

# GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

December 2007

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# Don't Miss Christmas

ROBERT BOOTH

Christmas can be such a hectic time. Planning Christmas programs, shopping, and attending to all of the holiday activities. It's easy to just let Christmas pass right by without ever considering the meaning.

I love the story of the shepherds. It's a great story, probably the most famous of the Christmas stories and it's recorded for us in Luke 2:8-20. We've heard it before so many times, but I wish we could imagine that this is the first time because it must have been the most thrilling night of their lives. Angels visiting shepherds in the night, telling of the Messiah's birth, directing them to the baby and shouting praises to God.

Then these unkempt, smelly shepherds rush in the middle of the night to the place where the baby was lying in a manger. They were the first in the world to bring greetings to the holy child.

It probably wasn't very glamorous being a shepherd. While all the action was in the big city, their duties destined them to the outskirts of town and relegated them to a life with animals rather than people. On the social ladder, they ranked at the bottom.

Imagine settling down along the hillside and the sheep have nestled down for the night. You're trying to get comfortable for a quiet evening under the stars. All of a sudden the sky lights up and right before you is an angel! The excitement must have been more than they could contain! Remember, the Jewish nation had waited for thousands of years for the Messiah to come.

And yet who was it that got the first announcement?

Not the king, not the wealthy...but a handful of people—lowly shepherds.

And this wasn't just any baby; this was God coming down to earth!

I don't know if the shepherds understood what they were witnessing, but they knew it was big enough for a visit from angels and that was exciting.

Centuries of waiting for the Messiah had come to an end. For thousands of years now man and God have been separated. Man has been reaching up to God, to no avail. But today God has come down to man.

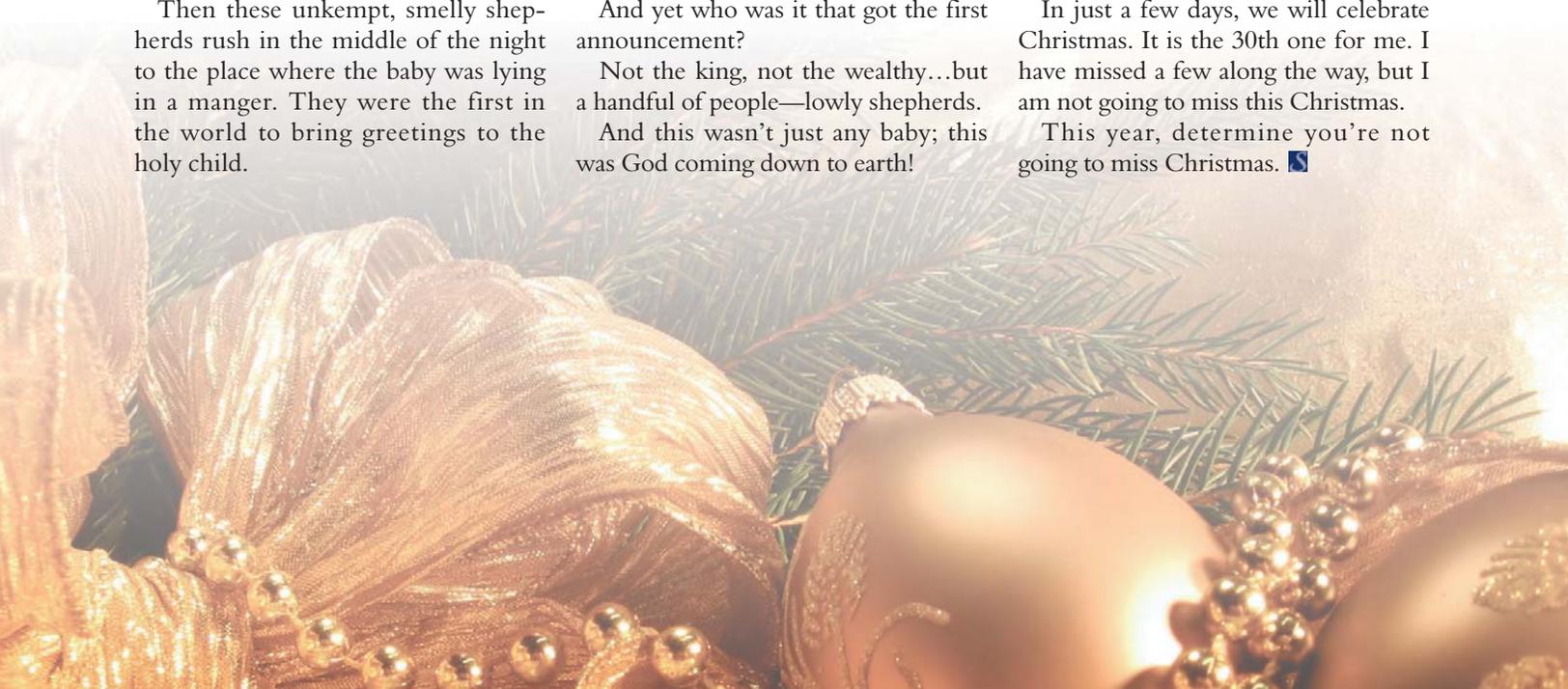
Today a Savior has been born!

