



GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

Official Publication of God's Missionary Church, Inc.
Penns Creek, Pa.

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

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For unto us a child is
born, unto us a son is
given: and the govern-
ment shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name
shall be called Wonder-
ful, Counsellor, The
mighty God, The ever-
lasting Father, the
Prince of Peace.

-Isaiah 9:6.



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GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

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Editor -
Rev. David Fuller
Box 87
Penna Creek, Pa. 17862

Associate Editor -
Rev. Paul Miller
R.D. 1
Spring Mills, Pa. 16875

Business Manager -
Rev. Chester Marshall
Box 222
Penna Creek, Pa. 17862

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no later than the fifteenth of each month, so as to be eligi-
ble for publication in the following month's edition.



The Greatest CHRISTMAS Joys

By Lois Anne Williams

THE GREATEST JOYS OF CHRISTMAS . . . can be found in simple things. . . . You need not have a costly gift . . . or riches fit for kings. . . . For if you have a loving heart . . . and happiness to share . . . you'll find the joy of Christmastime . . . around you everywhere.

Just watch a child's delighted face . . . the sparkle in his eyes . . . when first you trim the Christmas tree . . . and all the lights he spies. . . . Now pause to see a candle . . . that is burning with a glow. . . . Or glance outside your window . . . at the freshly fallen snow.

Share a cheery greeting . . . with someone you pass today. . . . Feel your spirits brighten . . . as you spread joy on your way. . . . Shout a "Merry Christmas" . . . in a lonely old man's ear. . . . See him smile in answer . . . when he hears your words of cheer.

Pack a food-filled basket . . . to show someone you care. . . . Nothing brings more pleasure . . . than the privilege to share. . . . Tie a pretty package . . . with a nice, big, sparkling bow. . . . Think about the child it's for . . . and how you love her so.

Christmas is a special time . . . meant for the simple joys. . . . There's so much more to happiness . . . than just the gifts and toys. . . . There's love, and peace, and, yes, there's hope . . . for Jesus came to earth. . . . Now we can claim His saving grace . . . and celebrate His birth.

What greater joy could thrill our hearts . . . than praising God's own Son . . . and helping spread throughout the world . . . His love for everyone!

CALL HIM JESUS!

Dale M. Yocum

Into the city of Nazareth came Gabriel, an angel messenger from the immediate presence of God. Never had he carried a more thrilling message to anyone! As he swept down through the skies to this humble city, his destination was the simple home of a virgin maiden named Mary. To the startled young lady he declared, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS" (Luke 1:30, 31).

This was to be a very special Baby; therefore He was given a special name. Some time later, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, giving not only the name, but its meaning. Speaking of Mary, the angel said, "She shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

Down by the Jordan, when Jesus came to begin His public ministry, John introduced Him to the people with these significant words: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

So as often as we breathe that precious Name — JESUS — we are giving witness to the fact that He came to deliver us from our sin!

Jesus, the Lamb of God; that speaks of the cost of sin. During those

thousands of years before the coming of Christ to earth, God was teaching His people a lesson in the extreme costliness of sin. Read with me from Ex. 30:12, "When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the Lord." Regardless of material resources, each man was to pay a ransom of half a shekel. It was not the great amount that was significant here, but the vivid reminder that every man was a slave of sin, whose redemption depended only on the goodness of God.

The sin and trespass offerings were stronger reminders of how much sin costs. Both of them were to be offered when sins of ignorance were discovered: the former, when there was no possible restitution that could be made; and the latter, when a restitution could be assessed and paid. Every time a man sinned in such a way, by breaking any of the commandments of the Lord (see Leviticus, Chapter 4 and 5) he was required to bring a lamb from his flock and offer it as a sacrifice. If he were too poor to provide a lamb, a substitution could be made; but some offering must be provided, or the sinner's death must result.

Imagine a man with an explosive temper and a profane tongue, who was given to cursing. Without premeditation he would utter his oaths. He would be reported, and as a consequence, he must go again to his flock, pick out a perfect lamb, and take it to the Tabernacle for an offering. If he cursed as often as once a week, the sin alone could cost him over fifty choice lambs per year from his flock.

