



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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Tonight At Bethlehem

Why is the dark so luminous?
The stars so bright and numerous?
How short the space between them and us,
Tonight at Bethlehem.

The heart of God, Redemption's key;
The pledge of what man is to be,
Are in that Babe whom we may see,
Tonight at Bethlehem.

O sing the holy song again:
Peace on earth, good will to men,
The sweetest anthem humans ken,
Tonight at Bethlehem.

Then throw your heart's door open wide,
That Christ may enter and abide;
Give Him the keys to all inside,
Tonight at Bethlehem.

—Edwin Forrest Hallenbeck

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Sharing The Secret!

Ephesians 3:9a — "...and to make all men see what is the
fellowship of the mystery"

A number of times in the New Testament the word
"mystery" is used to describe the great scheme of redemption
which God planned in eternity past which would come to full
fruition in the birth, life, death, burial and resurrection of His
Son, Jesus Christ.

This word is most interesting. It comes from a word which
means "to shut the mouth," a secret not to be shared with just
everyone. God's secret of redemption for lost mankind has
been sequentially shared across the ages. That which was so
vitaly important was initially known to only a select few.
However, as the plan unfolded, throughout the Old Testament,
the prophets, with keen vision, got a glimpse of the ultimate
beauty of the coming Redeemer. The facts of Christ's life; that
He was born in Bethlehem, taught and ministered in Palestine,
died on Calvary, rose on Easter morning and ascended back to
heaven, were still known to a relatively small segment of the
world's population at the time of Paul's ministry.

However, the great Apostle to the Gentiles, as he writes to
the Ephesians, seems to so keenly aware of his personal man-
date for sharing this secret. He reminds them in Chapter 3
"Surely you have heard about the administration of God's
grace that was given to me for you, that is the mystery made
known to me by revelation..." 3:2, 3a NIV Though this secret of
redemption had been concealed in past ages, now it is being
revealed in all of its splendor and beauty and gracious mean-
ing.

Paul explains that "This mystery is that through the gospel
the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together
of one body, and shares together in the promise in Christ
Jesus." 3:6 NIV. He then declares that this glorious secret of
redemption is to be shared as widely as possible. Verse 9
states, "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the
mystery..."

The old "I've got a secret and I'm not going to share it," men-
tality of the secret society is to be replaced by this glorious
"fellowship of the mystery," those who are gladly sharing the
secret of where to find spiritual victory and vitality. As so-
meone has said, "The gospel is one beggar telling another
where to find food."

As Paul wrote to his dear son in the faith, Timothy, "And
great and important and weighty, we confess, is the hidden
truth - the mystic secret - of godliness. He (God) was made visi-
ble in human flesh, justified and vindicated in the (Holy) Spirit,
was seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in
the world [and] taken up in glory." AMPL.

Sing a song, you "sharers of the secret"

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

DLF

Would YOU Have Missed Him?

Comparatively few people saw and recognized Jesus the Messiah when He came as a man to earth. Many were looking for Him—probably everyone in Israel. But not many saw Him. Matthew and Luke tell of only a small number of persons—some shepherds, “wise men from the East,” Simeon, Anna—who really recognized Him.

But why was this true? His coming had been foretold for centuries. As early as the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden, God had promised a deliverer. And that initial promise had been enlarged, expanded, detailed in an increasing revelation. Dr. Frank Charles Thompson cites 38 prophecies concerning the Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus.

The prophets had covered the event thoroughly. Why should anyone have missed Him?

They had told to what people He would come and had narrowed it down from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through the tribe of Judah to the family and throne of David.

They had named the tiny village from which He would arise—Bethlehem.

They had set the time and described the troublous times in which He would come.

They had even described the nature of His coming: to the original statement that He would be the “seed of a woman” had been added the startling word that He would be born of a virgin.

Yet in spite of the fullness of the prophetic word about His coming, He came to an unexpected people. Perhaps political events were foremost in their minds—the country was under the domination of Rome. Or did the scramble for material gain blind their eyes—after a night or two like that one the innkeeper must have planned an addition to his facilities. (“Maybe we can arrange with Caesar’s government to have this tax thing more often.”)

He came to an unexpected place—geographically. Everyone who found Him required special directions: the shepherds from an angel, the wise men from Herod, and He was brought to Simeon and to Anna.