We celebrate at Christmas time the birth of the One who came to save us from sin.

If you understand what it means to be separated from God, you can begin to understand what it means to be told that a Savior has been born to you.

In just a few days, we will celebrate Christmas. It is the 30th one for me. I have missed a few along the way, but I am not going to miss this Christmas.

This year, determine you're not going to miss Christmas. **S**



*The staff of the Standard wishes you a Merry Christmas!*



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# What's the Baby's Name?

BY TIMOTHY L. COOLEY, SR.



Just imagine Mary. From the first day she had known about this Special Child's coming, Mary had also known His Name. The angel had instructed her, "And, behold, thou shalt bring forth a Son, and shalt call His Name Jesus (Y'shua, Joshua).

## JESUS

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest" (Lk.1:31-32). As she was carrying the Child, she must have repeated over and over again, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus." What a beautiful Name! What a Name for Meaning! It meant, "He saves."

What a Name for History! Joshua, the successor of Moses had that name. Her son would share the name of the great leader of God's people—the one who had delivered them from their enemies in the Promised Land and divided the land to each tribe. Then after the captivity in Babylon, Joshua, the High Priest, had encouraged the people while they rebuilt the temple. Joshua—it was a wonderfully Jewish Name!

Others might have wondered what name would be appropriate for the Messiah (David? Solomon? Judah? even Moses?), but not Mary. The angel had settled all that for her. Y'shua means He saves. The angel had promised, "He shall save His people from their sins!" In perfect agreement, the angel had instructed Joseph to use the same wonderful name.

In a way, the name Jesus (Y'shua,

Joshua) refers especially to His Humanness. He is our Savior. He is our Substitute. He is our Sacrifice. He shall save His people from their sins. Jesus was His personal Name. That is the name everyone called Him while He was growing up. If you had met Him in the carpenter shop or in the marketplace, you would have heard people calling Him Y'shua, Jesus.

So it is that He came to have this wonderful Name. Across the years of missions, people have been blessed by the sweet, lovely Name of Jesus. A woman in China came to the missionary doctor and heard the Gospel. She walked miles back to her home and somewhere along the way she prayed to be saved. Then she re-traced her steps all the way back to the mission station and asked the doctor, "Please, tell me His Name. He has saved me, but I cannot remember His Name. Tell me His Name again." George Bennard put it into a song:

*They told me of love's sweetest story;  
They told me a wonderful name.  
It thrilled my soul with its glory;  
It burned in my heart like a flame.  
They told me of One who so loved me  
That in heaven He could not remain.  
He came down to seek me and to save me.  
Oh, tell me His Name again.*

*Oh, tell me His Name again,  
And sing me that sweet refrain  
Of One who in love,  
Came down from above*

*To die on the Cross of shame.  
The story my heart has stirred,  
The sweetest I ever heard.  
It banishes tears.  
It gives hope and cheers.  
Oh, tell me His Name again.*

*They say He was born in a manger,  
That there was no room in the inn.  
In His own world was a stranger,  
But he loved me in spite of my sin.  
They say that His Path led to Calvary,  
And one day He died there in shame.  
He gave Himself as a Ransom.  
Oh, tell me His Name again.*

*They call Him the sweet Rose of Sharon.  
They call Him the Lily so fair.  
They call Him the Blessed Rock of Ages.  
They call Him the Bright Morning Star.  
He's Prophet, He's Priest, and Redeemer.  
The King of All Kings He will reign  
He's coming in power and glory  
Oh, tell me His Name again.*

Jesus, there's just something about that Name!

## CHRIST

If you had followed Jesus through most of His life, you might not have noticed that He was anything more than a wonderful man. But when He was thirty years of age, He went to hear His cousin, John the Baptist, preach and then asked to be baptized. As He was coming up out of the water, God split open the skies and thundered, "This is (continued on page 7)

**New Arrivals**

Congratulations to Stefan & Stephanie Paulus of the Millmont God's Missionary Church, on the birth of Zachary Alan. Zachary was born on August 27th.



Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Gabriel Morley, pastors of the Penns Valley God's Missionary Church, on the birth of Daniel Emerson Morley. Daniel was born September 5th.

Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Derek McIntire on the birth of Dalyn Wayne McIntire. Dalyn was born on October 13th.

Congratulations to Kenny & Lindsey Hetrick, Lebanon God's Missionary Church on the birth of their son, Julius McCormick Hetrick. Julius was born on August 20.



