



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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God's Holy Night

*It was the night, God's Holy Night,
When through the hallowed darkness shone
The jewel of celestial light
In royal brilliance, all alone.*

*It glowed in glory o'er an earth
Imprisoned by the cords of sin,
And there proclaimed the Saviour's birth
And bid the world to welcome Him.*

*'Twas through that blessed beacon bright
God pierced the night of doubt and fear,
To say from Heaven's holy height,
"Have faith, My child, for I am near."*

*For through the Babe of Bethlehem
God came to meet the sinners' need,
To save, sustain, and comfort them
And be a Holy Friend indeed.*

*Again it is the night! Dark clouds
Of sin and war, of hate and grief
Now form the sepulchers and shrouds
Of faith, of love, and of belief.*

*But through the darkness God appears,
And words of grace He whispers low:
"Have faith, and cast away your fears,
For I will never let you go."*

*Then soon thy faith will turn to sight,
And earth's dark clouds will disappear,
As through another holy night
Thy Saviour shall again appear.*

*And where all tears are wiped away,
Where sorrow, pain, and death shall cease,
You'll live throughout eternal day
With Christ, thy Lord, the Prince of Peace.*

—James A. Dillon.

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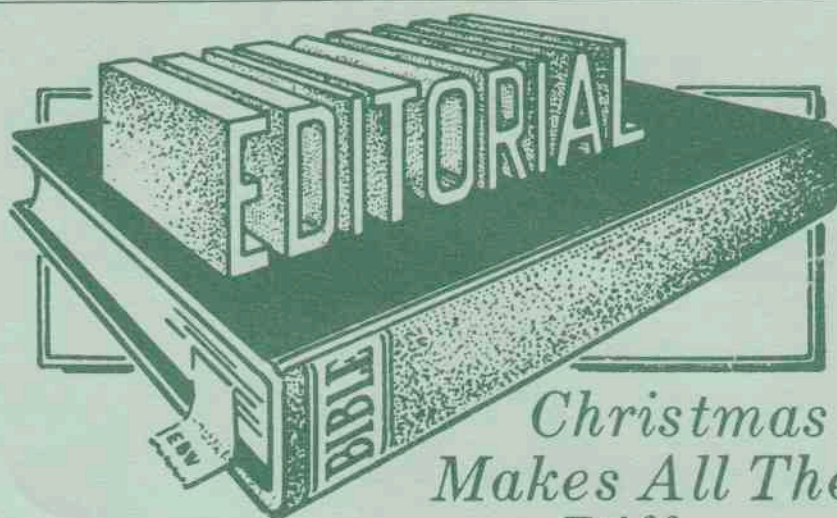
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Christmas Makes All The Difference!

Oswald J. Smith, in his little book
entitled, "The Cry of the World,"
makes this observation:

"Who has made the difference?
Christ. Only in the countries that
have been influenced by the teaching
of Jesus is this difference found.
Where Christ has gone, hospitals,
schools, orphanages, leper asylums,
homes for the blind, nurses and doc-
tors have appeared. Where Christ has
gone prosperity and plenty have
followed. Where Christ has gone
beggars have disappeared, homes
have been built and the comforts of
life have come. Where Christ has gone
law has taken over and justice has
been exercised. Where Christ has
gone woman has been exalted,
educated, revered and loved.
Christian marriage has taken the
place of polygamy. Where Christ has
gone life is sacred and property
protected, the individual given an op-
portunity to develop his business and
to prosper, so that he can care for his
family and leave something for them
to inherit."

While there are those who would
fault this analysis by pointing to
alleged and real discrepancies and in-
consistencies in our society today,
yet the point that Mr. Smith makes is
well taken. Jesus Christ has made a
difference in this world. The differ-
ences are striking. Where the influence
of the gospel has been felt lives have
been changed and social positions
have elevated. Hope has taken the
place of despair, happiness has
displaced misery, peace has driven
away turmoil and strife. Christ has
indeed made the difference!

What we are saying is that Christ-
mas has made the difference. One of
our recent presidents, feeling the
exhilaration of a tremendous accom-

plishment of the space program,
described it as "the greatest event to
take place on this planet since
creation." He was most assuredly
mistaken. The coming of Divinity in
swaddling clothes, helpless, defen-
seless and vulnerable as a Baby: en-
tering our world, stepping into
history - this certainly was the
greatest event in the history of the
race.

Charles Spurgeon once said,
"Christ is the great central fact in the
world's history; to Him everything
looks forward or backward." Christ-
mas signalled once again that God
was indeed interested in mankind.
He had spoken through prophets of
old and through a number of pre-
incarnate appearances, but now he
clothes himself in humanity and
humility, subject to the frailty of the
flesh and comes seeking for men to
love and adore him.

Christmas presents the Conquering
Christ to the world. Conquered by a
Baby! A great judge went into the of-
fice of a Christian lawyer on a
business matter. There he saw Hof-
mann's painting of the "Boy Christ."
After looking at it for a few moments
he said, "May I borrow this for a little
while?" He took the painting and went
into an adjoining room and was gone a
half hour. When he returned there
were tears in his eyes and a great
tenderness in his heart. Then he said,
"The Boy has conquered. The Boy has
conquered. From now on I am going to
live the Christian life."