He came to an unexpected place—socially. Little wonder a bluff, pretending, facade-worshiping, military-minded generation failed to recognize a king in a manger. Probably most people who missed Him did so because He didn’t measure up to their image of a king. Will we ever learn that the strength of leadership is in character, in sensitivity to the needs and voices of people, rather than in a grandiose shell of impregnable aloofness and “infallible” judgments? Get on your knees again—that’s a king lying asleep on that pallet of straw. If He were on a throne you would worship Him—because of the throne. Worship Him because He is King!

He came at an unexpected time. People had their hands

full with the problems of everyday life. (The idea of a coming Messiah is a nice religious tenet to think about in the synagogue, but right now I’ve got to fill my children’s mouths, clothe them, pay my taxes, provide for tomorrow, and do what I can to get the Romans out of here.) Said our Israeli guide a few months ago, “In our religion, looking for the Messiah is more important than whether or when He comes.” But when He did come His birth was related to the ordinary, sweat-soaked activities of life—even paying taxes: mundane, common, governmental, and certainly not very spiritual. Yet it was the fullness of time. The dark cloud of occupation by Roman troops had the silver lining of the best systems of roads, transport, organization, and communication that had been available up to that time.

He came in an unexpected way. The final fulfillment of God’s answer to the Fall came in the way Isaiah had predicted. But so few saw Him—so many missed Him.

We hide them like we do all Bible villains. Since we have the full story and have read to the end of the book we can feel superior—intellectually, morally, spiritually. We know what they should have seen, what they should have done. But if you had lived then, in your own present spiritual condition, are you sure you wouldn’t have missed Him, too? Would you have been distracted by events, prejudiced by the setting, blind to the light of a battery of prophecies?

You wouldn’t have?

Then be sure you don’t miss Him when He comes again. Because He is coming.

As Dr. Arnold T. Olson told the Jerusalem Conference on Biblical Prophecy:

“The evidence in the Word of God as to the certainty and the importance of that event is overwhelming. In fact, the first prophetic utterance by man deals with Christ’s second, not His first, coming. Jude says in verse 14 of his epistle that ‘Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints.’ This prediction is also the final word from Jesus as He promises, ‘Surely I come quickly’ (Revelation 22:20).

“Between these two utterances more is written about the return of Jesus than about any other doctrine. More than fifteen hundred passages in the Old Testament and three hundred in the New contain promises of His return. These do not include the many additional passages that deal with matters relating to this event.”

Would you have missed Him the first time? We cannot tell. But just as surely as He came once He is coming again. The multitude missed Him then. And they will again. Will you?

—RWM, in *The Wesleyan Advocate*



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For

A Blessed Christmas

and

A Spiritual New Year!

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A NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Emmanuel Wesleyan Church
Gratz, PA

9:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker - R.G. Humble

Guest Singers - Don and Shirl Gessner

This special service is sponsored
by Dayspring Ministries

A special offering will be received.



Missionary Message

AN UNFULFILLED PROMISE

Many times I had walked over that palm tree bridge to talk with a very old lady, so old that none knew how old she really was. But she has over 84 grand and great-grand children. She is bent over and walks with the upper part of her body parallel with the ground. Still she seeks to keep active and often I have found her sweeping the dirt yard with a straw broom, or sitting washing dirty clothes in a small basin of water. At other times I have found her sitting in the canal with water up to her ankles, washing out some clothes with a large straw hat on her white hair. I call her Gran, Willy for one of her grandson's name is Willy and in Haiti the possessive is put after the noun or pronoun.

When I have visited her there is always a search for another chair and then we sit together to talk and I always talk about Jesus. She has permitted me through the years to speak of Him, to read His Word and to pray generally with her. But never for me to pray for her soul.

Gran's response to my pleadings have always been this, "I promised my dead mother and father that I would always serve the devil and worship him," or sometimes it has been this, "I could never serve Jesus with a yard full of devil people like I have here." Her very own son is a witch doctor. My heart was always sad to leave her and I longed for her salvation. Kissing her wrinkled face I would go with prayer in my heart to Him Who could speak to her heart.

Each week I would send her some rice and when she would be ill I would see to it that she had pills for pain, ointment for her arthritic bones and medicine for fever and colds. One day when I went she was not sitting in front of the mud and stick house but was inside in bed very ill. Just at the thought of her dying without the Lord I began to weep till the people outside could hear me. Gran was upset with my crying and told me, "Don't cry. I

am not going to die, I am only sick." But I explained that when people are old and they are very ill they can die and she was not ready to meet the Lord. Her weak voice only replied, "I will not die, I am only sick."

