to this generation" is a tremendous one!

In order to make Christ known to others, we must first of all have Him dwelling within our hearts and lives. Jesus once said, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me," (John 17:23). This is the key, in presenting Christ to those who are lost. When Christ is dwelling within the heart, then the motives and actions of the entire life will be to the glory of God. Sin must be crucified, the devil dethroned, and the will submitted, before Christ can come in to dwell. Jesus is holy, and therefore He will come only into a clean, pure heart. Our desires, ambitions, and selves must be always submitted to the Possessor of our lives. This is the condition the Master himself set for the indwell-

ing of His Spirit. How else could the Holy One from heaven live within human nature? The first step to real witnessing is the indwelling of the Christ.

When Christ is dwelling within the heart of the believer, then the second step of "making Christ known" will be a matter of natural result. Example is the course God chose to display the



The Standard Board Members, as well as the General Officers of God's Missionary Churches, join in wishing you and yours a Christ-filled Christmas. We join the song writer in praying: "Put CHRIST back into CHRISTmas."

Christian life to a sin-cursed world. Doctrine and theory go but a little way toward proving to a sin-sick generation that Christ is the answer to the turmoil and distress of our day.

The Christ-life example of the

born-again child of God is more impressive than hours of lecture. The everyday actions of Christians under the strain of pressure and the nerve-racking schedules so prominent in this age, are the tests the unregenerate are taking note of. They are interested in how the indwelling of Christ will benefit them. If there is no difference between their reaction to the unscheduled happenings and the reaction of those professing Christ, then what is the use of living the disciplined life of a Christian? Actions speak so loud that others cannot hear the words being spoken. The people of Christ's day were concerned with His reaction, the way He walked, the talk of His everyday life, and the outlook He had in general. Thus, those around us today are interested in how we conduct ourselves in the "tight places." When those of us who profess to having Christ within our hearts fail to show the Christ-like attitude, then it is impossible to make Christ known to anyone else.

The Christian Church needs to re-evaluate her standards of Christianity. Church membership impresses no one. Water baptism proves nothing — a wet or dry sinner is no example of Christ. Large crowds persuade the world of nothing but a nice gathering. If there is no demonstration of the power of God to change the lives of individuals, then the outward manifestations mean nothing. It is good to show the world that we have become a Christian through the avenue of baptism, and it is wonderful to have many following Christ, but it must be genuine, and not for show.

—By Rev. E. G. Garrett, Editor
Church Herald and Holiness Banner

EDITORIAL

This month we present a guest editorial by the Rev. Charles R. Kramer, Editor of the Christian Messenger of Coatesville, Pa. He has taken time to give us good, practical truth, and I know you will enjoy it. —TEF

What Should a Preacher Preach?

By CHARLES R. KRAMER*

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." —I Corinthians 1:17

Preaching is a calling or specific commission of God, which He places upon certain human vessels, who have entered into a complete surrender and consecration to the will of God. The compulsion to preach is so strongly impressed upon those whom the Lord calls, that many have admitted with Paul, "woe unto me if I preach not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." It is a great undertaking and risk for anyone to attempt to preach without this sense of divine calling, for often after one has been faithful and obedient in delivering the message of God, there seems to be so little accomplishment and often no visible results, and the preacher would in discouragement consider some other work, were it not for this inner compulsion to continue in his, God-chosen vocation. One of God's most effective methods of rescuing souls from sin and establishing them in His grace, is through the preaching of His Word. For, "how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall he preach except he be sent?" Paul said, "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." By the "foolishness of preaching" doesn't mean, that a preacher should act like a fool in the pulpit or say a lot of foolish things behind the sacred desk, but it means that through His ever-sufficient grace, God is able to so transform a lost, doomed sinner and cleanse his heart and life so completely, that He in turn can make that newborn man into an evangel of truth. Through this method God has

called fishermen, tax collectors and varied other, so-called ill-suited or unqualified individuals, and made out of them anointed mouth-pieces, who have caused the world to marvel and wonder, as they fulfilled the will of God. "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

God Calls and Qualifies Men

Since it is God who calls and qualifies His ministerial servants, then it is also important that we preach not our own ideas, philosophies, notions or convictions, but His message, which when delivered with the stimulation and anointing of the Holy Spirit, will arrest sinners and convince them of their sin and need of forgiveness. Spirit-filled messages will exalt Christ, alarm and warn the unsaved, arouse the indifferent to more effective and diligent service, inspire discouraged saints and challenge believers to explore the deeper things of God. The underlying motive and purpose of such messages will be — to help and not hinder, to build and not tear down, to heal and not injure, to unite and not sever, to encourage, challenge, revive and inspire, but never to cause one to cast away his confidence in God or to get a personal following. While the Word at times will sever, alarm and shake the very foundations of some of God's choicest saints in order that they do not become too contented with their accomplishments in Christian experience, such Truth must always be preached in love, compassion and humility and never with sarcasm, irony or the attitude of skinning. The attitude of telling others off or letting them know in no uncertain terms "my idea about things" in carnal and wrong, and such an attitude certainly should never be manifested in the pulpit.

What, Then, Should the Man of God Preach?

What then should the called servant of God preach? Some feel that God raised them up simply to constantly deal with externals, non-essentials and outward standards or traditions. They seem to delight in dressing or undressing their hearers in every sermon they preach, and seem to feel that unless they at

least mention their standards in each message, they have failed to do the will of God. They emphasize the mote and fail to discern the beam. Often they succeed in acquiring a following that appears on the surface to be saintly, righteous and overly-careful in the smallest detail, but inwardly when God looks at them, they are critical, carnal and lacking the power that makes them loving, patient, understanding, long-suffering, kind, gentle and holy. Paul warned that it is impossible to have "a form of godliness" without the power. The gospel is more than putting something on or doing something. It was given and provided to us that we may

(Continued on page 9)

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Missionary Message



Killingsworth Mission
Kungtown, Liberia
West Africa

Dear Prayer Warriors,

"When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee, for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour." Isa. 43:2, 3. This verse of His Word has literally been fulfilled in your missionaries' lives these past months as we have experienced our first rainy season here in Africa. The last time we wrote to you we were about to enter it and since it has been so long between our letters we suppose that you have wondered just how things turned out. Knowing our Lord and Saviour and His faithfulness, we are sure that you prayed to Him and asked Him to keep us during this time so that you will not be surprised to hear us say that He did not fail us. The rains came in all their fury, the wind blew as though it would have liked to take us off this lovely green hill, and many days the sun was hidden by clouds weighted down with their burden of rain, but the Son of God Who stilled the angry waters of Galilee spoke peace to our hearts through it all. The rivers in our vicinity were swollen till even those who had crossed them many times were refusing to make the venture. Some of the day school children could not come as usual because they were afraid to cross, but we thank the Lord that there were no accidents and all were kept safe. We did not leave the mission unless it was absolutely necessary to help someone who was sick or to go out for supplies. We thank the Lord with all our hearts that we were able to go and to return overshadowed by His wings. Instead of our usual raft used in crossing, we now use a dug-out canoe . . . not too wide and the water sometimes comes in over the top wetting the bottom, but it serves the purpose.