Christmas makes all the difference
because Christ makes all the differ-
ence. The difference between sin and
grace, between heaven and hell. He
blesses the mundane, routine with His
presence. Praise God - He makes all
the difference!!

D. L. F.

A Christmas Message

"Thou shalt call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

You might write over the Old Testament Dispensation the words: "God **without** us." I have listened to the low sound of the wind in the pine tops when the gloaming tells that the day is gone; and I have listened through the night to the sob of the surf on the shingle when the sea was enraged; and I have listened to the moan of a strong man in his distress and his pain; and sometimes it has seemed to me as if sighing and sobbing and moaning were heard all through this Old Testament scripture; and the men who were thus sighing and sobbing and moaning were feeling after a lost God! Job stood up in the midst of all his anguish and said: "I look before, but I cannot find him; and I look behind, and he is not there. Oh, that I knew where I might find him!" And Tennyson, millenniums afterward, came along and said:

*"I found Him not in sun or star,
In eagle's wing or insect's eye."*

Now I am not forgetting that God appeared to Moses on Sinai's flaming brow; but I know Moses, reporting that interview, said: "I exceedingly did fear and quake." And I know that if so much as a beast touched that mountain, it fell dead: "God **without** us!" Nor do I fail to remember that Manoah saw the angel of the Lord; but do you recall how Manoah said to his wife: "We shall surely die because we have seen God" — the God who is **without** us! I know the voice of the Lord was heard; but it was sometimes heard as the Psalmist heard it when it broke the great trees asunder, accompanied by the pelting of the hail and the thunder and the flashes of lightning. And so, all through that Old Testament Dispensation there is the story of a "God **without** us," but of a God who dealt **with** us in love.

But always that dispensation had the forward look. In the Garden of Eden you become acquainted with it. "There shall come," said God, "the bruiser of the serpent's head." All through those dispensations — Edenic, patriarchal, kingly, and prophetic — you can still hear that voice of the prophet that tells of the tomorrow when the mystery of today will become a thing revealed. The star shone fitfully, I grant you, obscured

by cloud quite often; but never was its light extinguished, even the Star that told of the coming time when Christ should be born, and the Wise Men, catching the radiance of that Star, would seek the world's Redeemer! And He Came! Then as the text says, the dispensation was changed, and it is no longer "God **without** us," but "God **with** us." "Thou shalt call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God **with** us."

I think it would be well for us to think how that "mystery of godliness" revealed itself in this world: God manifest in the flesh — that a Child was born as your child was born; that a Child cooed and cried and laughed as our children do, and yet about that Christ was the inscrutable mystery of the Incarnation, a God who had come within the limitations of earth's humanity!

He was born, as I love to think, into our **experience** as well as into our **nature**; that never does my foot strike a stone on this pilgrimage of life but His foot struck it before mine found it; that never does a clinging bramble tear my flesh but Jesus, by experience, knows the pain I feel, for that bramble tore Him before it ever found me; and that in all our afflictions He had, and has, a part. I should think you women sometimes shed tears over the fact that the mother of sorrows bore her Child under circumstances that must have filled her heart with pain. You know the tenderness you like to attach with the birth of a child. Did you ever think that for a woman in her pain there was nothing but to be led by a man into a stable where the cattle were, in all probability, and that this woman, this heroine of faith, in the simple language we have read in the Word, brought forth her firstborn Son, and laid Him in a manger!

And He came into our experience! What perplexities are here, what hidden griefs, what heartache which with difficulty can be kept from outburst of emotion — what tragedies, what shipwrecks, what battles lost and in the balance, and won! But you have a High Priest who is touched with the feeling of every infirmity possible to mortals, and He knows, by His own experience, just how your head aches, and how your heart throbs and your life becomes as a desolate thing. He was born into OUR experience! He came, and He walked down those



streets and along those lanes and among those vineyards; and I find, as my life here grows older, the greatest delight I have is to sit down, or walk, or work in my garden, and isolate my mind, and just walk up and down old Judea with this Christ, and see what a God we have in the One who then was spoken of as "God with us." I think of Him who looked up into a tree, and back of the curiosity the commentators say prompted Zacchaeus to climb that tree, Christ saw the hunger in the heart of the publican for something that all his money could never buy. I do know that Christ, who wrote once, and only once, so far as I know, bent His holy eyes down upon His writing, while men sought to drag a woman to an ignominious death; and then He looked up and asked, "Where are your accusers?" "They are gone, Lord." "Yes, and I do not condemn you to death; but do not do it again!"

I want the story of the "God **with** us." I can go to Him. I cannot go to the God of Sinai. I get frightened too soon. I do not like the thunder. I do not like the lightning. I do not want the trumpet that peals so loud. I want Calvary! And I want the Calvary that commenced at Bethlehem when the Son of God, who thought it not robbery to demand equality with the Infinite and Eternal Jehovah condescended to become a little babe, that you and I might be taught by our Elder Brother who knows us because He has lived our life, to look up into the face of God and lovingly, confidently say, "Our Father which art in heaven."