Congratulations to Greg & Jenny Raub of Lebanon God's Missionary Church on the birth of Ashton Carter. Ashton was born on October 3.

Congratulations to Andrea Noll, of Lebanon God's Missionary Church, on the birth of her son, Ethan Noe Riveria. Ethan was born on October 8.

**Deaths**

**JUANITA ELLEN STATES**, 86, went home to be with the Lord on August 3rd. She was born March 1, 1921, in Hopeton, OK. She loved to cook and entertain as she served with her husband, Rev. L. Wayne States, in the ministry. Together they traveled many years in evangelistic ministry across the United States until they retired to Shirley a few years ago. She is survived by her caring husband of 65 years, Rev. L. Wayne States.



**Delmar 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

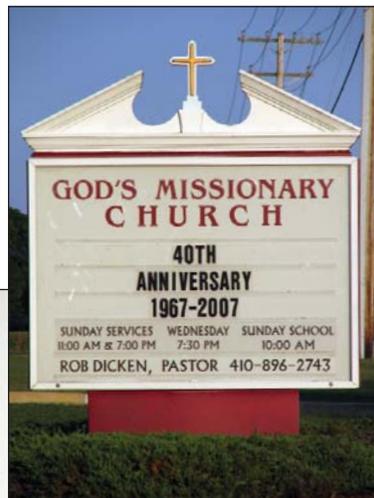
**O**n the weekend of August 24-26, 2007, the Delmar God's Missionary Church held a 40th anniversary celebration. Services were held Friday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday night. On Saturday afternoon, we had a church picnic where we enjoyed plenty of great food, fellowship, and fun.

As part of the celebration, a display was set up with pictures of the twelve ministers who have pastored the church, as well as pictures of the three different buildings in which the congregation has worshipped. Those who attended the events during the weekend received a 40th anniversary pamphlet, which contained a summa-

ry of the history of the church, as well as a 40th anniversary bookmark. A beautiful plaque was presented to Sis. Alberta Stigall in the Sunday morning service, in appreciation for her 40 years of faithful membership at the Delmar God's Missionary Church.

Rev. and Mrs. Harry Plank were on hand for this special weekend, with Bro. Plank doing the preaching in the services. As Rev. Plank spoke of the past 40 years of this church, he included some vivid illustrations of things that took place while he pastored here. He also challenged us to not only remember the past, but to realize the responsibility we have to the present and future generations. He reminded us that the work in which we are involved will have eternal consequences!

We thank God for the help He has given this church in years past, and we look forward to the future with confidence, knowing that the same God will be our hope for the years to come!



## Lebanon celebrates Pastor and Mrs. Barry Arnold's 30 years of ministry

**L**ebanon God's Missionary Church celebrated Pastor & Mrs. Barry Arnold's thirty years of ministry in Lebanon. A beautiful dinner was prepared in honor of this occasion. To celebrate this occasion, the church gave Pastor & Mrs. Arnold \$100.00 for each year as well as a four week sabbatical.