Independence Day Celebration

Since we last wrote there have been some "big" days in our lives. The celebration of Independence Day on July 26th here in Liberia, when for the

first time the speeches and all the happenings were broadcast "live" over the Christian radio station E.L.W.A. We listened to the program and thanked the Lord with the rest of Liberia that she gained her independence so long ago and that today she is still a growing republic, seeking God for guidance in all her affairs. Our little family here had a special treat of cookies and cake that day, along with kool-aid, each glass containing an ice cube to the delight of our children who think they are wonderful. We also had a little program of our own thanking the Lord for our freedom in Him which was purchased on Calvary. The next important day was Flag Day which is held every year and the school children take part by marching, singing and reciting poetry. Due to some misunderstanding we did not get to go to the large gathering, but invited the people from the village up to the mission to see the children march and hear them sing. It rained of course, but we were proud of our little ones and our spirits were not dampened.

We want to ask you to thank the Lord with us for answering prayer concerning one of our little mission boys who was very sick. He became unable to walk and we took him to the hospital in the city where they discovered upon examination that he had T.B. of the spine. An operation was imperative and the parent's consent was necessary. There were some difficulties involved, but the Lord worked it all out. The consent was signed, the operation was performed with success, and our son is on his way to recovery. You at home have prayed who knew about him from our personal letters and we have sought Him daily in his behalf . . . and therefore the request was granted by our Great Physician, Who knows what is best for all of us. Continue to pray that he shall soon be home with all of us again.

Another Answer To Prayer

We feel that we must mention to you another answer to prayer that took place recently. Many of you have heard us tell of the driver ants that are so plentiful here in Liberia and that they will destroy everything in their pathway. Well, they came to visit us during the rainy season about four or five times and we had a lively time. One Sunday just before service they came marching into our small kitchen. I happened to go out for something and noticed them, after which I screamed for some of the mission boys and they came running. We stopped them with burning newspapers soaked with kerosene, turning them aside, destroying their well ordered lines and sending them back to the bush. Each time that they have come it has been in the day so that we have been able to cope with

them and we feel that this has been of the Lord. We are sure you will agree with us.

Another Wave of Sickness

Sickness increases during the rainy season and even though they could not always come to us many dear ones have been ill and in need of our assistance. At times we have gone to relieve them as the Lord led, and when this was not possible we have prayed that the Saviour Himself would minister to their bodies and souls. The small children and the babies suffer the most with numerous colds and coughs, making our supply of cough medicine quite low at times. There have been some who have come through heavy rains and raging rivers to seek our aid and this we have gladly given in His name, sending other medicine with them for their loved ones who were unable to make the trip. Last week a small boy about three years old was brought to us with a burning fever. The first medicine we gave him promptly came up again and we sought the Lord in prayer asking Him to undertake. Then we gave the medicine again with the result that it remained . . . and later in the day they brought him again, with the fever gone, and his smile bright once more. Glory to His precious Name! You say that it was the medicine? . . . yes, but God used it and touched that boy for His own Name's sake. How we long for these souls to see Him and His salvation through the healing of sick bodies and other answers to prayer that He gives each day.

Pray For Needed Buildings

Pray especially with us concerning a new house for our boys that we wish to build during this coming dry season. They have repaired and repaired their house with its thatched roof and the winds and the rains have beat it unmercifully. If it is His will we would like to have a new one with a zinc roof and with much more space for our family of boys. Also pray that the other work that is so necessary shall be accomplished while the sun shines brightly and materials needed can be transported to the mission. We are expecting our jeep soon and we shall surely be grateful for it, and praise the Lord for all those who have made it possible.

Your servants for Jesus sake,
Bonnie and Barbara



The Sunday School Teacher's Page

Sunday School Teachers' Notes on the Bible

By Thomas E. Frantz
Milesburg, Pa.

Editor's Note —

Another in the series of Bible Information for the Sunday School Teacher appears in this issue. May we have the readers' opinion of the worth of this information. A postal will do.

Pastor — Extra copies of this Study, or of the 1st Volume of Studies in THE JOURNEYS OF THE ISRAELITES (20 Studies), may be secured at no charge from the above author. Postage appreciated!

STUDY 3

The last Two Studies in this series for Teachers have given us a small picture of how great a Book we are using as a textbook in helping to mold the lives of students under our "ministry," as Sunday School Teaching is indeed a ministry that God has blessed and used for His glory and for the Salvation of souls. Little did the Sunday School teacher in a little River Brethren Sunday School in Kansas know that Dwight David Eisenhower, a member of her class, would one day be President of the United States! We may have the future Presidents, Governors, Scientists, Doctors, Lawyers, Ministers, and other worthy characters sitting in our classes this week! May God help us to be faithful to their souls!

We learned that the Old Testament was composed of: (1) *The Pentateuch*, or the five books of Moses; (2) *The Positive or Historical Books*—including Joshua, Judges, Ruth (Who bridges the gap between Judges and Kings with the prophetic picture of the Redeemer, pictured in Boaz), and the Six Books of Kings—I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, and I & II Chronicles. *Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther* complete this division. (3) *Poetical Books*: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, The Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

(4) *Prophetic Books*, divided into Major and Minor Prophets, complete the Old Testament. There are four Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. There are twelve Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai,

Zechariah, and Malachi. The early Jews classed the twelve Minor Prophets as one book. They cover the period from 870-440 B.C., in which the *Four Major Prophets* also have their ministry, and even if it may be a shock to us that read these lines, these Twelve Minor Prophets can readily be seen to be contemporary with the Major and well-known men: (1) *Isaiah* — Hosea, Amos, and Micah. (2) *Jeremiah*-Obadiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. (3) *Ezekiel*-Joel, Jonah, Nahum. (4) *Daniel*-Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. With this explanation, does not the Old Testament become alive to us today?

Some Interesting Facts About the Bible in General

There are 1189 chapters in the Bible: 929 in the O. T.; 260 in the N. T. The longest chapter is a Psalm, Psalms 119, and the shortest is Psalms 117, which is also the middle verse of the Bible. The longest verse is Esther 8:9, while the shortest is John 11:35. The O. T. is 3½ times larger than the N. T. The Positive Books (The Historical take up ½ of the O. T., and the Pentateuch is almost as large as the entire N. T. In the N. T. the Gospels account for almost one half of the chapters. The seven longest books in the O. T. are Psalms, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Genesis, Isaiah, Numbers, Exodus. In the N. T. the three longest are Luke, Acts, and Matthew. Three Steps in O. T. History can be seen: (1) *The Messianic Nation*—Israel (2) *The Messianic Family*—The Family of David. (3) *The Messiah*—The great one in David's Family finally comes to the front. These steps show us God's Way to reveal HIS SON!



What Should a Preacher Preach?

(Continued from page 2)

become something, which we never were before. Its purpose is to remake, recreate and transform. The experience of heart purity and holiness is the free gift of God, and He is the only one who can make us righteous and right

in His sight. Certainly when the heart is made right, then the fruits of the Spirit and other outward changes will be manifested to others. If one has been genuinely saved and sanctified, there will be no problem to get him or her to dress modestly, simply, and without costly outward array. Such a person will readily seek "the adornment of a meek and quiet spirit," which in God's sight is of far more value than anything outward that may be put on or taken off. There will be times, when God will direct and lead preachers, to very explicitly name certain inconsistencies and things which will become weights and encumbrances to any Christian, and which will eventually defeat them spiritually unless they are willing to line up. When God does lead that way, no preacher should shirk his duty or hesitate to declare the whole counsel of God. However, the preacher should be sure the standards he is about to declare are Biblical and in line with the teachings of the Word. God never leads anyone to demand anything contrary to His inspired Book. It is the work of Satan, to make us mis-interpret Scriptures, and often in some deceptive method, he will make us overly-conscientious in regards to little things, and if he succeeds, he will cause us to be in bondage to something insignificant, and thus limit our usefulness in the Kingdom of God. There are some preachers, who have become so taken up with secondary themes like healing, tongues, standards, baptism or questionable doctrines, that they have failed to emphasize the essentials and primary experiences, which are necessary and vital to the Christian life.