I have one other word to say before I close. "God **with** us" gave place, to "God **within** us." "God **without** us" in the Old Testament Dispensation; "God **with** us" in the Gospels; but afterward may I say a greater and grander revelation: "God **within** us."

The high-water mark of the Hebrew Bible is a man finding his hiding place in God: "Lord, thou hast been our

(Continued on Page 5)

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Season's Greetings

The Standard Staff

The Everlasting Father

by Dale M. Yocum

O name of gentlest grace,
O Name of strength and might,
Meeting the heart-need of our orphaned race
With tenderest delight!
Our Everlasting Father! This is He
Who came in deep humility
A little child to be!

Let us make no mistake about it, "The everlasting Father" is the very same one as the Child born unto us and the Son given unto us. The Son is the same as the Father. This brings us to the very heart of the problem of human words. Words at best are limited and faulty instruments for the communication of ideas when we come to the discussion of God in His nature or in His manifestations. Words can convey only small fractions of the truth about Him. These fractions are often very inadequate and even apparently contradictory on their face.

Jesus Christ is the Word of God; He is the full expression of what God is, and what God does. God the Father has never spoken nor acted, except He has done it through the Word, Jesus Christ. He needs only one word to express all His thoughts and way.

The expression, "The everlasting Father," would be accurately translated from the original as, "Father of the Eternity" — one of the attributes of God, which is expressed through the WORD. The attribute of eternity inheres in Jesus Christ and proceeds from Him. This means, not only that He shall abide forever and that He is from everlasting, but that also whatever He does has an eternal quality about it. As the wise man said, "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever," (Eccl. 3:14). The life which we receive from Christ is eternal life. Every soul indwelt by the Spirit of Christ breathes the atmosphere of eternity. There is an eternal quality about His words and about His thoughts. He lives for eternity, because the eternal life of Christ provides the spring of all His actions. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent," (John 17:3). Christ in us lifts us to a level higher than that of mere time and space and sense. Somebody has observed, to be a Christian is both simple and sublime; it is to live in time for eternity under the eye of God.

Practically, the Fatherhood of Christ is full of rich meaning for those who understand the value of a good father. It means that Christ has qualities of fatherhood. Jesus said to Philip on one occasion, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Through a group of saints gathered in worship recently the question was presented. "What does the Fatherhood of Christ mean to you personally?" A number of fatherly characteristics were given in response: His comfort, His good example, His trustworthiness, approachableness, understanding, support in weakness and nearness in time of need, to name a few. He is "The everlasting Father." Earthly fathers tremble and totter as age increases, the hair grays and the face is creased with wrinkles, they die and disappear from view, but Christ is the same — His years shall never fail, He never leaves or forsakes His children. A sick boy awoke after a very restless night to see his father sitting at his bedside. He exclaimed, "Oh, Father you are there." "Yes," answered the father, "I have been here all the time." Jesus is like that. He is always with us to express a Father's love and care.

We may never be able to understand how the Son can at the same time be the Father. This is one of the mysteries of the Holy Trinity. The persons are distinct, yet each is expressed in and through the other. The Son embodies and manifests the Father and all that the Father can be to His children.

A young man went overseas during World War II, a month or two prior to the birth of his little daughter. Before he was able to return she was beginning to walk. When he returned the family gathered to watch the establishment of acquaintance between him and his little daughter, who was seeing him for the first time. They were all keenly disappointed when she would have nothing at all to do with him. When he exclaimed, "I am your daddy, darling," she replied, "No, you are not" — then ran to a picture of him on a near-by table and pointing said, "That's my daddy."

This procedure went on for a number of weeks, while the father sought

to gain the confidence and love of his own daughter. Finally one day, after she had looked carefully into her father's face, she ran to the table and examined the photograph very closely. Then she went to her mother with keen excitement and cried out, "Oh, Mommy, they are both the same daddy."

This is the marvel presented to us in the New Testament. Jesus Christ is God the Father. He is "The everlasting Father."



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 3)

dwelling place in all generations." But the high-water mark of the New Testament is God finding His dwelling place in man. "Know ye not that your bodies are the habitation of God," says the Apostle. Oh, what an advance, giving us the double consciousness upon which our religious life is both reared and nurtured. For we have not only the historical fact, but we also have the personal experience; and so, as Coleridge said in the mightiest sentence he ever spoke: "This Bible finds me." And when I find it, I find that the deep of Inspiration is calling to another deep that is within my own soul, and so deep answers deep, and deep talks back to deep; and the two of them (the historical record and my own daily experience) give me the assurance that God IS, and that I am in God!

That is the message for you today: this simple thought that once on a time there was a "God without us"; and then there was a "God with us"; and now there comes the realization of "God within us."

Let me ask you this Christmas morning: "Has Christ ever been born in you, the hope of glory?"

My friend, from that stable in Bethlehem, you could go to hell. It is not the Bethlehem of geography, but it is the Bethlehem of experience that you want and need; and you must have Christ born in you the hope of everything you need: the hope of future perennial and perfect health, for our Christ born in you means that you shall dwell forever within a body that shall be as immune from diseases as His own resurrection body in which

(Continued on Page 8)



What Will You Do For Christmas?