Before very long, he would feel deeply his sinfulness, and how much this was costing him! We may add here, that if a person heard the profanity and did not report it, he also was guilty and could not be pardoned unless he brought a lamb from his flock, confessed his sin, and made a sacrifice. How costly did sin appear to those people in the wilderness! There was no casualness there, about sinning every day in word and thought and deed!

Presumptuous sins were still more costly. Any man who deliberately, with knowledge of the wrong he was doing, should proceed to break the Sabbath, commit adultery, smite his father or mother, or otherwise defy God's law, that man must die. No sacrifice should be accepted for him. What a price was paid for the impulses of sin! How much death was produced! How many lives laid down! All of it could be counted in sin's immeasurable cost.

The Lamb of God paid that price for all mankind. He validated the blood of every little lamb that was slain, from the time of Adam to Calvary. We have hinted that sinners felt the cost as they went with another sacrificial lamb to be offered. But if all the weight resting on the spirits of all the sinners from the beginning were combined, it would not approach the sorrow resting on the heart of God as He sent His beloved Son to Calvary as the sacrificial Lamb for our sins. In Jesus Christ, the Father saw and felt the sin of the world. He felt the cost and fully paid it.

Not only did Jesus bear the cost of our sin; He brought the cure of it as well. He saves His people from their sins. He is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." The entire Old Testament system of sacrifices could be summarized as follows "It was not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:4). But the Lamb of God came to do what those previous sacrifices could never do. He came to take away sin, not only in its outer expression, but in its inner being as well.

In Romans, Chapters 5 to 8, St. Paul strongly stresses that Jesus came to deal with the entire issue of human sin, from its innermost source to its outermost symptoms; and His victory was a perfect victory, wrought for us to share with Him, so that we could be

(Continued on Page 10)



**Behold...
a Child
is Born!**

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THANK YOU

I want to personally thank Bro. Wise and Bro. Straub for their tributes to my husband. Also a big thank you to all who sent me gifts & prayers, to help me thru some very difficult times. It is wonderful to have friends who care and remember you.

Thank you,
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*Best Wishes
for a
Blessed Christmas
and
Joyous New Year*

The Standard Staff



Holiness

by
Ronald Smith

Is A Distinct Attainment

We have seen that holiness is a Biblical doctrine and a compelling necessity. It is also a quality or state which is attained by a distinct experience of grace. This is where the question of "how" comes into the picture. There are a number of erroneous teachings today which deal with the manner in which we are made holy.

This attainment is distinct because it results from a second experience. Some try to say that the disciples were reclaimed at Pentecost. But Christ told them in Luke 10:20 that they were to rejoice because their names were written in heaven. In John 14, verses 15-17, Christ indicates that they were not of this world. Some try to say that the baptism of the Spirit is obtained by a third work of grace. The baptism of the Spirit is the positive aspect of the second work of grace, while cleansing is the negative aspect.

There are still others who teach that one is sanctified when he is saved. But this is contrary to Biblical teaching. All commands, exhortations and promises regarding holiness are given to Christians and not to sinners. Furthermore, it is contrary to experience. People who are genuinely converted come to realize that there is still a carnal nature in their bosom. In addition, this teaching was not found in the church until the 1700's when it was first taught by Count Zinzendorf. If space allowed, we could list a number of contrasts between what God does for us in the first work of grace and what transpires in the second. Just one example - in the first work we are delivered from sin's guilt, while in the second we are delivered from sin's power.

This attainment is distinct because it results from a crisis experience. Some teach that holiness is obtained by growth. The growth theory is contrary to Biblical types such as the crossing of the Jordan River by Israel or such terms as crucifixion, baptism, sealing, and washing. None of these can be accomplished by a growth process. It is also contrary to all the recorded examples in the Bible where men were made holy. They all attained unto holiness by a crisis experience

and not by a gradual process. The nature of growth would also contradict this teaching. Growth is a developing or enlarging process, not a purifying process. Growth does not change the nature of the object growing, while holiness is a change of the heart nature. Growth has respect to size or quantity and not quality as in holiness. Holiness is attainable only by a crisis experience wrought in the heart of a believer by the work of the Holy Spirit. One might ask such questions as: How much time is needed? When do I get there? How do I know?