Just before I left to come home on furlough I visited with her again and in the order of conversation told her that if Jesus came while I was home that she would never see me again. Her face lifted to me and she looked shocked as though I had struck her. For a while neither of us said anything. Then she quietly said, "Why do you say that?" I told her it was because she was not ready for heaven and would not be going to the same place as I would be going. She did not seem to want to talk after that so I kissed her and left.

The next evening one of her little great-grandsons came to my house with this message, "Gran says to come and pray with her, that she wants to give her heart to Jesus." Well, it was my turn to be shocked and very glad and I knew the Lord was going to answer my prayers.

When I arrived there she was sitting in the front of the house but when I drew near she said to me that we should go inside the house to pray. I agreed and walking past all the staring eyes of the devil people I entered with her carrying our chairs. It would have to be a miracle if none bothered us. Putting the chairs close together I opened my Bible with a prayerful heart and began to show her the Word. When I came to the part that shows that we have all sinned she stopped me. With these words she sent my heart to deep distress, "Miss Cleaver, I have not sinned." Oh, God, please come and help me. I carefully named all the sins I could think of and like the rich young ruler she said that she had never committed any of them! I pled with the Holy Spirit to help and she too looked distressed seeing my alarm. Then her face lit up and she

said, "Oh, Miss Cleaver I know, I used to fight with everyone terribly, hurting them and being awful!" Thank God! Not for her sin but that the Blessed Holy Ghost had helped that elderly clouded mind to remember her sin and to know it for what it was, sin against a Holy God. From there I led her with the Word and then she cried in distress, "I don't know how to pray!" But I answered her quickly, "Gran, I know how to pray and I will help you." We prayed together and Jesus helped her to break her promise to her dead parents as she confessed her sins and found Jesus as her very own Saviour! Glory! Gran's name was written down in the Lamb's Book of Life and I was one happy missionary!

She now has her very own Bible. But she cannot read. I wrote her name in it and then gave it to a child who can read in that yard and told her to read to Gran every morning and evening. The very next time I went back to see her the Word had already been speaking to her heart for her nose no longer was black with snuff! Always before she would have her little leaf tied up filled with snuff that she used each day. But it was gone! Hallelujah! I had not said anything to her since she was saved but God did.

But the battle is on! She wanted to come to church the next Sunday which was my last Sunday there before leaving and they would not iron her clothes so she could come. The enemy is angry and will seek to turn her from the way, so **please pray** with me that He will give her grace in the midst of that Voodoo yard and that she shall be a means of bringing them all to the Saviour! God is able! I believe He can do it. God's promises cannot fail and now they are her's too! She broke her promise to the devil pray that she shall have strength to keep her promise to God. Greater is He that is within us!

yours for souls,
Bonnie Cleaver

The Mi

Brigadier W

"Where is he that is born King...? we have seen his star...come to worship him."

— Matt. 2:2

Is the familiar story of the Magi—the wise men of the East—the star, the wise men's earnest quest, and their wondrous discovery, really reasonable? Is it sensibly feasible, in fact, that the King of kings, the Celestial Monarch, the Messiah—the Hope of all mankind of all ages, should be born of a lowly virgin, in a rustic stable, and be found in a crude manger in a cattle stall?

To the unbeliever, the cynic, such an amazing story is absolutely and purely fantastic. Doubtless to them it is an exquisite tale captivating the imagination and gripping the sentiments of credulous people of all generations, but still only a fable. If the story of the incarnation be but a legend, and not an actual fact, then the very foundation of Christianity is removed and its whole structure collapses. The birth of Christ is only one, but an indispensable one, of the links in the chain of God's redemptive mission in and through His Son, Jesus Christ. **Deny the incarnation, then the vicarious life of Jesus, His sacrifice on the Cross, His resurrection and His ascension—His Divinity and Saviourhood—are all invalid.** If we do reject any or all of these **fundamental** facts, our faith indeed and our Christian hope is vain and the whole of our Christian experience goes to pieces.