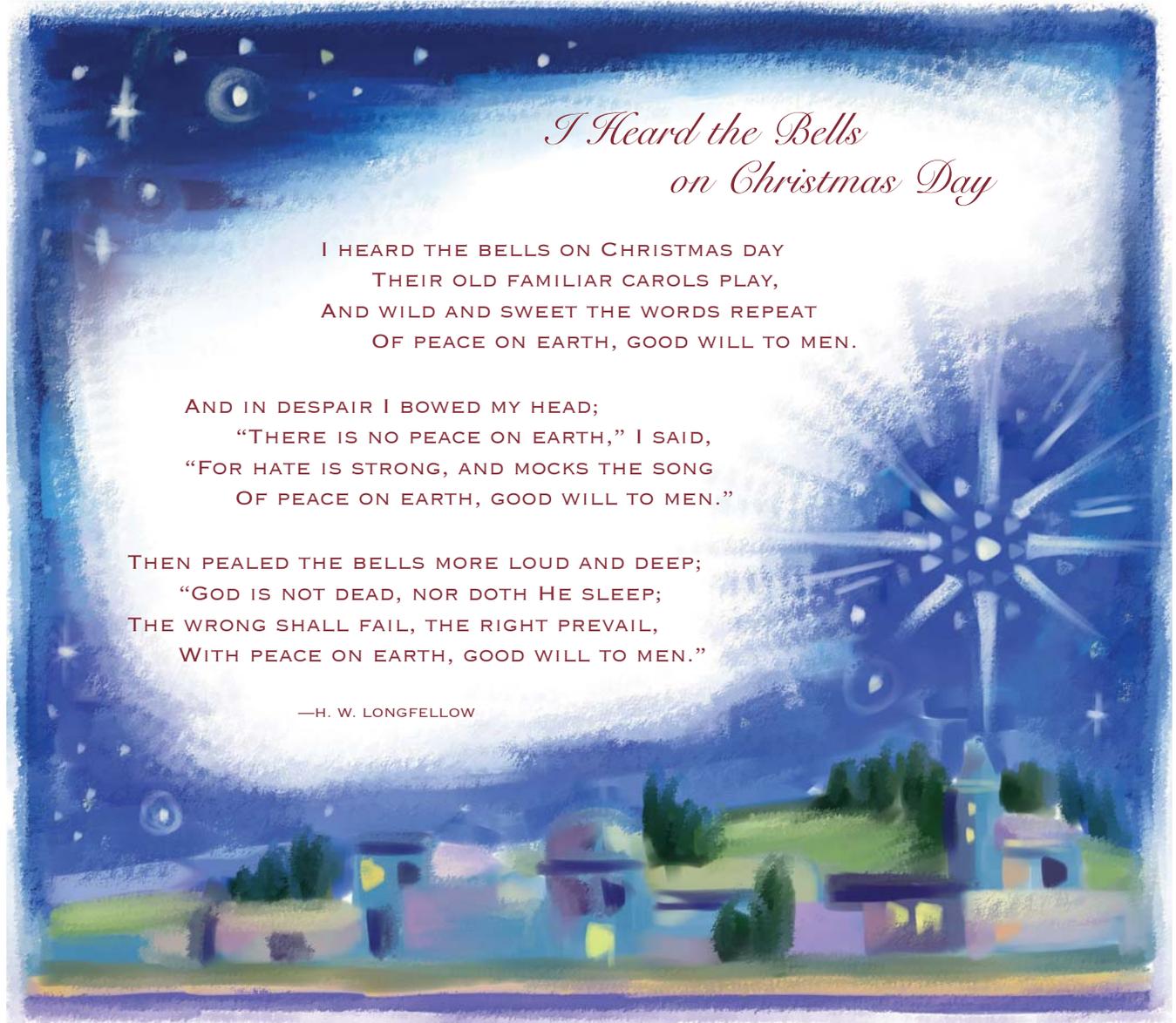
### *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY  
THEIR OLD FAMILIAR CAROLS PLAY,  
AND WILD AND SWEET THE WORDS REPEAT  
OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN.

AND IN DESPAIR I BOWED MY HEAD;  
"THERE IS NO PEACE ON EARTH," I SAID,  
"FOR HATE IS STRONG, AND MOCKS THE SONG  
OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN."

THEN PEALD THE BELLS MORE LOUD AND DEEP;  
"GOD IS NOT DEAD, NOR DOETH HE SLEEP;  
THE WRONG SHALL FAIL, THE RIGHT PREVAIL,  
WITH PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN."

—H. W. LONGFELLOW





## Check-up on Haiti

DWIGHT RINE, DIRECTOR

**W**OW! What an incredible journey! It all started on September 10th at around 2:30 am. I was traveling to Philadelphia to fly to Haiti to be with Bro. Mobley, and to see what God is doing in this harvest field.

Bro. Mobley picked me up at the airport in Haiti and we headed home. We were riding in a taxi, as our mission vehicle had quit while Bro. Mobley was coming to the airport. After a few breakdowns, we finally arrived at our beautiful compound in Carrefour. Haiti was just as I had remembered it, hot and people everywhere.

I was quite the popular person while visiting Haiti. Oh no, not because I was important, but because I was not the normal size they were used to. It seemed as though everywhere we went there was always a crowd watching as the "big white man" climbed the mountains and visited their churches. What a gracious and often humorous time we had!

You might ask yourself the question: How are things going in Haiti? I have great news for you! God is alive and well and the country of Haiti is being greatly influenced by our God's Missionary Churches and our wonderful missionary, Bro. Mobley. God is truly at work; we now have sixteen churches dotted around Haiti with over 1300 people attending them. The good news is that all of these churches are being pastored by national Pastors, many of whom have graduated from our Bible Institute. Praise the Lord!! The other good news is that we have ten Christian day schools with over 1100 students in them. We are actively teaching boys and girls reading, writing, arithmetic, and are also telling them the good news "Jesus Saves." Thank God for all He is doing in the Land of Haiti.

You might also ask the question: Are there any struggles? Well, of course, we fight the same devil at home and abroad. The devil is fighting and doing his best to destroy what the Lord is accomplishing; but, greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world!! If God be for us, who can be against us!!

Let me end my remarks by encouraging you to continue to support the World Missions Department of the God's Missionary Church. Your missions department is dependent upon your giving. Please pray, and ask the Lord what He would have you to give to the World Missions Department.

Thanks for partnering with us to see the work of the Lord go forward around the World. ■



Precious children in Haiti.



New Boyer church. Thanks for giving, and the work teams who worked so hard to make this project possible.