Third, holiness is a distinct attainment because it results from a cleansing experience. Some would teach that it is obtained by repression of the old man. But Biblical terms like crucify or destroy suggest far more than just repression or control. Sanctification is spoken of as a death to something. The word "cleanse" also conveys more than control. Another teaching similar to that of repression is counteraction. Those who teach this say that the Holy Spirit counteracts the deeds and desires of the old man. The arguments above against control would also apply here. The experience of holiness is more than repression or counteraction; it is a cleansing experience whereby the old man is destroyed from the heart.

Last, the attainment is distinct because it results from an imparting experience. There are those who say that holiness is imputed to us. They say that the power of sin was destroyed on the cross and all we need to do is recognize this and we have good "standing" with God through Christ. But this leaves sin in the heart. God does not want a people whose heart is holy by imputation, but holy by actual impartation. If God were to call us holy when actually we were not, then He would be deceiving Himself. All the commands and promises are in regards to us actually being made holy by the Holy Spirit's presence.

Thus we see that holiness is a distinct attainment because it results from a second crisis experience. This experience has both a cleansing aspect as well as an imparting aspect.



What Else Can Happen?

Early one morning I had gotten up to pray and was getting ready to get dressed when I heard: "Miss, miss, there's a lady having a baby in front of the clinic - come quickly." I threw on my robe and ran to the front of the clinic and found no one then saw there was a crowd standing in the road. I quickly ran there to find a lady sitting on a little rock - crying in pain and a tiny little baby laying in a pile of

donkey manure - covered with blood and dirt and a dirty rag. I tried to squat down to help the lady and the Haitian people were there trying to help her in their crude, superstitious ways. One was thrusting a feather in her mouth, another was beating her legs. I told them that all was not necessary and we would pray. Soon Miss Wing came on the scene. All at once the lady began in pain again and

much to my dismay I learned that another baby was on the way. This one was born encased in the bag of waters - we frantically tried to open and was successful but the tiny little baby was not breathing. I started CPR on it but wasn't having much success. We waited until the mother had completely delivered and picked everything up and ran for the clinic. There I continued with CPR and suctioning. Miss Wing wanted to go get

someone and went out the back door of the clinic - turned her ankle and fell. I could hear her groaning and people saying she was hurt but I was still trying to get the baby to breathe. His

heart was beating slowly. Finally, he took a gasp and began breathing on his own - though weakly. I quickly ran to see how Miss Wing was - she was in much pain, about to faint but she told me to go back to the babies. I ran to check on them and then back to her and we were able to get her into the house with the aid of crutches and the Haitian men. I heated water for the babies and grabbed ice for Miss Wing.

Thinking that she was comfortable I went back to clean the babies up. After a bath and clothing - the twins - identical - weighed 3 pounds and 2 pounds, they were, of course, premature.

Then I had about 70 - 80 clinic people to face and tell them that I wouldn't be able to see them that we would have to take Miss Wing for x-rays. But before that I would have to take care of the school business. The clinic people were kind - they were happy that the twins were alive. I made provisions for someone to take care of their needs.

I ran quickly to get dressed and went to inscribe several children for school. Took book orders, sold notebooks, etc. and then was going to make a dash through the school to give last minute instructions to the teachers before we left to come to Port. As I entered the school the man that carries the water informed me that there were 150 students to feed that day - and I didn't even have that many enrolled in school. So I tried to pass through the classes to find the

students who weren't enrolled. That didn't work - they all said they were enrolled! So I had to go get the list and go through every class and check student by student.

That finished - I went to the house to prepare last minute things only to remember that the battery was dead in the truck - so had to go unhook the Delco battery and put it in the truck. Finally, with the help of the Lord and our Haitian workers we were ready to leave. Miss Wing on a mat in the back of the truck, empty gas bottles all around her, me in the front with a few others that wanted us to drop them off on the road somewhere. We got to Port around 4:30 - 10 hours after the beginning of an unusual day. Fortunately, Miss Wing had only a bad sprain, for which we were grateful. As I had just told our people in service a few nights before - we never know what a day will bring - but we know that whatever - He is there to help and guide and give us strength - Praise His name!