What will you do for Christmas? This question is often asked of missionaries when they are home. So we thought this year we would tell you our plans for Christmas.

Christmas is the holiday that the children here wait for with great anticipation. Already they have been asking us when we are going to begin practicing for the program we will give in the church. They love to learn things and to sing, sing, and sing some more. The little ones come to the practice all clean and starched with pretty ribbons in their hair. It is a real treat for them, not so much so for the missionaries to try to get them all quiet at the same time to give instructions. Some years we have them learn the Christmas story and then they say it while one person puts the picture of the story on the flannelgraph board. This way the Word is placed way down in their hearts and is just not a Christmas poem.

Our Young People of the Bible School will be sharing blessings this year with the trip to the T.B. san. They will go with bread and candy, tracts and the love of God shining through their testimonies as they tell how the Lord led them to Bible school and how He saved them from sin. Every year we search for boxes to carry everything in and then rent a "camunet" (public transportation) to carry the food and the students to the hospitals. When we arrive there we will divide the students into several groups and they will go from section to section singing the carols and reading the Christmas story. We shall try to choose one of the carols that the patients know too so that they may join in. They may not be able to read and write and have a song book but some of them know the Saviour already and you can see it in their faces when they sing with us. Going there each year it is hard to distinguish who the group is who finds the greatest blessing, the students or the people in the hospital. Giving of themselves the students are richer for it.

With God's help we shall give all the children who come to our many schools a small gift. Not too large, but something to show them we love them. And you do too, for you have sent the money for us to be able to give. This year we bought 27 dozen harmonicas that will be given out on Christmas. They love to make musical noise and soon the music will fill all the stations where we work.

One of our churches in Sunbury has sent many, many colored Christmas stockings filled with candy and small toys which shall be given along with the small gift. We thank those who took so much time and care to arrange them and send them. There will be enough of them for us to gather some of little ones in the neighborhood who cannot come to school or church and share with them too. We wish you could be here to see them gather together on our long cement steps in front of the house after darkness falls and watch their faces fill with wonder as they gaze on the little Christmas

tree and colored lights blinking in our windows. We shall sing of His birth and pray together while they look with wonder at the manger scene and think of a little baby so long ago who was born. Then their hands shall reach out eagerly as we give them the stockings filled with goodies. We shall watch as they take out the treasures and start to eat the candy right away! Candy is for eating isn't it?

For many in this country Christmas time is a time to worship the mother of Jesus and the images in cars, churches, and around their necks indicate that the Saviour has "second place". But in our ministry He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, not just a small baby in a manger. He is the Loving Saviour Who lives now to save and to make whole all who will come to Him. Pray with us that as we seek to lift Him up this year, many shall look and live!

yours for souls and a
blessed holiday,
your missionaries in Haiti.

INTERCESSION CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

wishes to express

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.....

to the Standard family... We rejoice in the celebration of the birth of our Saviour.

The faculty, staff, board members and students join me in wishing you a very wonderful Christmas Season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Your concern for us has been proven by your prayers and gifts to our school. God has honored your prayers and enlarged your gifts for His Glory. We sincerely value your friendship.

A Blessed Christmas to all.

Earl L. Deetz Jr., President

For The BOYS and GIRLS

A Christmas Tale of SPLINTER RIDGE



I don't suppose I'll ever see a hard-faced man without thinking of Cal Stewart; and when I think of him it always brings to mind a happening of Christmas time at Splinter Ridge a good many years ago.

There was a time when Cal had a cheery face, was hearty and jovial, but that was before an accident that took the life of his wife and only child. From that day on he grew morose, shunned everybody, and withdrew from life. His shoulders began slumping, and before long he became a gaunt, bitter man who rarely spoke to anyone. He came to town only when necessary, bought what he needed, and left quickly. It's strange how life — at times — takes from a person then turns right around and gives him a generous helping of something else. Cal's fortune grew until it was talked that he was the richest man in the country, and also the unhappiest.

I was in the grocery store at Splinter Ridge when Cal came in after supplies. Mr. Kay, the storekeeper, had just finished decorating a Christmas tree sitting in the middle of the room. It had long been the custom for folks who were able, to leave gifts under the tree for the needy of our community.

Being the grocery man, Mr. Kay knew better than anyone else who the needy were, and the distributing was left up to him with no questions asked.

Cal had just started getting his supplies together when Mrs. Arkin came into the store. She was carrying her four-year-old daughter, who had been born with crippled feet. Since

the Arkins were poor folks, there had never been any money for a surgeon and an operation, and as a result the child had never been able to walk. Mrs. Arkin carried her over by the Christmas tree, left her sitting on a box, and began buying groceries.

Cal picked up his supplies and started to leave. He tripped over something and fell sprawling, upsetting the child off the box, and scattering groceries in every direction. The little girl began crying and Cal picked her up tenderly. He was trying to soothe her when her mother came up, took her out of his arms, and quieted her. Cal stood there awkwardly, and then ever so gently asked the child, "What do you want for Christmas?"