Our church at Fond Losier. They have around 48 people attending. They need a new church. Pray the Lord will provide the needed funds.

(from page 3) My Beloved Son.” The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove.

A new chapter in Jesus’ life began. Suddenly, people who had known Him for years began to see something dramatically different in Him. When He taught the Scriptures, He spoke with authority and power.

He began to heal the sick and the blind and the lame. He even raised the dead! He quieted the unruly wind. He walked on the stormy water!

People began calling him Christ, The Messiah, The Anointed One. There was a long history to this title. Priests were anointed. Prophets were anointed. Kings were anointed. The Holy Scriptures told of a day when the Anointed One would come to rule over His people, to defeat the heathen, and to bring perfect peace over all the earth. Even the animals would live at peace. The lion and the lamb would graze together!

Not everyone agreed that He was indeed the Christ. There was quite a debate. They checked and re-checked their prophecy books and charts. Meanwhile He kept doing exactly what He was sent to do. But their idea of what Christ would do was completely temporal, political, and physical. When Jesus Christ dealt with their sin problems and rebuked their hypocrisy, they began to turn against Him. When He refused to take a crown and order detachments of soldiers to fight against the Romans, they grumbled. When He called them to take up the hated Roman cross and follow Him in a life of self-sacrifice and suffering, they revolted at the idea! Never! Never would they do such a thing! The best solution they could think of in their selfish, stubborn sinfulness was to get rid of Jesus! “Crucify Him!” they cried, and eventually they got their wishes.

But the rejection was not complete. A few people were willing to lay aside their selfish plans and take this suffering Messiah exactly as He was. Earlier, when Jesus had questioned Peter, the devoted disciple had confessed, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (Mt.16:16). Peter knew Him as He really was and is.

## LORD

In His full Name, we call Him, the Lord Jesus Christ. Eighty-two (82) times in the English New Testament, we have this full title. Phil.2:11 announces that some day, “every tongue [shall] confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” This same phrase was used to give worship to Caesar, but the Christians refused to say it of Caesar. They would rather die. Instead they proclaimed that, “Jesus Christ is Lord.” In Acts 16:31, Paul and Silas instructed the jailer, “Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

True Christians have always maintained that Jesus is fully human and fully divine. He is the Anointed One from God—Prophet, Priest and King. He is our personal, substitutionary Sacrifice—the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world (Jn.1:29).

Seven hundred years before Christ came, the prophet Isaiah had proclaimed,

6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called

Wonderful,  
Counsellor,  
The Mighty God,  
The Everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace. (Isa.9:6-7)

Just look at these names:

Wonderful = The God who amazes relates personally to me.

Counsellor = The God who sympathizes shares His wisdom for my life.

Mighty God = The God who is able meets all my needs.

Everlasting Father = The God who loves cares for me, provides for me, nourishes me, and carries me.

Prince of Peace = The God who reconciles atones for my sin, brings me back into harmony with Himself, and makes it possible to live at peace with those around me.

There is one more Name you should not miss:

14 “The Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa.7:14).

Immanuel = The God who is with us. Literally, The With-Us God.

Wherever you are, He is there.

Whatever you need, He can do it.

Whenever you cry, He hears and answers.

## CONCLUSION

What is the Baby’s Name? The Lord Jesus Christ!—He is all that His Name implies! And more! First of all, bow in worship and surrender to Him, but then you must tell someone else! A beautiful missionary song stirs my heart.

*Into a tent where a Gypsy boy lay,  
Dying alone at the close of the day,  
News of salvation we carried. Said he:  
“Nobody ever has told it to me!”*

*“Did He so love me, a poor little boy?  
Send unto me the good tidings of joy?  
Need I not perish? My hand will He hold?  
Nobody ever the story has told.”*

*Bending, we caught the last words of his breath,  
Just as he entered the valley of death:  
“God sent His Son!” “Whosoever,” said he:  
“Then I am sure that He sent Him for me!”*

*Smiling, he said, as his last sigh he spent,  
“I am so glad that for me He was sent!”  
Whispered, while low sank the sun in the west,  
“Lord, I believe, tell it now to the rest!”*

*Tell it again! Tell it again!  
Salvation’s story repeat o’er and o’er,  
Till none can say of the children of men,  
“Nobody ever has told me before.”*

—Mrs. M. B. C. Slade

You have not gripped the meaning of Christmas until you have seen that He is a missionary at heart!

Lord = He is God—eternal, omnipotent, all-present.

Jesus = He is personal, human, our all-sufficient Savior—the Savior of the world!

Christ = He is the Anointed One who reconciles God and man. Prophet, Priest and King—not only for you and me, but for whosoever will!