In Him -
Barbara Neeb

A newspaper reporter arrived just in time to prevent a Christmas Eve suicide.

GOD IS ON TIME!

by Morris Chalfant

What do you expect to get for Christmas? In family circles gifts are discussed and surprises planned. A better question is to ask, "What do you expect to get from Christmas?" Can you live out your days in confidence in the Heavenly Father, commit your way to Him, and, through the eyes of Jesus Christ, look ahead?

God is still surprising us. Never overlook His action in human affairs. Within a human heart He plants an impulse to live helpfully, and many lives are blessed. He touches the life of a poet, an artist, a scientist, and the world is enriched.

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." "This child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel." What is Christ to us this Christmas? Simeon's eyes were dim with age, but he was able to see the destiny of the world wrapped up in a child.

Always when the world least expects it, a baby is born to liberate us from despair. The year 1809, for example, was one the most desperate in Europe's history. Yet in that year Lincoln, Gladstone, Tennyson, and Oliver Wendell Holmes were born. Things were not as hopeless as they looked to be. God's timing is always perfect.

The old man Simeon may have thought that the time was getting too late. Maybe Anna, the prophetess, did too. But God's timing had been divinely coordinated. And at the proper

divine stroke, an expectant mother stopped at a crowded inn, a star appeared in the eastern sky, the angels' voices heralded God's praise to an audience of frightened shepherds. It was perfectly synchronized. Nothing happened a second too late.

Throughout our lives we fear that God will come too late. Like Mary and Martha, we await God's arrival and He doesn't seem to come. The climax occurs, and God is still not there. Catastrophe falls on top of us, and we still do not feel God's presence. Has God forgotten us? Or will He come five minutes too late?

But God is never tardy — Christmas assures us of that. He always comes "in the fullness of time." Though it had been centuries since the Old Testament seers had prophesied, though the Jews had been treated as pawns among the heathen empires of Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Rome for thirty generations, yet God was not too late.

A few years ago on a Christmas Eve in Seattle, Washington, Alexander Lake, a reporter for the *Post-Intelligence* sat idling at his typewriter in the pressroom at the police station. He was suddenly overwhelmed with an impulse that sent him hurrying to Pioneer Square where he arrived just in time to knock a loaded revolver away from the head of a man about to shoot himself.

A clock in the window of a restaurant across the street said five minutes past seven. Helping the sobbing man to his feet, Lake said, "Let's go someplace where we can talk."

Here was a man who was down and nearly out. It was Christmas Eve, but there were not gifts for his wife, and children, not even food. In six days Jack Bryan had made only 75 cents. Rent was due, and there was no money to pay it.

Lake and Mr. Bryan went to a restaurant, but they did not get to eat. Lake called his city editor and was ordered to ride out with an ambulance to pick up a woman who had just met a sudden death.

Taking his new acquaintance along, Lake stuck two ten-dollar bills into the man's pocket. A short time later, standing in a tenement flat, they were surrounded by a husband and five small children clutching one another and weeping.

Lake watched as Jack Bryan took one of the ten-dollar bills and slipped it into the hand of the grief-stricken husband. Back in the ambulance Jack said, "I know what misery is. This woman in the ambulance is dead because of hard work and a heart attack and only God knows what else."

The reunion of Bryan and his wife was wonderful. They held each other as if they would never let go. The two little girls hugged their daddy's legs.

Mrs. Bryan whispered to Lake, her eyes filled with tears, "When he wasn't home by seven o'clock, I knelt down and prayed to God to please take care of him and to bring him home safely. And here he is."

Only then did Lake realize the source of the impulse which had brought him suddenly out of the police station into Pioneer Square.

As the door closed behind Lake, he realized that Bryan had only ten dollars left of the original twenty. So he turned back into the house and there found the father, mother, and the two girls on their knees in the kitchen praying. Tiptoeing to a table, Lake put a little more money there and then slipped out.

"In the fullness of time . . . Christ came." He was on time. Don't sell the Bible short. God is not dead. He will never forsake His people.

No matter what happens in the world today, we may keep our trust confidently in God's unchanging Word this Christmas season. The Bible is alive because God still lives. Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word will never pass away. Trust in God and be not afraid. GOD IS ALWAYS ON TIME.