The child looked at him wide-eyed, then said shyly, "A pair of shoes."

Cal dropped his eyes to her feet covered with black stockings, shuffled in embarrassment, and then asked Mrs. Arkin, "Has she ever worn shoes?"

"No," said Mrs. Arkin, "she never has. Miss Watson, the nurse, said special-made shoes would help her learn to walk, but shoes like that cost more'n we'll ever have." She sighed deeply and went on wearily, "I used to dream about having her feet operated on so she'd be like other children, but with seven mouths to feed it don't look like that'll ever happen." With that she went back to her grocery buying.

Cal left and came back after she had gone. I was standing behind a rack of cookie boxes and I could hear every word he said.

"George," he began, calling Mr. Kay by his first name, "you may think I'm a fool for doing this," and he laid a sheaf of bills on the counter and went on. "There's a hundred dollars to start with. Will you see that Miss Watson, the nurse, takes Mrs. Arkin and her little girl up to a surgeon in the city to see what can be done about straightening her feet so that she can wear shoes? I don't care what it costs—I'll foot the bill."

"W-h-y sure, Cal," sputtered Mr. Kay in amazement, "you can be right sure I will."

In no time at all Miss Watson took Mrs. Arkin and the child up to the city. I kept my mouth shut as long as I could, then I just had to let loose. What Cal was doing swept through our county like wildfire. When Miss Watson reported that an operation would be performed, and that the surgeon had said the child would be able to walk, it seemed that something fine and clean went all through our community. Folks seemed to take a special delight in doing good and went about helping one another.

On Christmas Eve everyone had gathered at the church and had just started singing, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," when Cal came in. He was clean-shaven and wearing a white shirt.

The harshness was gone and there was something striking in his face as he walked down the aisle and took his old place in his pew. All I could think of was the lamb that was lost had been found. I don't suppose I'll ever sing a line that came straighter from my heart than the one that night as I stood there singing, "And wild and sweet the words repeat. Of peace on earth, good will to men."

—The Wesleyan Advocate



GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH

An editorial by H. C. MORRISON
from *The Pentecostal Herald* of
December 24, 1930

WHEN JESUS CHRIST was born in Bethlehem of Judea it was not the coming into existence of a new being; it was the infinite Son of God clothing himself in human form—God manifest in the flesh.

Jesus Christ had existed from the eternities. He said, "Before Abraham was, I am." He speaks of the glory he had with the Father before the world was. But in order that he might reveal God to men he incarnated the eternal Spirit of the Son in the flesh, became visible, and made his dwelling place among men.

The world had never had a proper conception of the Father, nor could it have understood him had not the Son revealed him in the flesh. He came, lived among us, suffered with us, taught us how to love and suffer, ate with sinners, forgave them, and said, "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father."

It was through the love, teachings, compassionate mercy, condescension and love of Jesus Christ that man finally got a true conception of God, of his infinite compassion, of the love that stoops to the lowest depths of humiliation and suffering to rescue and lift up fallen humanity.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He changed his residence from the glories of heaven to the desolation of earth. "Though rich, he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich." He came down to us, lived among us, tramped the weary paths of human life, toiled with his infinite hands, tasted the bitter cup of grief, and through these experiences became a high priest who can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

God had created man, but he had never been a man. He had seen men toil, but he had never calloused his hands with carpenter tools. He had seen men weep, but he had never wept. He had seen men bleed and die, but he had never bled and died. He had seen the millions lie in the darkness of the tomb, but he had never spread his omnipotent shoulders on the bottom of a sepulcher. He determined, in the solution of the sin problem, to come

into the world, be a man, live and labor, suffer and die, like a man. He arose out of the tomb like a God and ascended into heaven as our representative and great High Priest. Tempted in every point like as we are tempted, yet without sin, he is able to succor them that are tempted.

All hail Christmas time! The birth of the Babe of Bethlehem, the song of angels, the wonder of wise men and devout shepherds. "Joy to the world; the Lord is come." The era of human hope was born with Jesus, and in him

is our hope and joy. Make Christmas a time of joy and song. Send out presents, cheer the sick, help the poor, visit the imprisoned, wish everybody a glad, merry time. Forgive all who have sinned against you. Rejoice in God, worship Christ, receive the Holy Ghost in greater fullness, and go out into a higher, holier life.

All creatures praise the Eternal Name!

Ye hosts that to his court belong,
Cherubic choirs. Seraphic flame,
Awake the everlasting song.