The Gospel's Primary Purpose

Now the primary purpose of the gospel is to save lost sinners, sanctify believers until their hearts, motives and affections are pure, and until they are so filled and endued with the Spirit of God that they will be able to live holy and righteous lives. Therefore, the preacher should constantly strive and attempt to deliver the gospel in such a way that people will be convinced that they must repent and forsake sin; and until they will ask, believe and seek for the cleansing and in-filling of the Holy Spirit, for "without holiness

(Continued on page 5)

THE JOURNEYS OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL—A BIBLE STUDY

Editor's Note: We begin this month a series of Studies in the Word of God on God's Chosen People, the Israelites; they are similar to the series presented to our own prayer and study group at Milesburg. May we suggest that the readers who are interested in this type of Bible ministry preserve copies of the Standard so as to have the complete Study.

Study No. 1

THE ISRAELITES, THEIR VICTORIES & VICISSITUDES

In our introduction to this study, it might be well for us to see that the journey of the Israelites, together with all facts about their failures and successes, is a picture of two spiritual truths: (1) *The Believer's Search For A Canaan-Type Experience in Grace*, (2) *The Eventual Triumph of all saints in Heaven itself*. As such these two truths are woven and interwoven in the history of Israel. We will want to discuss: (1) *Their Beginning* (2) *Their Bondage* (3) *Their Burdens* (4) *Their Blessings*.

First, we look at *Their Beginning*. In Genesis, Chapter 11, we have the scattering abroad of all nations and the confusing of the tongues after the Tower of Babel experience. Immediately thereafter, God determines to have His own people, and we hear His conversation with the Founder of the Hebrews, Abram: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." Genesis 12:2. It sounds impossible that God would take one man and make a great nation, but that is exactly what He did with Abram.

Turning to the Hebrew Epistle, Chapter 11, Verses 8-12, we read in terse detail the elements of Abram's success as a Chosen Vessel on a journey to a Chosen Land as the Father of a Chosen People: (1) "He was called." (v. 8) (2) (He) "Obeyed" (3) "He went out" (4) "He sojourned in the land of promise" (4) "He looked for a city." Note the *Miracle of the Beginning of the Israelites*, indicated in verse 12 — "Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude,

and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable."

As much as 2247 years before Christ, Abram left Ur of the Chaldees to head out for Canaan land, "not knowing whither he went," said Paul in Hebrews 11:8. For an intelligent man to track out alone on a long strenuous journey, with a family of old people, together with many servants with the flocks and herds — with it all completely in the dark as to where and what — testifies of the GREAT FAITH Abram had in God's wish and Word. God is looking for men today with similar faith in the precious promises! Abram had a comfortable situation in Ur, and many authorities feel he was probably a governor or leader of the land area surrounding his great real estate holdings. This made the journey look all the more foolish in the eyes of the natural man. So men today do feel the journey of the soul that would flee to Christ for refuge is a foolish one, fraught with undesirable sacrifice and denial of self.

It must have been a momentous day when Abram broke camp and set out for Canaan. It was a great day for the Church, and the beginning of a Great Nation, through whom would come the Great Redeemer. It does appear that even the Angels of Glory rejoiced to see Abram take this all-important step of Separation from the ungodly nations, so that God could produce a pure one through which He could send His Son, Jesus! In the group were Terah (Abram's father) — who died in Haran — Lot, the son of Abram's late brother Haran. It appears from Genesis 11:27 that Abram had another brother, Nahor, but we do not read that he was included in the band that set out for Canaan; possibly he remained in Ur. *Sarai*, later to be Sarah, was Abram's dearly beloved wife, but she had not borne him a child. It is the story of her child, given in answer to prayer and the will of God, that will make plain the plan God had in store for Israel.



What Should a Preacher Preach

(Continued from page 4)

no man shall see the Lord." To be able to effectively explain the steps into an experience with God, and then feed, guide and lead those new-born souls into a radiant, fruitful, deeper experience with God, and to ultimately see them mature and develop into spiritual manhood, should be the heart cry and holy ambition of every specially-called minister of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many definite and eternally established Scriptural truths, which preachers must faithfully and consistently emphasize. Perhaps it might help us to determine what is most important, by studying the themes Jesus used. He warned of an eternal place of punishment, the folly of earthly riches and worldly pursuits, the danger of self-righteousness and outward works, the need of the abiding Comforter, the assurance of heaven and the things which we should be concerned about mostly. He admonished that we should not pay so much heed to what we should wear, God will in His time provide those things for us and take care of them for us, but He said we should rather give heed and be sure that we are prepared and ready for the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Conclusion of the Matter

In conclusion, may I suggest that, as preachers, we be faithful in preaching Christ and His gospel, which includes Calvary, the crucifixion, burial, resurrection, ascension and coming again of the Lord. This is the message of the early church, and it produced tremendous results and many were added to the Kingdom. This is the message our world needs today. Christ is the world's only hope. Let's exalt Him, elevate Him and preach His mercy, love, forgiveness and salvation. Let's urge the necessity of the abiding Comforter, and the importance of being ready, when our Bridegroom shall call us from labor to reward. *Editor, *The Christian Messenger*, Coatesville, Pa.



Up to Date Wise Men

WILLIAM WARD AYER

Matthew 2:1-11

General Lew Wallace in his book *Ben Hur* tells of women washing clothes at the Pool of Siloam under the walls of Jerusalem in the days when Jesus was born.

They converse with one another. "Peace be unto you," says one of the women.

"What news?" says another.

"They say that Christ the Messiah is born," a third declares.

"Does anybody believe it?" a group asks.

One replies enthusiastically, "This afternoon three men came across the Brook Kedron on the road from Shechem—each of them riding a camel, spotless and white with awnings of silk, saddle buckles of gold, and silver bells. One of the three asked, 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews?'"

"Where are they now?"

"At the inn," is the reply.

"Who are they?" shouts a multitude of voices.

One replies, "Nobody knows. Perhaps they are Persians, students of the prophetic Scriptures of Jeremiah, David. Perhaps they are astronomers! They claim that a bright, new star has come into the heavens."

One obviously indifferent person says, "What do they mean by the King of the Jews? Were they talking about Herod?"

"No," says another, "about the Messiah."

"Ah, there is no Messiah; Israel is her own Messiah," sneers a cynic.

The women laugh, passing the thing off. A wrinkled old mother says skeptically, "When I see a man who can raise the dead, heal the leper, and give sight to the blind, and do all these other things that the rabbis in the synagogues talk about when they speak of the Messiah, then I'll believe, but until then I think the whole thing is poppycock."

Old Time Prophets Deceived?

"He has been a long time promised," says a gray-bearded man, shaking his head. "For four hundred years now there has not been even a Prophet. The heavens have been as brass. There has been no open vision. Perhaps the old-time Prophets were de-



ceived after all. The world continues as it was from the beginning. Oh, well—"

And so the conversation drags on.