Barry Mason
Director
Music Department



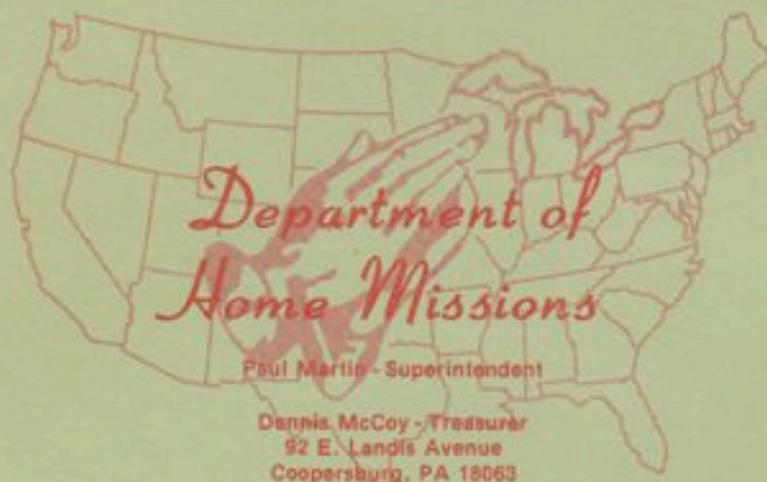
Garry Spriggs
President

Penn View Chapel Choir Christmas Tour



Itinerary

December 1	God's Missionary Church	Dover, PA	Rev. Truman Motter	7:30 P.M.
December 2	God's Missionary Church	Sunbury, PA	Rev. David Church	9:30 A.M.
December 2	God's Missionary Church	Pillow, PA	Rev. Charles Haffling	7:00 P.M.
December 5	God's Missionary Church	Bermudian, PA	Rev. Clarence Dupert	7:30 P.M.
December 7	God's Missionary Church	Spring Garden, PA	Rev. Harry Plank	7:30 P.M.
December 8	God's Missionary Church	Coopersburg, PA	Rev. Dennis McCoy	7:30 P.M.
December 9	Emmanuel Wesleyan Church	Gratz, PA	Rev. M.R. McCrary	9:30 A.M.
December 9	God's Missionary Church	Lebanon, PA	Rev. Barry Arnold	7:30 P.M.
December 12	God's Missionary Church	Bellefonte, PA	Rev. Stephen Hicks	7:30 P.M.
December 15	God's Missionary Church	Christmas Concert	Penns Creek, PA	7:30 P.M.
December 16	Pilgrim Holiness Church	Binghamton, NY	Rev. Ralph Tilley	10:00 A.M.
December 16	Pilgrim Holiness Church	Schenectady, NY	Rev. Bobbie Bidwell	7:00 P.M.
December 17	Mohawk Mall	Schenectady, NY		
December 19	Penns Valley God's Missionary Church	Spring Mills, PA	Rev. Chester Marshall	7:30 P.M.
December 20	Susquehanna Valley Mall			6:30 P.M.



Mission greetings! As we sit to write this article for our church paper, I am reminded again of the need for the mighty outpouring of the blessed Holy Ghost. At one of our mission churches a recent revival meeting was held where God came in a mighty way and new souls were born into the kingdom of God. These souls are continuing to walk with the Lord. This to me is truly home missions. Each of our churches need the visitation of the Spirit for our continuance.

I suppose many at this time of the year are having their minds flooded with the sport of hunting big game. I am not critical of this, but it did enter my mind if the time and money spent for this annual affair would be used for outreach, what would be accomplished? No, as the Lord would permit, enjoy your hunt; but let us not forget the urgent need in these last days to "hunt" for lost souls. The need is so great and the "game" is all around us!

I wish to report a good Evangelism Seminar. The attendance was real low, but the truths so very much needed were presented in a manner all who attended could and did profit from them. Bro. and Sis. Troyer were used of the Lord to challenge us to the need of reaching a "whitened harvest" for Jesus. This department plans these seminars in the hope our churches will cooperate and profit by them. We were sorry that no more took advantage of this golden opportunity. If you would desire tapes of this seminar, please write and we will see you get them at the cost set for the same. The Fullers did a tremen-

dous job in the ministry of song. They challenged us through music messages.