It’s right in His Name! ■

# Entrusted TO A Babe



**T**he birth of Jesus Christ in the “little town of Bethlehem” twenty centuries ago is still the wonder of wonders. This event stands as the Mt. Everest of all events in the calendar of human affairs. “Immanuel”—God with the likes of us. A wonder may be defined as “a strange and surpassing event”, “a miracle”, or an event so new, beyond expectation, so beyond understanding that it excites a feeling of surprise, admiration, and sometimes astonishment. Truly, the birth of Christ possessed all these elements and more. The birth of Christ puzzled the angels of heaven and mystified the inhabitants of earth.

Inspired prophets looked through the telescope of inspiration, into the unborn centuries and saw this glorious event in shadowy outline. Such a glimpse only whetted their appetite. But they died wondering the full significance of what they saw. Angels of heaven no doubt wondered. “One day heaven was filled with His praises” - the next, the place long filled by His luminous presence is vacant. The wonder multiplied in intensity as this same heavenly host was pressed into the angelic choir to sing “Glory to God in the Highest, on earth peace, good will to men.” Mankind, too, wondered at these strange things. Shepherds left the manger making this event the subject of their conversation for endless days. Herod, too, was aroused to animosity. Wise men came from afar to wonder and worship. Mary and Joseph carried the mystery of it all in their heart and all mankind from that day bows its head in mystery and adoration.

**Harold E. Schmul**

Mankind by nature is a wondering creature. It is natural for us to probe, examine, and scrutinize. Our native curiosity leads to speculation and examination. The scholars in Israel studied and examined the scripture, probing, comparing and arguing the prophecies concerning the Messiah. They were anxious to know when, where, and how Messiah would come. They had their own formulas and slide rules to determine Messiah's revelation and His conquest. Christ did not measure up to their science of speculation.

Jesus was born nevertheless according to the divine plan. The birth of Christ was no emergency life boat operation. It was a part of an eternal scheme: a plan so comprehensive that it embraced all mankind, so complex that the unlearned cannot understand it without saving faith, yet so simple that a child can comprehend it. It is an eternal scheme. Before the first speck of dust floated in remotest space or the first daisy was kissed by the dews of heaven or the first mountain reared its head covered with perpetual snows, this scheme was signed, sealed, and settled forever in the councils of heaven.

It is an elementary scheme. Its object and goal is very simple—to destroy the *(continued on page 5) (from page 3)* works of the devil” He did not come just for social betterment, educational opportunities or humanitarian purposes. He strode into the arena of human action to take on the devil and go wrest from hell whatever initiative it had held. He will not leave His appointed task until He has pulled up every weed, dismissed every sickness, destroyed every briar, defeated hell; purified the earth with a breath of fire, and established His kingdom of righteousness from sea to shining sea.

This scheme is immortal. That is to say it is deathless. It is a God-breathed, God-inspired plan. It is a plan that could not fail, for its author and maker is God. The plan may have appeared frail and weak. So much entrusted to a Babe. The door of His entry, a frail peasant woman! His protection, a poor carpenter. Marvel of

marvels that the task of raising the fallen, building the waste places, rescuing the perishing, toppling empires, fighting lions, suffering the persecution of hell, should be entrusted to a Babe.

The plan of God, like the spider's web, appears fragile, set for soon destruction. A rope of spider's web one inch thick will suspend 148,000 lbs., or 74 tons in mid air. It would be three times as strong as a one inch rope of iron. The scheme of redemption reposing in the lovely face and form of a harmless Babe was immortal and eternal. Back of this Child are all the resources of heaven, and back of heaven God Almighty! The stars would fall from their sockets, the sun burn itself to a cinder, and heaven and earth pass away before God would fail His only begotten One.

Napoleon realized the value of a son and would set aside a wife and take another that he might have an heir. When the first son was born, 100 guns roared their salute. The empire rejoiced, wine flowed, the streets were filled with dancing, shouting multitudes. It was a time of festivity and frolic. Napoleon's dream of a successor, from his own loins, was at last realized, though he had trodden rough-shod on the hearts of others to satisfy his whim. Yet, less than five years later, the "Mighty Mite" was in exile and the son he worshipped was dead. How vain and fragile the well-laid plans of our strongest men.

Perhaps the power and dynamic of a child is best illustrated by Bret Harte's story "How Christmas came to Roaring Camp." It was certainly Christmas-time at Roaring Camp. Peace and goodwill were unknown at Roaring Camp until that little babe was born. Even among the mining camps of the lawless West, Roaring Camp had a sinister and unenviable notoriety. When men differed in opinion over their cards, and, to settle the dispute, shot each other dead on the spot, the gamblers at the neighboring tables merely nodded and calmly went on with their games. To die a natural death at Roaring Camp was to die at the pistol's point.