This was the spirit of that day when Jesus—the Messiah, the world's Saviour—was born. It is typical of the modern spirit. The Wise Men were not deluded, however; they found the Messiah and worshiped Him, and went away and were blessed. So may we today find the Saviour, though all the world cynically deny and pass Him by.

I. Up-to-date Wise Men Are Those Who in Faith and Trust Come Past All of the Religious Trumpery of the Day to the Christ of Christmas.

There is a very suggestive analogy in the account of the Wise Men. They came first to Jerusalem, the center of religion, and got nothing; then they went on to Bethlehem and found the Saviour.

So many come to religion and get nothing but delusion. Jerusalem was the world's greatest religious center. Herod was there, and we are told that he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. Edersheim, the scholarly Jewish commentator on "The Life and Times of Jesus," says, "Jerusalem was filled with polished, witty people — rich, pleasure-mad — luxuriously-furnished homes, sumptuous entertainments. The Book of Revelation speaks of a Jerusalem 'which spiritually is called Sodom . . . where also our Lord was crucified'."

Jerusalem of Christ's time was typical of the religious life of our day. Even here in America the Christian churches and many of the leaders know little about the true meaning of Christ's coming and practically nothing of the fact of His Second Coming. Do you remember the account of the Ethiopian eunuch whom Philip met on his way back to Ethiopia? He, too, had been down in Jerusalem, had spent weeks, perhaps months there, trying to find out something about the true God. He had received a scroll of the

Prophet Isaiah (one good effect of his visit. . . . I think that God providentially ordered that!) but he was puzzled when Philip drew nigh to his chariot. He found the eunuch reading that portion of the prophecy of Isaiah that tells of Jesus and he asked the evangelist, "Of whom speaketh the Prophet this? of himself, or of some other men"? Philip began at that portion and "preached unto him Jesus" and the man was converted.

Pomp and Pageantry

Here is the remarkable thing — what Jerusalem with all of its religion, its pomp and ceremony, its pageantry, its boasted righteousness could not do, the dust-laden evangelist filled with the Spirit of God and with the truth concerning Jesus in his heart was fully able to do for this puzzled treasurer for Queen Candace of Ethiopia.

Unfortunately the world wants religion but does not want Jesus; yet it does not need religion, it needs Jesus! There are so many pictures in that early portrayal of the Lord that are significant today. For example, Jesus as a baby was a refugee. He fled into Egypt from the wrath of Herod. He is a refugee today in a world blighted by war. It hates Jesus while it makes pretense of pious religion.

Yes, many come to Jerusalem but never get to Bethlehem. Bethlehem is the place where Jesus is found — where salvation is. Religion cannot save our world . . . it can only confuse it; but the Lord Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem can and, thank God, finally will!

II. Up-to-date Wise Men Fall Down and Worship Christ.

There is significance in studying those who gathered around the manger-cradle. The angels worshiped Him, the shepherds came to pay adoration, the Wise Men brought their gifts, and Mary and Joseph were there adoring the little One that God had given them.

The sacred record shows that among the many pictures presented, none is more quaint and interesting than the journey of the Wise Men. Who they were, how many there were, no one knows; it might pay us, however, to remember what a Bible student has written of them.

(Continued on page 12)

A PAGE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Dear Little Stranger

Woodrow Young

LITTLE Paul Robinson lived in the outskirts of a small village called Grassvalley. Perhaps we should not say, "little" Paul because he was not really so very tiny, but he was not very large either, and, besides, if you could see Paul's father, Mr. Robinson, you would think Paul would have to grow a great deal to be as tall.

Grassvalley was a beautiful place, and some of the most wonderful people lived there. The Smiths lived next door, the Watsons lived across the street and they had some chickens, a cow and a little kitty. Best of all, they did not care if Paul came over and played with the kitty, which he did nearly every day.

The Robinsons were not rich people, but Mr. Robinson always provided the needs of the home, and Mrs. Robinson worked very hard to keep Paul and his baby sister in clothes. You should have seen their home! Everything was spic and span, except, of course, when Paul came in with muddy shoes, and if you should have gone to their home for a visit, you would have received a welcome that you could never forget as long as you live.

After waiting for the long year to pass, finally Christmas Day was just about there, and Paul's heart pounded with excitement because that was perhaps the best time of the whole year to him. Early in the evening on the night before Christmas, he sat in the front room before the big fireplace. The flames danced around as though they were happy, too. Mother was in the kitchen finishing her work, baby was asleep and Daddy was sitting in the big rocking chair reading the paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were Christian parents and, when all the work was done, they always read from the Bible and prayed before they went to bed. Paul's father opened the big Bible and read about the birth of Jesus. He explained that the next day they and thousands of other people would celebrate His birth. He also told little Paul that most of the people in the world did not know that Jesus was born, and that He died for their sins. They all sat in silence for a long time.

"Mommy," said Paul to his mother, "will you tell me about Jesus' being born—just like a story? I like to hear it—you know, how He was born in a manger where the cows were, and how they wrapped Him in those things, and how the shepherds came to see Him, and—and—"

"Just a moment, Paul, dear," his mother interrupted, "you are telling it all to me. Come here and sit on this stool, and I will tell you all about it."

Then the thrilling account began. It seems that we can almost hear her voice now. As she talked Paul sat as still as a mouse so that he would not miss one word she spoke. She told how Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, but, when the time came for them to pay their taxes, they went away across the country to Bethlehem. They hunted for a place to stay for the night but no



place could be found in the inns, so a stable was used that night, and, in that lowly place, little Jesus was born.

The happy angels appeared to shepherds in the field, and they came to worship the wee, little baby. Paul wished he could have been there. She told how wicked King Herod tried to kill the baby Jesus, and how the Lord told Joseph and Mary to flee to the land of Egypt. Years later they returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew up to be a man.

Finally, Paul's sweet mother told why Jesus was born.

"The earth was a strange place to Him," she said, "and He was among strange people. He came from Heaven where all was beautiful and happy, and He was born a tiny baby and laid in a manger as His first bed. He was a dear little Stranger. But people hated Him and mocked at Him. They they nailed Him to a cruel Cross. Even though He was a stranger, He came to this world to bring joy and happiness to sinful and unhappy people."

She continued talking, but Paul's head lay on her lap. His eyes grew heavy, and then they slowly closed.

"Jesus was a dear little Stranger," he said to himself, and fell fast asleep.

Then he dreamed a very, very strange dream.

It seemed that he was walking along a rough, rocky road. Strange people in odd looking clothes were walking there, too, a multitude of them. It was night. He noticed that the people were hurrying and they were excited. Just over their heads and not far in the distance was a great, bright star. He followed the crowds until he came to a stable where cows and sheep were kept. The star stopped in the sky right over the stable.

Paul walked up to a window and looked inside. Oh! what a beautiful sight! There was a beautiful, little Baby lying on some straw in a manger. His mother sat close to Him. In a flash Paul realized that the Baby was the Lord Jesus.

"Why don't they put Him in a nice bed? Why aren't more people here to worship Him?" These questions came to little Paul's mind, but he knew that Jesus was just a little stranger and that most of the world did not care for Him.