We wish to thank the Sunbury church and Pastor Dave Church for their fine facilities. A special thanks also to Spess Hoffman for the service provided at his restaurant. Spess, this was deeply appreciated; the food was truly "home cooking" at its best. I speak for the ministers and their wives for the contribution you made to the seminar.

I very seldom make much mention about finances in this column. May I insert a short word about this important aspect of this department. We have calls for assistance at home mission churches in the financial area. We have no funds to meet these requests. The requests are urgent and very much necessary and we would like to help. Would you consider an extra gift or offering to home missions this month and especially around the Christmas season? I will mention a few areas of great need.

Brother John Musser has been at Armagh for several months and is out there visiting and contacting new folk. The Lord is blessing him for his efforts. There is need of aid to help this church. Winter is soon here and the oil tanks will be getting empty. This church cannot fill these themselves. Your gift to this department would help this church. Thanks! Another need is to help the folk in the Glen Burnie, Md., Church. Pastor Greg Thacker is serving these folk well. He

needs help in monthly support. Your gift to this department will help. Thanks!

Plans are coming close to being completed for a church at Watertown, N.Y. A pastor will soon be in the area and support will be needed in the pioneer work. Thanks for your gift to this department which will help these folk.

Pastor and Mrs. Arlan Kratz have been led to the Lord to the Delaware area. They are having services at two different locations each week. We would like, as a department, to help these folk. Your gift could help us do just that. Many thanks!

The above will give you just a bird's eye view of the many needs. This department is moving forward. The needs in America are just as great as over the waters. In fact, if America does not have a revival, we will need the Christians from overseas as missionaries to our land. If you would, please pray much about the above needs and other needs not mentioned, but are a ministry of the Department of Home Missions.

Folk, I want to be stirred in these last days. I want to be about my Father's business. I want to bring souls with me as I go to heaven. We are not reaching them within the four walls of our churches, so we MUST get OUT there and compel them to come to Jesus. This is work to witness in a one-to-one manner, but it is fruitful. I am praying that our ministering brethren will get an awakening and will lead our churches to outreach with the "Spirit's anointing." The task is too huge for a few; we need everyone to join hands and let us move forward for the Lord. God is answering prayer, souls are being saved, churches are being revived, but we must see more done for the Lord. WE ARE IN THE LAST DAYS AND WHAT IS DONE MUST BE DONE WITH HASTE AND THE SPIRIT'S ANOINTING.

A pastor who is out there with his people has had an increase in one year of 50 in his church. It can be done if we will mind God! This is no time to sit idly by, but a time to reap the ripened harvest. May the Lord richly bless each one of you. The address of our treasurer is preceding this article. Your special gift will be great appreciated.

Paul Martin



Let's Have A Christmas We Can Afford

By D. A. Seamands

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

In a Christmas issue of *Time* magazine was a tongue-in-cheek article called "The Blight Before Christmas." It began with these words, "In the modern world Christmas can also be the season to lose your reason. Beginning about Thanksgiving, family quarrels become fiercer, relations with relatives become more strained, tradesmen assume a forced friendliness, and the dispenser of holiday cheer begins to feel there is not honestly a cheery face to be found anywhere."

The greatest pain of the Christmas stain is, of course, financial. The article mentioned having to buy Christmas on time, with Scrooge's Ghost of Christmas Past coming to the party for Christmas Present in the form of another monthly payment at the bank. It pointed out that Christmas can be such a traumatic experience that it produces in many people an emotional disease known as Santa-Claustrophobia!

With all this in mind, several weeks ago I sat down with my wife to plan a reasonable Christmas. My opening words were well planned and they are the title of this meditation: "Let's have a Christmas that we can afford." So we began our Christmas shopping on a low-cost budget. Well, you know how it turned out. Yes, it turned out exactly the same as it had every other year we tried it.

But while straining and struggling to cut corners, I was struck with this thought which has made it much easier for me; to have a Christmas that we could afford would be all wrong. For no one ever did find Christmas something that he could afford. It has been an expensive proposition right from the start!