There was just one woman there—poor Cherokee Sal—and, as Bret Harte says on the first page of the story, the less said of her, the better. And anyhow, she died and Stumpy, who in earlier and better days had been a medical student, or something of the sort, did his best for her. He managed to save the baby, but the plight of poor Sal was beyond his skill.

The baby belonged to the camp, and the Camp resolved to do its duty bravely. The baby was lying on some rags in a box. The character of the box is not recorded; it wasn't a soap box - soap was a negligible quantity at Roaring Camp. But everybody felt that the box wouldn't do, so a man was sent eighty miles on a mule to get a rose-wood cradle, the best that money could buy. The cradle was brought, but then the rags seemed out of place, and the messenger had to return to Sacramento for the daintiest and softest lace and filigree-work and frills to be bought, regardless of the cost. But when the pink little baby, lying amidst the froth of snowy white-work in the rose-wood cradle, took his place in the middle of the room, the men noticed with dismay a thing they had never noticed before, the floor was positively filthy! And when they had scrubbed the floor, as only horn-handed miners could scrub it, and made it almost as clean as on the day in which the boards were first laid, they made a new discovery. For they saw that, in order to match the floor and the rose-wood cradle and the lace-work and the baby, the walls would have to be cleaned and the ceiling whitewashed, and windows mended and draped with curtains.

Moreover, there had to be long periods of quiet to allow the baby to sleep and so the quality that had given the Camp its name departed from it. The men took the rose-wood cradle out to the mine on fine days; but the mining area was a dusty, dreary place; so to please the baby's eye, they planted brightly-colored flowers around the spot where the cradle stood. They had, of course, to plant them in some kind of order and some design; thus the very mines became *(continued on page 10)*

# The Standard Pulpit

SERMON THOUGHTS FROM GMC MINISTERS PAST AND PRESENT

## The Kind of Preacher I Want To Be –Ephesians 6:1-20

BY ALAN WALTER

### A Holiness Preacher

- A member of a holiness church.
- A church with a high ethical standard.
- A church that asks largely, believes largely, and receives largely.
- A church that believes that the mighty power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit can be harnessed to the human personality in a cleansing, filling, empowering blessing.

### A Preacher Of Holiness

- A ministry permeated with the high, lofty ideals of holiness.
- Known as a preacher of righteousness.
- Never guilty of compromising with the world or making excuse for missing the mark and falling short of the glory of God.
- Sermons that breathe and partake of the atmosphere of the throne of grace.

### A Holy Preacher

- Sermons that challenge me to a deeper devotion.
- following more and more the pattern of a holy life.
- Let my prayer be in the words of David, Let “all that is within me, bless his holy name.”

I want my life to be a holy life. Thus when I stand and preach there will be the double impact of words and deeds.

(from page 9) a garden. But, best of all, a change came over the appearance of the men themselves. Up at Tuttle’s store, the astute proprietor began to place mirrors about the apartment in which the men lounged and chatted. Soon, there was an extraordinary demand for soap and shaving materials, collars, ties, and even suits of clothes. The baby had transformed everything.

Which thing is really an allegory - a Christmas allegory. The world itself was Roaring Camp two thousand years ago. Man—every man—was either a slave-owner or a slave, either a pitiless tyrant or a cringing victim. Childhood was destitute of sanctity. Children unwanted were strangled or drowned. There was nothing to prevent it. Nobody cared.

Then, a little Child was born at Bethlehem. Wherever the Presence of that Child, seen in true eternal light, a transformation takes place. Slaves are liberated, womanhood is honored, and childhood is blessed with love and caresses. The deeply entrenched evils of antiquity give way, and the broad evils of modernity fall back into oblivion. As the light from the Christ Child pervades the world

, it not only exposes its greed and evil, but drives it from its hiding place. Crime and the liquor traffic, the horrors of war, and the degradation of humankind that menace and stalk our land must yield to the sublime authority of the Babe of Bethlehem.

This will be true in the individual soul. The heart becomes a Bethlehem into which Christ is born. The song writer has well said:

*Though Christ a thousand times*

*In Bethlehem be born.*

*If He’s not born in thee*

*Thy soul is all forlorn.*

This is the real message of Christmas. The soul transformed by the coming of Christ into the heart will hear the angels sing again as they sang in the Shepherd’s field. In the same heart, the miracles will be repeated, blindness will vanish, the dumb will sing, deafness yields to the sound of “Glory to God in the Highest.” This is the message of Christmas; the “mystery of Godliness” and the Wonder of Wonders. ■ *—reprinted from GMS 1975*



## Travel Notes

HARRY F. PLANK

**August 10–19:** I served as one of the evangelists at the Bible Brethren Fellowship Camp Meeting on the grounds at Clinton, PA. We enjoyed working with Rev. Gene Matthews and the Dragoo family along with the camp president Rev. Michael Smalley.

**August 13:** I spoke to the faculty members at Penn View this morning, as they had a special orientation meeting preparing for the new school year.