To the believer, however, whose greatest joy and very life is in the divine Son of God, the facts recorded in the Gospels solely constitute the eternal truth: **the most glorious fact of all time: THE WONDER OF ETERNITY.** Fully accepting this and witnessing to it, the Apostle Paul declared, "The kindness and love of God our Saviour toward men appeared" (Titus 3:4). As we con-

template this unique wonder, let us too join with the Apostle and the innumerable company of believers of every generation and clearly and confidently proclaim, with overflowing gratitude and great joy: "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). Truly Jesus Christ is, as Charles Wesley sang:

**All Thy people's consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy to every longing heart.**

Several practical and beneficial lessons can be learned from the close study of the wise men: **their wisdom, their race, their quest, their discovery.** First, the wise men were not wise only in name and in intellectual acumen, but in the **highest possible wisdom displayed—they sought Jesus!** Such a quest by anyone is unsurpassed wisdom. They were wise enough to realize that all their abundant wealth, their exalted position, their eminent scholarship—all they were and all they had could not satisfy their burning desire to find the Christ—the **supreme quest for spiritual satisfaction.** As we find it so aptly expressed in the ballad: "The thirst that from the soul doth rise, doth ask a drink divine." And as St. Augustine, confessed: "O God, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our souls are ever unquiet until they find their rest in Thee." Thomas a Kempis discloses this inner yearning in his **"Imitation of Christ,"** "In Thee is all that I would have and can desire."

Secondly, **the wise men came from the East, and were Gentile philosophers: thus representatives of all non-Jewish races.** But as they, the wealthy, noble, wise men knelt on the stable straw together with the poor, humble, unlearned Jewish shepherds, the group symbolized God's universal salvation: His gracious plan and provision, a purpose promised and proclaimed by Him as He revealed it

through His angelic messengers: "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, **which shall be to ALL people.** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe...lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12.)

"Peace and good will toward all men." Presiding at the Lord's Supper at a Christian International Conference, of which all nations were represented, a minister took the cup of wine and lifted it up and looking through it, said: "Through this I see you all one color"! Charles Wesley movingly sang of God's universal salvation through Jesus Christ, when he penned these heart-warming words:

**Thy sovereign grace to all extends,
Immense and unconfined;
From age to age it never ends;
It reaches all mankind.**

**Throughout the worlds its breadth is known
Wide as infinity:
So wide it never passed by one,
Or it had passed by me.**

**The depth of all-redeeming love,
What angel tongue can tell,
O may I to the utmost prove,
The gift unspeakable!**

In her lovely style, Patience Strong gave us these choice thoughts: "They came that night to Bethlehem, the simple and the wise. The Shephard and the scholar saw the glory in the skies—and sought the holy manger bed, that place of mystery—where God Himself had broken upon humanity. The greatest men who walk on earth can offer us today, no greater revelation; this then is the Way... Though knowledge high and vast the human mind may soar, every man must come at last to the stable door." So in the small company who knelt in utmost adoration of the King of kings, are represented the young and the old; the Jew and the Gentile; the rich

Wise Men

William Ozzane

and the poor; the mighty and the servant — all one in acceptance and adoration of the Christ. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). It is God's particular plan and purpose, in His redemptive intention to bring unity to a disintegrated human race, and that can come only in and through Christ. As the Apostle Paul so plainly explained: "He has made known to us His hidden purpose — such was His will and pleasure determined beforehand in Christ to be put into effect when the time was ripe: namely, that the universe, all in heaven and on earth might be brought into a unity in Christ." "In the fulness of time Christ came" — the Saviour of all mankind.

Again, the wise men were persistent in their earnest quest. They continued to follow the star which they first saw in the East, right unto its ultimate destination. "The star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the child was."

Star of wonder, star of light,
Star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Further, the wise men were so desperately in earnest to find Christ Jesus, that they doggedly persisted despite the perils and obstacles in the way, until they found Him. What a shining example they give for all who have seen the Star — the gleam of divine light shed in their lives by the Holy Spirit! God's unfailing pledge to every sincere and diligent seeker is: "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13.) This timeless promise challenges us today: if we too, would find the "pearl of great price," we must seek persistently and wholeheartedly. Then assuredly we shall find Christ to be the greatest joy of life.