Could God afford that first Christmas? Absolutely not. Heaven was stripped; it was utterly impoverished. Did you get the idea that the first Christmas was something that was easy for God; that He somehow paid for it out of His great surplus treasury Oh no!

I recall visiting in a home of some dear friends in Louisville one Christmas. Their only son was overseas — in the war — and on the piano was his picture. As we stood looking at the boy the father said, with tears in his eyes: "I never knew what John 3:16 meant before — now I know."

Could Jesus afford Christmas? Let Paul tell us: "Who, though he was in the form of God, but did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6, 7) Expensive? Costly? Yes!

Could Mary and Jesus afford Christmas? When the angel appeared to Mary with his message she as much as said, "But I cannot afford this. You see, I've got a good reputation in this village. How can I do this?" Costly? Yes. And Joseph, too. Ah, what great faith he had, to take the jeers and the talk from the dirty-minded people of his village. He couldn't afford it, but he too, gave — gave of his name and his love.

Could the shepherds afford it? No. There was no nobleman's ranch. They were but a handful of poor shepherds. The sheep represented their entire livelihood. If something happened to them while they went off to Bethlehem to see the new baby, people would say, "Why in the world did you go on a wild chase at midnight? Angels! Singing! I guess you really

did see things!" Easy? Cheap? No! They couldn't afford it either — but they went.

Could the three Wise Men afford it? They invested a great deal in order to take that journey. How far had they come? Hundreds, maybe thousands of miles. Afford it? Possibly it took their life savings. And those gifts! They could have said, "Well, you see we spent so much money getting to the stable that we just don't have anything left for an offering." Afford it? No! But they gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. All very expensive items — fit for a king.

When we get right down to it, isn't sacrifice at the very heart of our Christian faith? Of course it is. It's the whole point of the gospel story and its beginning at Christmas is no exception. Second Corinthians 5:15 sums up this whole thought by saying, "For the love of Christ leaves us no choice, when once we have reached the conclusion that one man died for all . . . His purpose in dying for all was that men, while still in life, should cease to live for themselves and should live for him who for their sake died. . . ." (NEB).

Shall we not say with Christini Rossetti:

"What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wiseman, I would do my part,

Yet, what I can I give Him, Give my heart!

CALL HIM JESUS! . . . (Continued from Page 3)

freed from sin and become servants unto God.

The full deliverance is well expressed in Romans 5:19, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Note that word "made," which is twice used. Men were made sinners through Adam, and they are made righteous through Jesus, the second Adam. Now the most ardent advocates of eternal security for "sinning Christians" will admit that through Adam men were truly constituted sinners in their very

nature. They were not merely reckoned to be sinners; they were so in fact. By the use of the same word "made" for the righteousness wrought by our Savior, it is just as emphatic that in Him men are not just to be reckoned as righteous; they are to be constituted so in fact. Jesus more than barely equals the influence of Adam: "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:19).

Whenever we use the name of Jesus we are declaring a full salvation from all sin. His wonderful name has a wonderful meaning, and we are not ashamed to declare it to all the world!



School News, Penn View

From the desk of Rev. Garry L. Spriggs
President

"For God so loved the world that He GAVE..."

John 3:16 is without question the most familiar verse in all of Scripture. From the little child to the aged grandfather, all seem to know it well.

It was a tremendous price, this gift of God's Son. Sent as a babe in the manger in a most unassuming manner, He was the Savior of the world. God knew from the beginning that His death would be cruel, yet He gave. He knew that mankind would spit upon Him, place a crown of thorns on His head, yes, even crucify Him, yet He gave.

Giving is at the very center of God's great plan to redeem mankind. Yes, God **so** loved that He gave!

At Christmastime the spirit of giving seems to grip nearly the whole world. Cards of greeting go across the miles, presents are bought for friends and relatives, giving is done in a cheerful frame of mind. It all began some 2000 years ago when God gave.

However, God's great plan of giving is not just for what man calls Christmas. God's plan for giving extends to every day, every month,

every year! Let's look at some scriptures and see what they tell us.