Christmas Is...

by Ruth Brizendine

a Condensation of heavenly glory in one wee Package
a Confrontation with life's greatest issues

Hesitation for a look upward
Harmonization of suffering and saintliness

Restoration of many a prodigal son and daughter
Reverberations of praise and song

an Indication of God's desire for fellowship with man
Identification of God with man

Salvation from the pain, power, and penalty of sin
a Termination of needful watching for the Messiah
a Taxation on heaven

Maturation of the godly Jew's fondest hope
Mary's magnification of God

an Affirmation of the message of the prophets
an Approximation to heaven on earth

Sanctification of spirit, soul, and body for him who wills.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

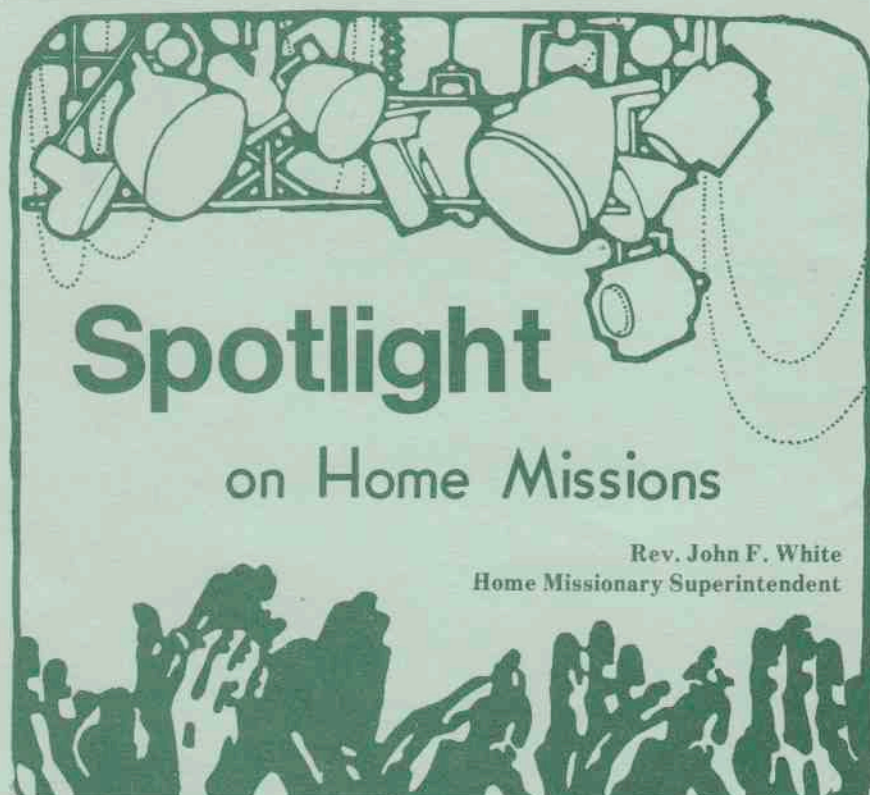
(Continued from Page 5)

He ascended to His Father; born in you the hope of intellectual development, for while the mind beats against the bars as an imprisoned eagle might against a cage, let us hearten ourselves with the thought that by and by, without a single restraint, the mind will have perfect liberty. But all that is nothing beside this: if He is born, in you, if your life becomes the Bethlehem in which appears the God

Incarnate, you are delivered from sin!

You gave your child a gift this Christmas Day! Would you not like to give Jesus Christ a gift? He gave you a Gift. It was a bloody gift, for it was His own marred, scarred, sacrificed life! That is what He gave for you. Since Jesus Christ gave you the gift of Himself, be fair with Him. Hand Him yourself in return.

—Dr. W. B. Hinson
in *Evangelical Christian*.



Glory To God In The Highest, And On Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men...

Luke 2:14

Once again the sweet Christmas message is ringing forth. It is a message we never tire of, each year it is sweeter than the year before. Each Christmas season brings us closer to the second coming of the Prince of Peace. We look and yearn for this great event with a faith that time and circumstances cannot destroy. Your Home Missionary Department is one of the arms of the church that is trying to help make the message sung by God's Holy angels a reality. The good news still rings forth! God is the Giver of peace through his gift of love, Jesus Christ. Each twinkling light reminds us of the Light of the world that came from heaven to dispel the darkness of sin. Each white snow flake that falls is telling us our hearts can be made whiter than snow in the blood of the Slain Lamb of Calvary. Each Christmas carol reminds us that the Dove of Peace can sing sweetly in our hearts all the year when we have Christ as a personal Savior.

Your Home Missionary department never takes a holiday, but is working

continuously for the cause of Christ. Our needs never cease, but grow with each passing day. The hours of work behind the scenes is greater than ever before. We are happy to report to you that the Home Missionary board traveled to Steamburg, New York and had a visit with Bro. and Sis. Hoskins. Their personal fellowship was a blessing and the service we conducted in their church with their good Indian people will not soon be forgotten. The shouts of the saints, the tears of joy and the fellowship with these, God's people of the Indian race, cheer our hearts at this great time of year. Each board member left the Indian country with a greater burden for the needy in this area.

The new work in Ohio is now under the leadership of Bro. and Sis. Fred Newton. Personal visitation has been delayed because of the Newtons not being able to move into the church parsonage. Pray for this young couple as they spend their first Christmas in this new work. I called Bro. Glover and he is encouraged at Ekin, Indiana.

Some new folks have come to replace some others who have stopped coming. Bro. Glover is still in Bible school and seemed very encouraged. The Work at Avis is a long hard struggle. Bro. Straub and the Ladies Trio from Penn View just conducted a revival there. Some results were seen; pray for the Pastor Bro. Sassaman as he continues to labor there.