All at once it seemed that Paul was in a different place. He was standing on a hill. He heard loud shouting and

many voices, so he turned quickly to see who might be coming. What he saw was terrible. They were dragging a Man up the hill, and while He was being pulled along by the angry people, some of them beat Him and spit on Him.

"Who is that Man?" Paul asked someone who stood near by.

"That is Jesus," the answer came. "They are going to crucify Him."

Jesus had grown up to be a Man, but people hated Him for His good works and now He was to be nailed to a Cross. After the soldiers had fastened Jesus to the Cross they raised it and dropped it in a hole in the ground. Paul felt like crying. Then he ran forward and fell on his knees at the foot of the Cross and said,

"These people hate You, Lord Jesus, but I love You with all my heart."

Paul heard a familiar voice. Slowly he realized that it belonged to his own mother. He raised his sleepy head and looked into her face.

"So the little Stranger has meant a great deal to this sorrowful old world, hasn't He?" his Mommy said pleasantly.

Paul climbed up on her lap and put his arms tightly around her neck.

"He is a dear little Stranger to me, Mommy, and I love Him with all my heart. And Mommy, if I had been there when Jesus was born, I would want to be His friend. Why didn't all the people love Jesus?"

"There was so much sin," she said. "Why, even today people live through Christmas Day without even one thought of Him. It is very, very sad."

"I see," said Paul. "Instead of thinking of just our toys and eating, we ought to think of Jesus. We must think of the dear little Stranger."

Chinese Piggys

Hilda A. Richardson

Chan and Wong, like many other little children in war-torn China had to go from door to door begging for food. "I'm hungry. Please give me something to eat," they cried, holding out their hands pleadingly.

That was how it came about that the good missionaries and Christian people in Suchow said one to another, "We cannot be Christians and not do something for these hungry children. We must feed them." And they did. They took sixty children into the compound (a compound is a large yard enclosed with a wall where there are several houses where the missionaries live as well as the girls' school), and fed them with the rice they had on hand. When that was all gone they had to turn them away hungry.

"But we cannot let them starve," declared Pastor Jong. "I will go to Shanghai and see if I can get some of the money that has come from the good Christian people in America. Then I can buy grain to feed the hungry children."

Pastor Jong journeyed to Shanghai and presented his problem to the missionaries there. Yes, indeed, they said he could have some of the money sent from America to buy grain to feed the hungry children of Suchow.

Pastor Jong took the money down to the dock where the grain was sold. It

was impossible to buy rice because the enemy soldiers had taken all of it for themselves. Corn was all he could get and he had to pay a large sum of money for that, besides a tax to the enemy soldiers. But he was glad to get the corn.

When the hungry children of Suchow heard there was food again, they flocked to the compound in such large numbers that it was impossible to take all of them in. A kind Christian Chinese let them have a large house near by where they could feed all of the children.

Soon there were 600 children coming for one meal a day. The older boys and girls helped grind the corn. Each child received a bowl of corn mush, and a smaller bowl of greens, sometimes Chinese cabbage, course spinach or dandelion greens. They were seated at low tables on little bamboo stools to eat, but not before they had stood with bowed heads while they thanked God for the food which was before them and for the Christian friends in America that sent the money to buy food for the hungry Chinese.

After the meal they heard Bible lessons, memorized Bible verses and learned to read and write from the Bible.

As food became scarcer in Suchow, more and more children came to the house to be fed. Soon there was not room for them all, so another kind Christian let them use their large house. The first house was called, "Christian Center One," and the second house, "Christian Center Two." By now 1100 children were being fed at the two centers.

The corn that Pastor Jong bought at Shanghai did not last long with so many mouths to feed, but fortunately it was bean season in China then. The Chinese beans are large and coarse with tough skins. They have to be soaked overnight, then the skins pop open and they can be easily taken off. Early each morning some of the children came to take the skins off the beans.

It was while Wong was sitting on a little bamboo stool at the low table, skinning beans and putting the beans in a bowl and the skins in a pile beside him that he said to Chan who sat next to him, "It is a shame to waste all the bean skins."

"What could we do with them?" asked Chan.

"We could feed them to a pig. I know where we can get a little pig," said Wong.

So Wong and Chan took the idea to the missionary lady in charge of Center One.

"A pig!" she exclaimed. "Who would take care of it?"

"I would take care of it," promised Wong.

"I would help him to take care of the pig," volunteered Chan.

That was how the little pig came to live at Center One. Wong and Chan took care of it with the help of the other boys and girls. Little Piggy got the bean skins to eat and water to drink but not one thing more for every bit of the other food was needed for the children. Piggys in China do not have curly tails, perhaps it is because they do not get many vitamins from bean skins.

When the children in Center Two heard about the pig that Center One

had, nothing would do but that they should have a pig too. Very soon Center Two had a little pig to eat the bean skins. On such a rationed diet it is hard to believe that the pigs grew bigger and bigger till they were grown-up piggys, but that is what happened to the piggys at Center One and Center Two.

Christmas time drew near. With a great deal of excitement plans were made for a program. Red paper was cut for decorations, carols were learned, and everybody was wondering about the Christmas dinner. Corn or beans and greens was the regular meal all year around. If they could only have a wee bit of meat for Christmas dinner!

"Let's have the pig for dinner," suggested Wong.

So on Christmas Day the children in Center One and Center Two had a wee bit of meat for dinner along with their beans and greens. Now if you are good at arithmetic just divide two piggys between 1100 hungry children and see how much each one got. But Christmas dinner was a very special one and before the Chinese boys and girls sat down to eat they bowed their heads while one of the older children prayed, "We thank Thee Heavenly Father for this good food today and for the Christians in America who sent the money so we could buy grain and beans to eat and so we could feed the pig and have meat for this Christmas dinner. Amen." —Gospel Herald

Stalled in a Blizzard

And How God Answered Prayer
and Sent Help Just in Time

L. Payler

Windshield wipers struggling to keep the glass clear of heavy, wet snow, the circle of visibility growing smaller, the confusion of flakes in the fading light as the car plows more slowly ahead — these are familiar sights to most of us today. Every driver knows the feeling of uncertainty and the fears that come over him as he peers into the storm and tries to keep the car steady on the road and yet moving ahead. Here is the personal testimony of a Christian man who had a narrow escape. It was good that he had hidden Scripture in his heart, that he had his pocket Testament with him, and that he had a praying wife at home. Just as God led him out of danger and spared his life, so He can lead others through their peculiar trials. You may never be caught in a blizzard, but this cheering testimony from a fellow traveler may help you over your own hard places.

I AM convinced that prayer saved me from death in the blizzard of 1931.

That storm, which made national headlines, as it swept furiously over Kansas and part of Colorado, according to all human facts would have been my earthly end. It is only through the grace and power of God that I am alive today.

Having lived in Ohio all my life, the far western prairies of Kansas were new territory to me. My car was piled high with cardboard displays and samples of advertising for dairy and ice cream companies. I knew nothing of how those Western blizzards acted. It would soon be spring, and I never thought of

winter storms, as I said good-by to my wife and baby daughter in Kansas City, and started on this selling trip for my firm.

I was behind schedule and worked longer than usual that day making calls. My head ached and my nose felt stuffy — "Probably a cold," I thought as I got into bed, in a hotel in a town so small that it is not shown on many maps. During the night I had a stabbing pain in my side. "Probably pleurisy again," I thought, taking some cold medicine and trying to rest, even if sleep was impossible. I prayed for recovery.