Psalms 112:9 states that a good man "hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor . . . he shall be exalted with honor." Psalm 146:7 tells us that happiness comes to them "which giveth food to the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick and of helping strangers and prisoners. I John 3:17 let it be known that if we see our brother in need and do not help him we do not have the love of God in us! Note also Eph. 4:28, here we are admonished to work, but not just to have more ourselves, it is so that we can help our brother who is in need. I'm fearful that most of us have not grasped this principle of giving and helping our brother! May God help us to do so.

My next statement may seem a bit strong and I ask you to please accept it in the right way, but in my opinion **A TAX RECEIPT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE STRONGEST DETERRENTS TO BIBLICAL GIVING!** We have educated ourselves and our people to please Uncle Sam and the IRS rather than please God. I am in favor of getting a receipt for everything the IRS permits, we certainly give receipts for tax deductible gifts here at Penn View, however, **all** of our giv-

ing doesn't have to have a receipt. God may want me to give more, or in a different manner than IRS permits. I must mind God even if it does not fit IRS guidelines and I can't take a deduction. If we follow Biblical mandates there will be frequent times that we help a brother in need and IRS will **not** permit us to deduct it from our income. We hand the money **directly** to our brother and don't worry about a receipt. That's God's way, and our first obligation is to Him not IRS!

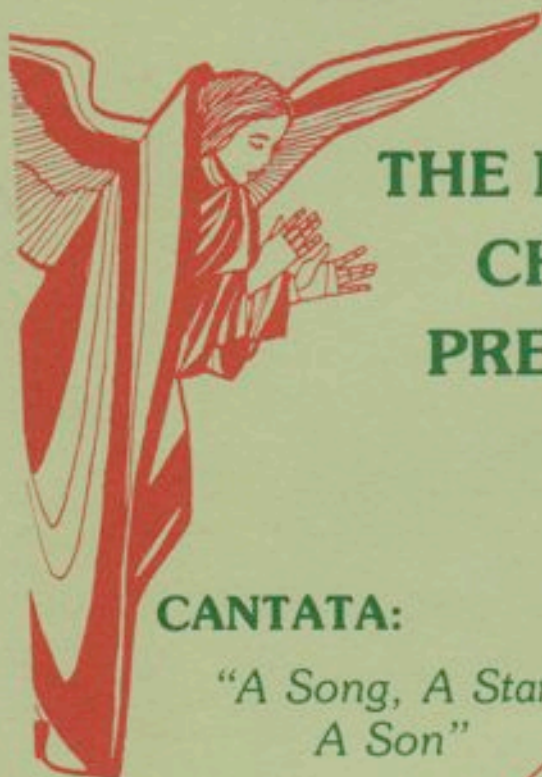
In the early church, none were in need for they all helped one another. The world is looking for love and security. If we would follow God's plan in the area of helping our brother, it would be a strong drawing point for Christianity. In Josh. 1:8-8 we find that God's attitude toward those entering into the promised land was that they be prosperous and successful. He wanted His people to look so good that the heathen nations would want to serve the true God. Note also that their prosperity and success was to be based on keeping the commandments, the law of Moses. This they did not do, so they did not have the success and prosperity that God intended for them to have.

He has promised to supply all of our needs, (Phil. 4:19) and means just that. He wants to reward us for our giving by attributing fruit to our account (Phil. 4:17) He is fair in accounting the fruit (I Sam. 30:24) and He wants us to give purposefully and cheerfully (II Co. 9:7).

Yes, God so loved the world that He gave, He gave His only begotten son. As love flows at this Christmas season, let's once again review God's whole pattern of giving. Perhaps a year end gift to your pastor is in God's plan for you, or a nice donation to the local church to help in the high cost of winter. We have missionaries in need, home missions need supported or perhaps just a brother who could use a "friendly handshake" with some financial help. The important thing is that we are givers. It is more blessed to give than to receive and you **cannot** out give God!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTED IN MUSIC

CANTATA:

"A Song, A Star,
A Son"

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

December 15, 1984

7:30 P.M.

Tabernacle Building
Penn View
Bible Institute
Penns Creek, PA

Chapel Choir

High School Choir

Trios, Quartets, Solos,

Instrumental Ensemble



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PO Box 45
Henderson, Md. 21640

Not Affiliated
R.D. 1 Box 137
Church Hill, MD 21623

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