Finally, the wise men were abundantly recompensed for their persistent and believing quest. They did in-



deed prove the eternal truth, as experienced and expressed by the Apostle Paul: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:4-6.) Their unwavering faith in and unreserved obedience to the guiding light led them to the supreme joy: "They rejoiced with exceeding great joy." They immediately and instinctively recognized that the Babe of Bethlehem was in reality the eternal Christ. They realized that they had found the Mystery of all ages which is the key to all other mysteries. They found the glory of God revealed in the face and Person of Jesus Christ — the Christ-child. Fully conscious of this wondrous and tremendous discovery, "they worshiped Him"! They cried with deep feeling, "We are come to worship Him"; something immeasurably greater than merely the curiosity of discovery. "And they presented Him with gifts." God's unspeakable Gift calls forth from all who find Jesus utmost in adoration, worship, devotion, and consecration. In the supreme moment when we do discover a personal Saviour, we feel

the same attitude as the Indian who testified: "Indian lay down blanket; Indian lay down pipe; Indian lay down tomahawk; Indian lay down Indian."

Love so amazing, so divine, shall
Have my soul, my life, my all.

In their confession, "We are come to worship Him," the wise men are typical of every true believer who is fully committed to Christ. Nothing less than utmost surrender and consecration to Him can suffice. For, to seek earnestly, persistently until we find and accept Him as Saviour and King, to bow in utter humility and worship in deepest devotion in His most holy presence — this is life's supreme quest for every soul of man.

The wise may bring their learning,
The rich may bring their wealth,

And some may bring their greatness,
And some bring strength and health.

We, too, would bring our treasures
To offer to the King;
We have no wealth or learning
What shall we, humble bring?

We'll bring Him hearts that love Him,
We'll bring Him thankful praise,
And our souls meekly striving
To walk in holy ways;

And these shall be the treasure
We offer to the King,
And these are gifts that even
The humblest soul may bring.

Biblical Apparel

by Ignacio Palacios
Pastor - Donna, Texas

Part I The Dress Question -

The subject of dress standards is very controversial, even among holiness people. There are various reasons for such controversy. Among them are:

1. Some people have gone to extremes outside of Scripture, and have therefore brought unpopularity on the topic.

2. Some have harshly and critically insisted on certain standards of dress without giving Biblical reasons for them, and have thus confused many people.

3. Some consider that the topic at hand is not at all important, and that dress standards have nothing to do with the Twentieth Century Christian.

4. Others have laid overdue emphasis on outward appearance and dress without equally preaching other Biblical truths, leaving the impression that being saved and sanctified consists only in a certain way of dressing, not having anything to do with the heart.

5. There are those who have gone to the other extreme and have said that dress standards do not matter at all, for God sees only the heart, and the condition of the heart is the only thing which matters. This false idea has become so prevalent it is reported that even Wonder Woman, the television heroine, in real life is a Christian. One wonders how a Christian woman can marry an unbeliever and also undress before the television public.

Even though there is such controversy over the topic, we must see that, according to the Bible, dress standards are important for the Christian. There are so many scriptures throughout the Bible dealing with the subject which contain the phrase "Thus saith the Lord," that it is very needful to examine what He has to say about the topic, and act upon it.

Much of the prejudice against this topic stems from sympathy with the world. Many do not like to hear about how the people of God should dress, since the love of the world and worldly fashions is in their heart. Many want to profess that they are still Christians and look as much like the world as they can. It seems for some people that salvation and holiness do

not touch anything on the exterior, but only on the inside.

Dress standards are associated much with Christian virtues, or the absence of them. Much of today's immorality can be traced to immodesty. According to Paul Harvey, when mini-skirts became the fashion, rape rose 60%. There is no doubt that immodesty and immorality are closely related.

It also seems that one of the first avenues by which worldiness enters a church is through worldly fashions. Sometimes it happens very subtly so that there remains no longer any outward difference between a Christian and a pagan. That is why the Church's witness in the world becomes ineffective and weak. When anything goes in the world and anything goes in the Church, then the world sees no outward difference, and prefers to stay outside the Church. My own mother, who was reared a Catholic in Mexico, still remembers the startling difference in the way the "Protestants," at the old Nazarene church would dress, which differed greatly from the world of her day!

Some have said that apparel and character are not related in any way whatsoever; therefore, it does not matter how a Christian dresses. But if one examines the Bible closely, he may find that people knew what kind of person one was by the way one dressed. One could recognize a widow in her lamentation (Gen. 38:14). Ministers were recognized as such by their attire (Ex. 28:2). Prisoners were known by the way they were dressed (II Kings 25:29). There was also a way young women were recognized as virgins (II Sam. 13:18-19). There was even a way to recognize prostitutes (Prov. 7:10) or other infamous women, such as Jezebel. Character and dress were always closely related. Even today, one can tell the difference between a bum and a businessman by his attire. Ought not people today also know the difference between a Christian and an unbeliever by their attire? Christian virtues, or the lack of such, are shown many times in outward appearance. Someone has said "the face is the mirror of the soul"; one may equally say that the outward appearance reflects character.