**August 24–26:** My wife and I enjoyed a delightful weekend with Rev. & Mrs. Rob Dicken and the Delmar church family. This was a special weekend to celebrate 40 years of a God's Missionary work being on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

**August 28:** Penn View Board meeting.

**August 29:** I enjoyed the ministry of Rev. Aaron McCarty in Penn View's morning chapel service.

**August 30–September 2:** Rachel and I, along with all of our children and grandchildren, spent some days in Williamsburg, VA together. It was a special gift to me from our sons in honor of my 60th birthday, which is on the 28th of September.

**September 5:** We left very early in the morning to catch our 9:00 A.M. flight from Baltimore to Orlando. We enjoyed a wonderful meal with Rev. & Mrs. Barry Sweitzer and sons, before preaching to the Kissimmee congregation in the evening.

**September 6:** We made a visit to the Seffner church with Pastor and Mrs. Michael Smalley. We appreciated this fine congregation for accommodating our schedule by changing their prayer meeting to Thursday evening.

**September 8:** This was the thirty-first annual conference of the Florida district. It was encouraging to see such a good percentage of the Florida District preachers in attendance. May God bless each of them for their faithfulness.

**September 9:** We were with Pastor Bates for the morning service at the Lakeland church with 42 people in attendance. Bro. Bates invited the whole church family over to the parsonage for a wonderful fried chicken dinner after the morning service. It was good to fellowship with the church family and also one of our newest ministers, Rev. John Higgins. For the evening service we were with Pastor Thomas Bickert at the Orlando Church.

Thanks, to each who helped with the remodeling of the parsonage. We always enjoy the wonderful music from the stringed instruments in this congregation. We were blessed with extra music by the visiting Kline family. Most of these musicians are students of Dale Heinzelman, a very faithful Orlando parishioner. Thanks, to the Bickerts for the lovely accommodations in their home following the service.

**September 10:** Our flight left on schedule from Orlando and we arrived in Baltimore early afternoon. We traveled home and picked up two of the grandchildren to care for until their parents returned from a trip to Indiana.

**September 14:** I conducted a General Board meeting in the morning and a Penns Creek camp board meeting in the afternoon.

**September 16:** We, along with Jacob Martin, attended the morning service at the Allentown church. The General Board has been praying for direction for the future of the work there. In the evening Rachel and I traveled to Elkland, PA and visited the little holiness church there with Pastor Goodrich.

**September 20 & 21:** We attended a teachers' convention, along with several Penn View teachers, in Lancaster County.

**September 23:** We enjoyed a good service with the Blue Knob congregation and Pastor Jonas Hight. We were saddened by the passing of long-time and faithful member of the church, Bro. Taylor Claar, who went to his reward a few days previously.

In the evening we traveled to Milesburg for the evening service. The Milesburg/Bellefonte combined congregations seem to be doing well.

**September 25:** I had the privilege of speaking to the Penn View students in chapel in the morning.

**September 25 & 26:** We spent this day in Tioga County caring for my parents, while my mother underwent cataract surgery.

**September 28:** This was my 60th birthday. Penn View Christian Academy had a special Grandparent's Day, so we spent most of the morning in the first and second grade classroom with our granddaughter, Ashley. The teacher, Mrs. Elaine Kincaid does a great job. We met with Rev. & Mrs. Steven Manley at lunch time and then attended the conference-wide youth rally in the evening. The Youth Rally was a great service of music with the Byler family.

**September 29:** I traveled to Portage, PA where I attended a board meeting for Evangelistic Faith Missions.

**September 30:** We visited the Bloserville church in the morning with Pastor Fred Baker. It was good to see Bro David Shopp, the Hennes and Bro. Brink standing by the church so faithfully. In the evening, we attended the Shamokin church and enjoyed the music by Velma and the preaching of Fegen Urgan. ■

FLORIDA DISTRICT  
*Camp Meeting*  
*Sun City Center, Florida*



**Rev. Noel Scott**  
Lowry City, MO—*Evangelist*



**Rev. Rollin Mitchell**  
Carthage, IN—*Evangelist*



**The Victory Trio**  
Lancaster, OH—*Song Evangelists*

*January 17-27, 2008*

Evangelistic Services Daily at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM, & 7:30 PM  
Sunday Evening: 7:00 PM

**First Service:** [January 17, 7:30 PM](#)

**Children & Youth Services**

Conducted by The Victory Trio

**Special Services:**

[January 19, 2:30 PM](#)—GMC Home Missions

[January 26, 10:30 AM](#)—Fort Myers

Rescue Mission

[January 26, 2:30 PM](#)—GMC World Missions

[January 27, 2:30 PM](#)—Penn View Bible Inst.

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[Rev. Michael Smalley, 813-684-5607](#)

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