Snow on the Open Plains

Next morning, feeling much better, I left for Hayes, Kansas. Driving along in late afternoon, I saw an unusual, pearly light. Then it started snowing. "I thought winter was past," I remarked to my last customer. He just shook his head — "You never can tell around here."

It was early for supper, so I decided to push on until I got to the next town. Maybe I could travel away from the storm.

Now I was out on the open plains. Soon the snow came faster and it was harder to distinguish the road. It was getting colder, too, and now my motor started missing. At rare intervals a car passed me. "What time I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee" (Ps. 56:3, R. V.) kept repeating itself in my mind, and I kept hoping for at least a small town where food and shelter would be available. "What a place to stall!" kept going through the back of my mind, as I tried to keep my mind on the Bible verse.

I saw the lights of a farmhouse, back from the road. Someone with a lantern swung it beckoningly, but I thought they mistook me for friends.

Suddenly my car stopped. I tried the starter again and again. Just a dismal whirr. The snow was now a whirling curtain. I could not see a light anywhere. Prayerfully I took out my flashlight and opened the door. The wind snapped it out of my hand. The wind cut through my clothes. Shivering, I tried to lift the hood, but I could not budge it. Blinded by stinging snow, I crawled back into the machine, out of the deep snow.

Even then I did not realize the desperation of my situation, or that this was a blizzard. I kept praying, hoping the storm would be short, and I could reach shelter and food. I listened, but no car came. The cold was becoming bitter. Stuffing samples of paper and cardboard in all the cracks of my machine to keep out the numbing cold did not help much. "I'll have to try to make it back to that farmhouse," I thought. "Can't sit here and freeze to death."

I put on more clothes and got out of the car. No lights anywhere, just blinding snow like a curtain closing me in all alone, yet not alone — God was with me. I had to throw myself completely on His mercy. The snow was past my knees; which way should I go? I started back, feeling my way along the car, the wind snatching the breath from my lips. I stumbled into a drift after what seemed a long distance. As I lay I could see the red taillight of my car. When I stood I could not see it, so, crawling along, I got back to the car. I

struggled with the lock and finally wrenched it open.

Glancing at my watch, I noticed it was 7 o'clock. Just the time my wife and baby were having evening devotions. How I longed to be safe with them! I knew they were praying for me, and it comforted me and I prayed with renewed fervor. Then I remembered a box of cookies my wife had given me. I ate half of the cookies, and a handful of the snow which was now sifting in. I covered myself with all the clothes in my grip and some big sheets of paper and tried to sleep on the front seat of the car, trying to console myself with the thought that there was nothing more I could do and I must conserve my strength and trust in God to bring me through till morning when the storm would probably be over.

The Comfort of the Scriptures

That night was spent in dozing and prayer. Next morning I could not tell in the grayness whether it was snowing or just blowing from the drifts of whiteness which surrounded me. No one was on the road, or rather where the road had been. Breakfast was the last of the cookies and a handful of sifted-in snow. The day seemed endless. I dozed from weakness, and prayed when I awoke. I read over in my pocket Testament the account of Jesus' coming to His disciples over the sea (Matt. 14). The 27th verse—"Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid"—came like a personal message, heartening me. The thirty-first verse hit me squarely—"O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt"? I resolved not to doubt, but keep on praying and hoping. I knew by now my wife knew of the storm and would be praying, too.

My watch had stopped. I did not know what time it was, but now the snow stopped. The wind died down. I could almost feel my heart beat in the quiet. Looking around, to the right, some distance away, I saw the top of a fence. "That leads somewhere. If I can follow far enough, I'll see a house!"

I was so cold I could not spend another night in the car without food. Even now I was fighting fatal drowsiness. Praying desperately, I left the car and waded through the drifts, sinking in above my waist. Finally I grasped a fence post, and felt for the wire. I kept my hand on the wire and kept fighting my way along. Often I had to stop for breath. Still I could not see anything but blank whiteness. I think I was praying aloud in my desperation, going over and over again the same words, "God help me! Lead me!" I never wanted anything so much as to lie down in that whiteness and sleep, but something in me kept me going, knowing that to stop too long would be fatal.

My strength was almost gone, when directly in front of me I saw a red barn. I called at the top of my lungs: "Help!"

Two men came from the barn with a pail. I saw them start toward me, then I collapsed. When I came to, I was in a kitchen that was warm and lamp-lit. An old man and a young man were rubbing me. "You had a close call!"

"God brought me through though," I answered as they rubbed me with snow. "You helped me in time. Can I phone my wife?"

"All lines are down, but now how about some food?"

The woman of the house brought me coffee, steaming and fragrant, and a big plate of bacon, eggs, and fried potatoes. She buttered slabs of homemade bread for me. How kind these people were to me, a stranger in need!

After I had eaten and they had listened to my story the man of the house knelt and led us in prayer. I could hardly hear his "Amen," before I was asleep. I slept all night and most of the next day before I awakened.

As soon as they could get through, they took me to the next town to telephone my wife. When she heard my voice she burst into tears, crying, "Thanks to God! I never stopped praying for you!"

In spite of exposure and the threatened cold I was well again. God had blessed me with life. Not until I read the papers and talked to the townspeople did I realize how fortunate I was to have survived. Now more than ever I was convinced that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Truly, the fact that I am alive today is a testimony to the power of prayer and the mercy of God.

—The Sunday School Times



If the First Christmas Had Happened in 1961

It was a typical Winter's evening in 1961 when Mary and Joseph made their way from motel to motel, under pressure for time as the hour of the virgin's deliverance was near at hand. "No Vacancy" signs were up everywhere in the little town, as a political rally and a sport event were featured attraction to the college community.

Finally, an unheated dwelling place at the rear of a great motel was offered to the earnest man, a descendant of David, and to his young wife, soon to be delivered of Him Who would be the world's Saviour. Humbly and gratefully they accepted this humble place, remembering the words of the Prophet, "And he had no place to lay his head. . . ."

Fumes from factories and oil burners filled the night air, and from a hundred taverns loud music was heard to the accompanying dancing and strutting. Television sets were rolling full blast, and transistor radios blared forth jazz music. Theatre crowds were coming and going, and the football game had just begun. The gambling dens were doing a good business tonight, as were the drive-in movies. Hot dog stands were busy, and the pizza shops had waiting lines. Every-

one was busy having a "high ole time" this cold night. Only the churches, and other places of worship, were empty this night. In fact, one could even find members of the clergy in the places where the bright lights were glowing. "Status symbols" were to be seen everywhere: fish-tail convertibles, mink stoles, diamonds, rich clothing, high-priced meals, luxury apartments. Yet, the Saviour is of humble birth.

Slacks-clad girls are staggering down the streets and rock and rollers are following them. Here is a society-type couple, going from club to club. There are servicemen, spending their month's pay on trifles. Police sirens blare. Neon signs blink. Airplanes roar overhead. Diesel train's horns are heard in the cool, crisp air. Buses, loaded with sports fans, race to and fro. It is a far different world than 4 B.C.

It's good to awaken to reality and discover that Christmas hasn't just happened in 1961, but that about two thousand years ago it came to pass in that little sleepy town of Bethlehem of Judea that Christ the Saviour was born, not to a nation of worldly-minded playmates, but to a nation hungry for the advent of God's Son. He was well-received, by the humble shepherds and the rich kings from the East. Thank God for the first Christmas.