The Spirit Of Christmas

*That night when the shepherds heard
the song*

*Of angels' voices choiring near,
A deaf man stirred in slumber's spell
And dreamed that HE COULD
HEAR.*

*That night when in the cattle stall
Slept Child and mother cheek by
jowl,*

*A cripple turned his twisted limbs
And dreamed that HE WAS
WHOLE.*

*That night when o'er the newborn
Babe*

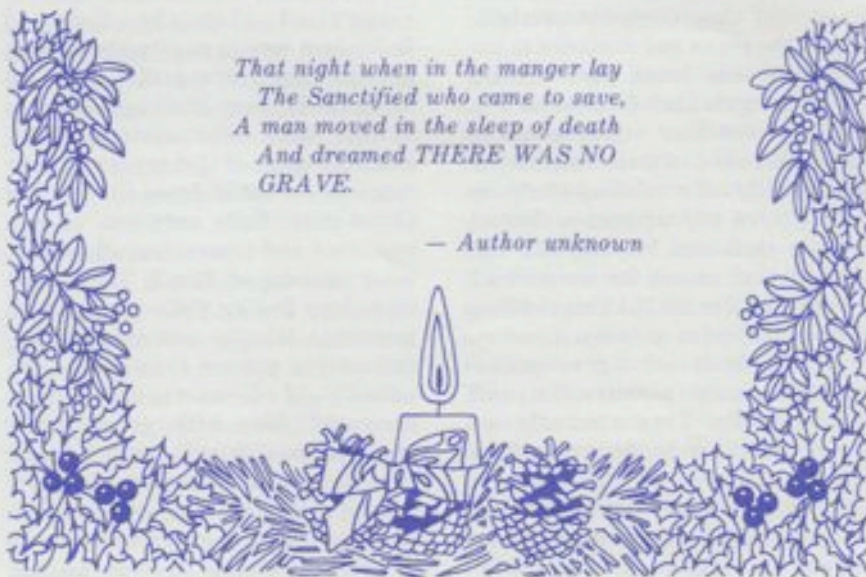
*The tender Mary rose to lean,
A loathsome leper smiled in his sleep
And dreamed that HE WAS
CLEAN.*

*That night when to the mother's
breast*

*The little Babe was pressed secure,
A harlot slept a happy sleep
And dreamed that SHE WAS
PURE.*

*That night when in the manger lay
The Sanctified who came to save,
A man moved in the sleep of death
And dreamed THERE WAS NO
GRAVE.*

— Author unknown





"Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King." The words of the songwriter express the mood of the season so well. To the Christian community the real source of the joy spoken of is found in Matthew 1:21. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: For he shall save his people from their sins. Now that is real joy! To have our sins forgiven and be called His child is the greatest joy that one can know in this world!"

I get excited about this time of year! It is such a beautiful sight to see the lovely decorations and ornaments that adorn this great land of ours. Manger scenes, with angels and shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus help us to realize what the season really is about! Flashing lights and tinsel, and candles blazing brightly all lend to the special effects that this season reflects. But to the disappointment of we who know the "reason for the season", the majority of American people do not know the Christ of Christmas. The only joy they experience is the anxiety that comes as they anxiously anticipate what new gift they will receive this year. Christmas has become so commercialized that Christ has all but been entirely removed from the picture. What do you say, this year, let's put Christ back in Christmas? Let's share the real story of His birth with our families and friends and encourage them to experience the "joy" that the songwriter was referring to when he penned the words of the carol.

I like the statement that I read recently that said, "Wise men still seek Him!" It is the mark of true wisdom when we seek after Him and His will.

Jesus Christ came as a babe in a manger for the express purpose of offering us a way to God. We could in no wise come into His Presence. Someone else had to offer a sacrifice for

us, someone else had to pray for us and intercede for us. But thank God, when "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth," Jesus Christ was put on display for the world to admire. He came for the purpose of forgiving our sins and show us the way to Heaven.