The church at York is building the new church - school building. They are now soon to move into their new structure at their new location. They had a good revival with several new folks coming in. Your Home Missionary Superintendent travelled to York during the month of November on Thursday nights to conduct a series of Bible studies on Holiness. The need for this work at York, Penna. is very high. Please stand by with your financial gifts and your prayers.

The Seffner church in Florida is still blessed under the fine leadership of their good pastor and wife, Bro. and Sis. Hayes. The work at Fort Myers, Florida is a year-round job. But the Christmas season has a greater strain here than most people would believe. They are dealing with men who need help and Christmas can be depressing to men like this. Do pray for Bro. Walker and Bro. George and their families. Remember them with a card this Christmas season for it would encourage them so much.

Christmas is a time of Joy, but it also has its sadness. Many will go through the valley of sorrow at this happy time. Remembering a few short years back this was our lot, and the bright lights shone through tears of sorrow. To the aged in rest homes it is a lonely time; to these folks who seem to be forgotten by the outside world it can be very trying. Let us this year in every church remember the needy and spread the Peace on Earth to others.

From the members of your general conference Home Missionary Department we wish all of you a Holy Spirit filled Christmas and a spiritual New Year. As 1980 comes to a close remember as long as Jesus tarries 1981 will be an open door to new challenge. Let us not fail in this challenge God has placed before us. Why not start the new year with a Home Missionary Rally? Contact us at once. We will be only too glad to come.

Religion In The News

BIBLES NEEDED TO MATCH SURGE OF FAITH IN AFRICA

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (EP) — Christianity seems to be spreading more quickly in Africa than anywhere else in the world, according to Dr. Edwin Roels, African coordinator for the World Home Bible League based here. After a recent visit to Africa, Dr. Roels said, "I found that there are many Christian churches in Africa today that are spiritually vibrant and present a wonderful testimony for the Lord. They are being strengthened by serious Bible study and meaningful prayer."

However, Dr. Roels added that a serious shortage of Bibles means that there are not enough for tens of thousands of new Christians. Sometimes, pastors have no more than one or two copies of the Scriptures for an entire congregation. One of the greatest problems caused by the lack of Bibles is that new Christians are often confused about the basics of their faith, according to Dr. Roels. In some cases tribal religions and even rituals of the Muslim faith continue to be practiced by new Christians who do not realize the theological implications.

In response to the great need for Bibles in Africa, the League recently established an office in Nigeria. With a population of more than 80 million, Nigeria has become the center of the League's distribution program.

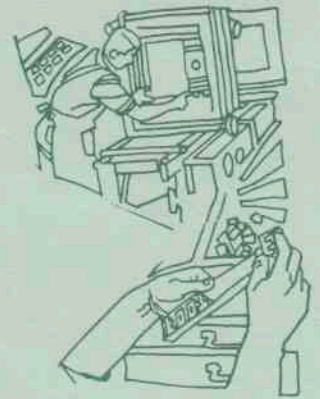
More than 60 tons of Bibles and other Christian materials have been shipped to Nigeria so far, including many "used" Bibles from the United States and Canada. Since English is the official language of Nigeria, Christians in the country are able to make use of Bibles donated by Americans.

PREDICT \$30 MILLION IN LOCAL CHURCH COMPUTER SALES BY 1985

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (EP) — Over 150 data processing executives from evangelical denominations and para-church organizations heard predictions here in October of a computer revolution soon to sweep over local congregations. Over \$20,000,000 in

computer sales to local churches are expected by 1985, according to Rev. William T. Bray, editor of the Evangelical Marketing Report. Rev. Bray was one of 25 experts on communications, fundraising and electronic technology who addressed the Sixth Annual Christian Computer Users Conference.

Most of the conference registrants were Data Processing directors of "electric church" and para-church organizations. Bill Forsyth of the Rex Humbard Foundation said that his organization alone generates 1.2 million computer letters and receipts each month. But the use of computers for big national religious organizations was not the big news — it was new applications of small business computers in local situations that excited the most controversy.



"This is the beginning of a new era," said Rev. Bray. "The computer is breaking out of the accounting department. It will no longer be used just for stewardship and fundraising. Now it will be part of evangelism, church growth, Christian education, pastoral care and Christian management. It is even being used on the mission field to speed translation of the Scriptures."

Celebrate The Christmas Story...

**JOIN THE
PENN VIEW BIBLE INSTITUTE
CHAPEL CHOIR
QUARTET
LADIES TRIO
SPECIAL SINGERS
And INSTRUMENTALISTS**

- December 3, 1980 - Spring Garden God's Missionary Church
Allenwood, Pa. 7:30 p.m.
- December 7, 1980 - God's Missionary Church
Berwick, Pa. 7:30 p.m.
- December 12, 1980 - New York Pilgrim Church
Muir, Pa. 7:30 p.m.
- December 13, 1980 - God's Missionary Church
Bellefonte, Pa. 7:30 p.m.
- December 14, 1980 - New York Pilgrim Church
Sayre, Pa. 10:00 a.m.
- December 14, 1980 - God's Missionary Church
Sunbury, Pa. 7:30 p.m.
- December 20, 1980 - Concert - Tabernacle Building
Penns Creek, Pa. 7:30 p.m.
- December 21, 1980 - Church of Christ in Christian Union
Ashland, Pa. 9:30 a.m.
- December 21, 1980 - New York Pilgrim Church
Binghamton, N.Y. 7:00 p.m.
- December 22, 1980 - Bad Weather Date - Concert
Penns Creek, Pa. 7:30 p.m.