Christmas Sermons

(Continued from page 11)

the Chosen Race, see a STAR, follow it, and find a babe in a manger and proclaim Him to be the Son of God, while others in Jewry reject Him who was born from and among them. I say, "Great is the mystery of Godliness."

3. Route They Returned To Their Own Country

(a) *God-appointed Way* — Any man that has met Christ and stayed to worship at His feet goes "home another way."

(b) *Joy-filled way* — Any way would have been such to them in their new-found joy.

(c) *Safe Way* — Out of the hands of Herod, who represents the Devil.

This, then, is the story of the CHRISTMAS DETOUR.

—Thomas E. Frantz

REPORTS

Revival and Harvest Home At Milesburg

We enjoyed a good series of meetings, which we called, "Harvest Week Services," which began with a Harvest Home Service at the Old Sanctuary, north of Milesburg, Sunday, October 15. Rev. George I. Straub, the General Superintendent, spoke at this service, our annual meeting at the Advent location. The weather was a bit cold, due to the fact that the furnace is no longer safe to use there, but electric heaters, and a full house soon made it comfortable.

A beautiful, useful display of commercially-prepared and home canned fruits, vegetables, and stable groceries was presented to the pastor by the congregations. The Church had been very nicely decorated in Harvest style by the Senior Class of the Sunday School, taught by Myron Hicks.

The morning service of this special day had begun with a dedication of the new Sunday School facilities in the basement of the new church at Milesburg. The pastor read a charge to the Sunday School officers and teachers, and the Superintendent of the Sunday School, Floyd "Mike" Read, accepted the completed rooms to be used only in the work of the Gospel. A high tide of blessing swept our hearts as the pastor urged the Superintendent to see that only "spiritual purposes" shall ever be served by these rooms. A tour of the building was suggested, and many of the adult members of the Men's Bible Class, Ladies' Bible Class, and the Fellowship Class (Young Married Couples under 40), whose classes are held in the main part of the Sanctuary, were amazed to see the improvement in the basement, which had been left in one large room with steel girders and posts exposed.

Rock lath had covered the ceiling joists, and a beautiful sand-finish plastered ceiling now was evident. Rev. Harry Ray Styers, pastor at Pillow, had done the work at a very, very low figure. It is a beautiful job.

The seven rooms were divided with Philippine Mahogany V-Grooved Panels, and solid Birch doors divided the individual rooms,

so that two separate basement auditoriums can be provided on each side of the hall when needed for larger gatherings.

Beautiful new lighting fixtures completed the pleasing appearance of these rooms.

All of the carpenter and painting work had been done by the brethren of the Church, directed by the pastor and Edgar Grove, who was presented with a new Black and Decker power saw in recognition of his labors.

Rev. Charles Kramer, Editor of the Christian Messenger and pastor at Coatesville, Pa., came to be with us the night of October 15, and preached and sang in the Spirit each night up to October 22. The saints attended well, and we made a number of new contacts for the Church, which we believe will prove valuable in later weeks.

God is blessing our Church, and though there are "ups and downs," attendance-wise, because of illness and so on, we can see a steady gain in the right direction. Praise God!

Religious Survey Taken

A religious survey was taken in Bellefonte and Milesburg area, which resulted in many new contacts being made for the Church In The Valley at Milesburg, as the pastor received about 20 cards from people who consider this to be their church home, even though they have not in the past attended here. This is refreshing, to say the least, and shows that we have the confidence of the community. The pastor has been making visits to these homes, and the response has been good.

Western Zone Youth Rally At Mahaffey

A group of a bit less than 70 journeyed to Mahaffey, the most distant outpost on the Western

Zone, for the youth rally on October 30. Delegations were present from Mahaffey, Pleasant View, Zerby, Lewistown, and Milesburg. Rev. Jack White was the director of the meeting, which included special numbers in song by Zerby and Milesburg groups, a Bible Quiz led by Rev. Alvin Shafer, and a message by the Editor of the Standard. Ministers present included: Revs. Jack White, Zone Leader; Paul Miller, General President and host Pastor; C. William Rachau, Conference Vice President; Alvin Shafer, Reporter to the Standard; and the Editor.

The report of the November 6 Milesburg Rally will appear next month, as well as the December 4 rally at Pillow, and the December 18 rally at Milesburg, for the Western Zone.

God bless the young people. The spirit of enthusiasm in these rallies has been nothing short of marvelous. Devotion, also, is very plain to be seen. Many have gulped down their dinner, and raced for their "pick-up point" so that they might represent their local youth society. Even the older people have shown good interest and some cars are filled with them, even miles from home. This is good for the whole congregation of any church, to be sure.

If we turned down the youth of the Bible we would have to reject the following:

- (a) *Jesus Christ* — Finished His work at 33½ years.
- (b) *Daniel* and the Three Hebrew Children.
- (c) *Timothy* — Began his work as early as 17 years.
- (d) *John Mark, Titus, Silas* — Helpers of Paul.
- (e) *Young Joseph, Moses, Jeremiah* ("I am but a lad, Lord.")

Surely, we can see the folly of rejecting any department of the Church, when it has good, scriptural foundation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 4, 1961 — Rally at the Pillow, Pa., Church.

DECEMBER 18, 1961 — Rally at the Milesburg Church. Christmas Theme. Singing and Music under direction of the pastor. A Christmas Quiz will be conducted.



Christmas Sermons or Talks in Outline Form



Subject: AN OBSCURE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Text — Luke 2:13, 14: "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."

INTRODUCTION: The First Christmas was foretold 1452 years Before Christ in Numbers 24:17, when Balaam cried: "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel." The Prophet Isaiah said: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." (Ch. 9, verse 6.) This compares to the "gift" in John 3:16. Isaiah 7:14 details the "sign": "The Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name, Immanuel . . . Wonderful . . . Counsellor . . . the Mighty God . . . The Everlasting Father . . . and the Prince of Peace." Our hearts are indeed thrilled to see these prophecies fulfilled in the First Christmas, and we turn to the text to catch another glimpse of Truth for these troubled times:

1. "Good will toward men . . . " That Have Failed

***The entire race had miserably failed to keep their first estate, and the very man of God's Creation had been such a failure and disappointment until God had written: "And it repented him that he had made man upon the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." Genesis 6. "Good will" is Heaven's Message to lost and dying men everywhere without God.

2. "Good will toward men . . . " That Have Forgotten

***The Manger Scene speaks of hope for the lowly, the down-trodden, the sinful, the demon-oppressed, the wicked, and the ungodly. Appearing in the lowly surroundings of the Manger made this Babe available to all men everywhere, regardless of their estate.

3. "Good will toward men . . . " That Have Been Faithful

(a) *The Wondering Shepherds* — Simple believers.

(b) *The Wandering Wise Men* — Rich kings of the East, who had journeyed afar, presenting costly gifts.

(c) *The Waiting Elder Saints* — Aged Anna and Simeon.

(d) *The Witnessing Parents* — Pure and faithful Mary and Joseph, trustworthy with God's Great Secret, the incarnation of His own Son.

—Thomas E. Frantz
* * * *

Subject: A CHRISTMAS DETOUR

Text — Matthew 2:12: "And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."

INTRODUCTION—Much has been written about the visit of the Shepherds, the singing of the angels from heaven with Christmas' greatest song: "Peace on earth, Good will toward men." But two years after the birth of Jesus, come the Wise Men from the East to worship the Christ child. Note the proofs of the time element:

(a) Herod slew all children up to two years old.