It is the privilege of man to now 'come boldly to the throne of grace, that we might obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.' Jesus came to not only show us the way to God, but He Himself became the way to the Father. In one place in the scripture He states, "No man can come to the Father, but by me." That is what Christmas is really all about! That is why Jesus chose to come to us! We could not go to where He was, so He came to us! Praise the Lord for this blessed Christmas season. Shall we all join together this season and Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

On the Home Mission front, God is moving in a special way in our mission churches and we praise Him for His help. Reports are coming in from various churches that new people are coming in and hearing the gospel, and for many it is their first time to ever hear His word! What greater joy could we have than to help lead someone to Christ as we are preparing to celebrate His birth? That is the prayer and desire of the pastors in our Home Missionary Dept.

We would like to introduce to the Standard family a brand new church that has just become part of the Home Mission Dept. The church is located near the town of Butler, Pa., which is situated in the western part of the state. The pastor of the new work is Rev. and Mrs. Gary Truitt, who also have three lovely children. It is a real joy to welcome them into the fellowship of the God's Missionary Church. We are trusting and praying

SUPERINTENDENT:
REV. DENNIS McCOY
92 E. Landis St.
Coopersburg, PA 18036

that the Lord will establish a strong, thriving work in Butler, as a result of the ministry of Bro. and Sis. Truitt. How about if we welcome the Truitt's into our fellowship with a card shower at this time? Their address is: 533 Oneida Valley Rd., Butler, Pa. 16001. I'm sure it would be a real encouragement to them to know that we are glad that they are part of our family. Also, please remember to send a Christmas card with a word of encouragement to the pastors of our other Home Mission churches as well. It will mean so much to them to hear from you, and know that you are praying for them!

On behalf of my wife and children, I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God's choicest blessings be yours in the days ahead as we continue to work and believe together for the salvation of men's souls here at home! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!**

Here are the names and addresses of our Home Missionaries for you to send them a Christmas card:

Rev. and Mrs. Clair Campbell
40 Richmond Lane,
Avon, NY 14414

Rev. and Mrs. David Walter and Family
Star Route Box 77-A
Atlantic, NC 28511

Rev. and Mrs. David Musser and Family
P.O. Box 82
Steamburg, NY 14783

Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Martin
959 Orchard Ave.
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Rev. and Mrs. Gonzalo Palacios
R.D. #1 Box 385-C
Donna, TX 78537

Rev. and Mrs. Ignacio Palacios and Family
2209 W. Dallas Dr.
Weslaco, TX 78596

Rev. and Mrs. Arlan Kratz and Family
R.D. #1 Box 143 B
Ludersville, MD 21668

Rev. and Mrs. John Musser and Family
48 Rossmore Dr.
Fairborn, OH 45324

Rev. and Mrs. Ed Zeigler and Family
505 Glenbrook Rd.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Newton and Family
R.D. #1 Box 242-A
White Haven, PA 18661

The Priceless Gift Of Christmas

Now Christmas is a season
for joy and merrymaking,
A time for gifts and presents,
for giving and for taking...
A festive, friendly happy time
when everyone is gay—
But have we ever really felt
the **greatness of the day...**
For through the centuries the world
has wandered far away
For the beauty and the meaning
of the **Holy Christmas Day...**
For Christmas is a heavenly gift
that only God can give,
It's ours just for the asking,
for as long as we shall live...
It can't be bought or bartered,
it can't be won or sold,
It doesn't cost a penny
and it's worth far more than gold...
It isn't bright and gleaming
for eager eyes to see,
It can't be wrapped in tinsel
or placed beneath a tree...
It isn't soft and shimmering
for reaching hands to touch,
Or some expensive luxury
you've wanted very much...
For the **priceless Gift of Christmas**
is meant just for the heart
And we receive it only
when we become a part
Of the kingdom and the glory
which is ours to freely take,
For God sent the Holy Christ Child
at Christmas for our sake,
So man might come to know **Him**
and feel **His Presence** near
And see the many miracles
performed while **He** was here...
And this **priceless Gift of Christmas**
is within the reach of all,
The rich, the poor, the young and old
the greatest and the small...
So take **His Priceless Gift of Love,**
reach out and you receive,
And the only payment that God asks
is just that **you believe.**

— Helen Steiner Rice

A Prayer For Christmas

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men, close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven for Jesus' sake. Amen!

— Robert Louis Stevenson.



Christmas, The Expression of God's Heart

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

Our lovely custom of Christmas giving cannot confine the day. When the little children no longer scamper about the house, hiding bundles in their efforts at secrecy; when the crowds dwindle in stores and we no longer give much sympathy to the weary shoppers who strive to express large love by small income; when we no longer study the faces that we see in the rush as models for Madonnas, or of aged Simeons in the temple of the kindly God — even then Christmas abides.