Share with us in this cantata and service entitled...

COME TO THE MANGER



School News, Penn View

From the desk of Rev. Kenneth E. Walter --
President

It is a beautiful Fall morning and there are many reasons for rejoicing. God awakened me early this morning and His presence drew near as I arose to spend some time with Him in the secret place of prayer. What reassurance He gave as the words of Rev. Barefoot, a missionary who recently spoke to us in chapel, came back to my mind. He said, "God's will is God's bill." How simple and yet how true!

With this in mind my faith took a new grip on God as I resolved without question that Penn View is an institution of God's own planning. Human error has without doubt hurt and seriously hindered the wheels of progress but I firmly believe that Penn View Bible Institute is still the will of God. Confident that we are trying to operate within the bounds of necessity I said, "Lord, these bills are your bills and I'm expecting you to see that they are paid."

I came to the office facing the task of writing this article which is one of my most difficult responsibilities. After faculty prayer meeting I shut myself in to wait on the Lord. Within a few minutes the Spirit reminded me of one of the most sustaining scriptures in Holy Writ, Romans chapter eight. The verse He spoke to me was "If God be for us who can be against us."

As I turned in my Bible to analyze the setting of that text I quickly realized that his was exactly what I needed. Just prior to this text Paul declares "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.." Verse twenty-eight. This includes the good and the bad, the bitter and the sweet, the kind and the unkind, those who understand and those who don't understand, the times when people give and the times when they refuse or are

unable to give. Some of these elements in themselves tend to discourage and destroy our faith but looking at it from Paul's point of view quickly puts the enemy to flight. "If God be for us who can be against us?"

Paul supports this question by reminding us that "God spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all," verse thirty-two. Truly if God went to that extreme He will not allow anything to stop Him from delivering us now from the trouble we are in. Verse thirty-two continues with a question of tranquillity just as if Paul knew exactly what my problem is, "how shall he not **with Him** also freely give us all things?" If God gave us His Son surely He will give us anything we have need of.

God has chosen to work through human instruments in order to accomplish His will and purpose. It may be that He wants to work through you during this Christmas season. A gift to Penn View would be a gift to Jesus in recognition of His birthday. Perhaps you have never given to Penn View. Why not include us in your Christmas giving this year? We have some urgent bills that need to be paid and we need about fifty tons of coal which costs about \$50.00 a ton. Your gift of \$5.00, \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 or \$1000.00 will be sincerely appreciated in this crucial hour.

Gideon Fund Update



Total
Cash
And
Pledges
To
Date

\$62,048.48

The purpose of "Gideon's Band" is to recruit three hundred people who will give themselves to prayer and sacrificial giving in an all-out war on our indebtedness. We have been calling for volunteers for over a year and to date we have only enlisted fifty-four.

The original idea was to recruit three hundred members who would be responsible to five or pray in \$1,000 each. This may be why some of you have hesitated to become involved. A thousand dollars is a staggering figure for some of you but not for God.

Our records indicate that some members have given well over one

thousand dollars and though not all the pledges have been paid our current indebtedness is \$241,086.39. This is remarkable progress in a little over one year considering all the interest involved and the fact that we have been fighting inflated current expenses.

In light of these facts I would like to change my appeal a bit and ask you to forget the \$1,000.00 figure. I would

like to concentrate on the membership figure. It seems rather certain to me that if we could get three hundred people registered who love God and believe in Christian education, who will give themselves to prayer and supplication in behalf of this debt it would be wiped out speedily.

Please let me hear from you today regardless of how much you are able to give. I need to know that you are standing by. Fill in the certificate below and mail to: Penn View Bible Institute, P. O. Box 97 Penns Creek, PA 17862.

Dear Brother Walter: **GIDEON'S BAND CERTIFICATE**

I enlist in "Gideon's Band" and pledge my allegiance to God on behalf of Penn View Bible Institute to pray daily and contribute as God makes it possible. I understand that everything I invest in the "Gideon's Fund" will be used for debt retirement.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount of Pledge _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Celebrate The Christmas Story...

DECEMBER 20, 1980

7:30 p.m.

PENN VIEW BIBLE INSTITUTE
Penns Creek, Pennsylvania

TABERNACLE BUILDING
(Bad Weather date - December 22, 1980)

**HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY
PRESENTED IN MUSIC BY:**

- ★ Cherub Choirs
- ★ Ladies Trio
- ★ Quartet
- ★ The Fullers
- ★ Band
- ★ Chapel Choir



Share with us in this cantata and service entitled ...

Come to The Manger