(b) "And when they were come into the house . . ." Christ had been born in a stable.

(c) " . . . They saw the young child . . . " Twice Luke calls Christ "The babe" while Matthew, telling of the visit of the Wise Men and the subsequent flight to Egypt, repeatedly calls him "The young child."

(d) Luke describes the birth "Is born," but Matthew, writing of a later date, says, "Now when Jesus was born . . ."

These Wise Men, orientals, were doubtless of great wealth, and

who studied the heavens and the stars with their mysteries. Their trip as they followed the STAR seemed to come a round-a-bout way, but when they contacted Herod, persecution broke out and babes were killed, thus fulfilling the prophet's vision of "Rachel weeping for her children."

Notice the busy traffic in the Christmas Story, as God directed them here and there to their various places:

(1) Mary and Joseph were directed to Bethlehem, in spite of Mary's advanced condition, so that prophecy could be fulfilled at the Bethlehem stable.

(2) The Shepherds to the manger from yonder hillside.

(3) Herod's soldiers searching homes and streets for the New King.

(4) And now the wise men and their trip to Bethlehem via Jerusalem, and their CHRISTMAS DETOUR home. "And they departed into their own country ANOTHER WAY."

1. *The Route They Came*

(a) Round-about one, it is true, but directed by God so to fulfill all prophecies.

(b) *Star-Led Route* . . . Speaks of Heavenly Guidance. Wise men today seek Christ for the same Guidance.

(c) They came from afar. "Ye who were sometimes afar off, have been brought nigh through the blood of Jesus Christ."

(d) *Joy-Filled Way* . . . "They rejoiced with exceeding great joy" when the Star again appeared. Ben Hur, General Lew Wallace's book, says that one of the Wise Men shouted and was blessed in Herod's palace when the Scribes said the Bible had verily prophesied of Christ's birth.

2. *The Regal Scene They Shared*

(a) *Humility* — "They fell down."

(b) *Holiness* — "And worshipped Him."

(c) *Helpfulness* — "Opened their treasures."

(a) *Fulfilling God's Plan*
GOLD — Divinity
MYRRH — Death
FRANKINCENSE — Royalty

(b) *Financing Egyptian Trip*
Soon To Come

Three unknown Kings, coming from a great distance, not even in

(Continued on page 9)

Up to Date Wise Men

(Continued from page 6)

"The Magi came from beyond the bounds of chosen and favored Israel whose were the covenant, the oracles, the fires of Sinai, the glory of Zion, and the faith of the fathers," writes the commentator. "They came doubtless from Persia. They were princes among pagans, or a priesthood of superstition. Their business was a vain attempt to read the fortunes of empires and of men by watching the changing positions and mutual attractions of the stars. No plainer revelation of God's loving-kindness and wisdom stood before their eyes than in the cold splendors of the midnight sky.

Long Night Vigils

"The Heavenly commandments and promise they must spell out in the mystic syllables of the constellations, or else grope in darkness. The sun was the burning eye of an unknown deity. With night-long solemn vigils, they strained their eyes into the heavens; but they saw no 'heaven of heavens', because they saw no Father of forgiveness and no heart of love there. Astrology was their pursuit, and astrology was neither a true faith nor a true science. Their prophet was Zoroaster — a mysterious if not quite a mythical person, ever vanishing in the shadows of an uncertain antiquity. These were the men that God was leading to Bethlehem, representatives of that whole pagan world that He would draw to the Saviour." So we have many pictures — the humble Jewish Shepherds, the pagan Wise Men, the Star which was the "wonder," the angel which was the "sign," and the fact that salvation is of the Jews.

What of the Star? There are many interpretations of its meaning. The devout Kepler said that probably there was a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C. which made for unusual brightness. Others say that a single star took on an unusual brightness. In 1572 Nova Cassiopeia outshone Venus. There are records of nearly a thousand of such cases, but I think it must have been a special heavenly phenomenon.

The Bible speaks of special stars. There was the Star of

Jacob and the Bright and Morning Star. You remember how the Shekinah Glory went before the Children of Israel when they wandered through the wilderness, and the star finally stood over the place where the young Child was.

Someone might ask, "Why doesn't the Gospel explain this situation?" — chiefly, I think, because God wanted us to be interested not in the star, but in Christ. When Da Vinci finished the celebrated picture of the Last Supper a friend said of the masterpiece, "It is exquisite. That wine cup seems to stand out from the table as solid, glittering silver." The artist quickly brushed it out, and when the friend remonstrated at his rashness, Da Vinci said, "I meant that the figure of Christ should first attract the observer's eye — I must blot out all that diverts attention."

Well, why should the Wise Men come to Bethlehem? Christ was the Desire of all nations. Messianic prophecy, like a moving stream, had risen in Israel but finally it touched all the world. Even the anti-deluvians knew that there was a coming Messiah. The studious and observant pagans looked for a coming ruler. Virgil wrote:

*"Come, claim thine honors, for
the time draws nigh,
Babe of immortal race, the wondrous
seed of Jove!
Lo, at thy coming how the starry
spheres
Are moved to trembling, and the
earth below,
And widespread seas, and the blue
vault of heaven!
How all things joy to greet the
rising age."*

Today men know that the world needs Divine interference. A world Messiah is being sought; unfortunately when he is found he may prove to be the false messiah which is to come.

Every Knee Bows

But these Wise Men have a counterpart in many modern lives. There are, thank God, still a few who do not merely praise Christ as a man or even as a superman; they bow down and worship Him as Saviour and Lord. One day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Still, I warn you that like the Wise Men you may have to jour-

ney far before you find Christ — you must travel beyond your sin, your interfering self; away from pleasure, away from indifference. The Herods of sin must be denied and Christ alone must be exalted.

Be careful not to worship the star, the angels, or the Wise Men — just worship Jesus! Come to Jesus! He is the Saviour — the Saviour that is strong enough and near enough to save. Give Him a chance at your life. Much of the world today is worshipping Herod and his philosophy. This has been the spirit of the war. Our military victories have not brought in the Kingdom of God. Really men are crucifying Christ afresh. All wars finally do that, however many high ideals may be inserted into the picture when wars are declared.

III. Wise Men Today Bring Their Treasures to Jesus.

The Wise Men of old brought their gold, frankincense and myrrh. Oh that men would do so in this hour! Gold is still one of the world's greatest problems, but Christ is rich beyond computation. Gold will curse the nations till it is surrendered to the King. Frankincense is a symbol of devotion. Myrrh is a symbol of sorrow. Christ bids us to bring our heartaches to Him.

The treasure which Jesus wants is your heart, my friend. As He was born in Bethlehem, let Him be born in your heart! Have you room for Jesus at this glad Christmastide?

*"O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend on us, we pray,
Cast out our sin, and enter in—
Be born in us today."*

—Calvary Pulpit



Meditations by Moore

At this Season of the year, there isn't much "Peace on earth," but praise the Lord for peace of mind and heart when the Lord lives within. Heb., chapter nine, verse 26: "He hath appeared" to put away sin, or for our Justification; in verse 24: "He doth now appear" for our Sanctification; and in verse 28: "He shall appear" for our Glorification. Praise His Worthy Name.

The Peace of God be upon, and within everyone — and make you an overcomer in Him.