Yet in respect of this gracious custom, the pleasure of Christmas depends upon its rare coming. Christmas is the expression of God's heart; and Christmas is never deeply real until it becomes the expression of a love like unto God's.

— Bishop Edwin H. Hughes.



Penn View Bible Institute

P. O. BOX 970 • PENNS CREEK, PENNSYLVANIA 17862

Christmas greetings to you the Standard Family!

It seems that every year the commercial world begins their appeal for, "Do your Christmas Shopping early!" They of course have in mind selling their products so they could gain more profits. I am so glad that Christmas means so much more to me than the receiving of gifts and the giving of gifts. I look forward to this time of the year when we again celebrate the birth of our Wonderful Lord!

I know that there are sceptics and theologians that are trying to appeal to reason and explain away the miracle of the virgin-born Son of God. But still the world continues to celebrate His birthday as the greatest holiday of the year. While many do not celebrate it in such a way as to give Him honor and glory, the fact still remains that His birth has affected mankind the world over more than any other event in history.

No, we would not be able to approve nor do we appreciate everything that is done in celebrating his birth but should we allow this to take away the joy of the Christmas season?

Many times during the Christmas Season I think of the fact that Jesus is the light of the world and enjoy the lights which are put up in cities by businesses and individuals regardless of their motives. This is a testimony again and again to me that in this dark world of sin, JESUS IS STILL ITS LIGHT and is available for every person regardless of race, color and creed. Praise the Lord for Christmas Time!

Many times this past year we have truly found Jesus to be the Light needed for many troubled hearts. He truly is Wonderful in that salvation is available for all, a counsellor for the solving of all of our daily problems and a Mighty God to give us the victory over Satan. Praise the Lord again for Jesus - the Christ of Christmas!

God has been working miracles here at Penn View. Miracles in the lives of students, who have proved Him

faithful for many and varied situations, miracles in helping faculty and staff in their role of training youth and miracles in the area of providing for the financial needs. No, the needs are not all supplied as yet, but as all of us mind God they will be met.

Please contact us about the courses being offered for a concentrated study during the month of January. You could update your schooling! The courses offered are Books of Daniel and Revelation, How to Teach Bible, Music Theory I and General Psychology. Call today and enroll. The second semester begins February 1 and with the regular listing of courses there is a possibility of an evening class for pastors and Christian lay folk.

The main project for now is the total liquidation of the mortgage of our main building. As of now it is down to \$24,146.00. I believe under God that this will be cleared before the closing of this school year. Perhaps at this time of the year with the closing of an old year you would want to help us in reaching this goal. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

Our monthly payments for this mortgage are \$2230.56. Please pray about the matter of taking a slice of this and sending it to us now. Penn View is moving forward. Sure the enemy is fighting, but we have a Captain who is able to give us the victory over our enemy. Praise the Lord!

In closing, I wish to say thanks to everyone who is supporting PVBI. We are committed to the training of persons for the Christian Ministry. The fields need laborers and we would desire to continue to provide folk for the whitened harvest field. We would especially ask you to pray much for PVBI. We are committed to provide Quality training for our students. Please consider Penn View Bible Institute. Come grow with us!

Paul Martin, President

Cut here and mail to: Paul Martin, President
Penn View Bible Institute, P.O. Box 970, Penns Creek, PA 17862

Bro. Martin:

We are rejoicing with you in the progress that has been made towards liquidating the main property mortgage at Penn View. We are also believing with you that this mortgage can be completely liquidated by the end of our current Conference year - May 31, 1988.

Toward this end, and with God as our helper, we agree to make the following "mortgage liquidation" faith promise. We understand the faith promise can be paid monthly or one lump sum.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Amount of "Faith Promise" _____ Per month for 6 months:

or _____ one lump sum.



PENN VIEW BIBLE INSTITUTE

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
CANDLELIGHT CONCERT**

December 12, 1987
7:30 p.m.

Prelude begins at 7:15 p.m.

Held in the Beautifully Decorated Tabernacle Building
Beautiful Christmas Music Presented By:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|
| * Chapel Choir | * Band | * Trio | * Chimes and Bells |
| * Ladies Ensemble | * Quartet | * Instrumentals | |

COME AND ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL SERVICE AT A BEAUTIFUL TIME OF YEAR!