



In
Memory
Of
Sister
Clara
Hosler

*"I will say of the Lord, He is my
refuge and my fortress my God; in
Him will I trust."*

Psalms 91:2

The

VOL. 19 NO. 12

APOSTOLIC FAITH
report:

DECEMBER 1972

Editorial . . .

CHRISTMAS IS A DAY OF SINGING!!

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God." — Luke 2: 13.

Joy to the World the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the World; the Saviour reigns,
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

Christmas is a day of singing! Luke's account of the birth of Christ in the first two chapters of his book, brings out all the different songs of praise as God's plan for our salvation was revealed to the participants in God's great production that would change the course of the whole world. Gabriel started it with his salutation of praise in letting Mary know of her leading roll in the coming of Jesus. Elisabeth used the same phrase "blessed art thou among women" as did Gabriel when she praised and magnified God when she heard Mary's salutation and the babe in her womb jumped for joy. Then Mary sings her song of praise to the Lord. Even Zacharias has his turn of praise singing after his tongue was loosed at the birth of John the baptist. But the most beautiful song of all must have been when the angels and the multitude of heavenly host sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." But Luke doesn't stop here. He is the only one of the four Gospels that tells us of the aging Simeon and Anna's praises in the temple as they beheld with their own eyes the Lord's Christ. God's light from heaven.

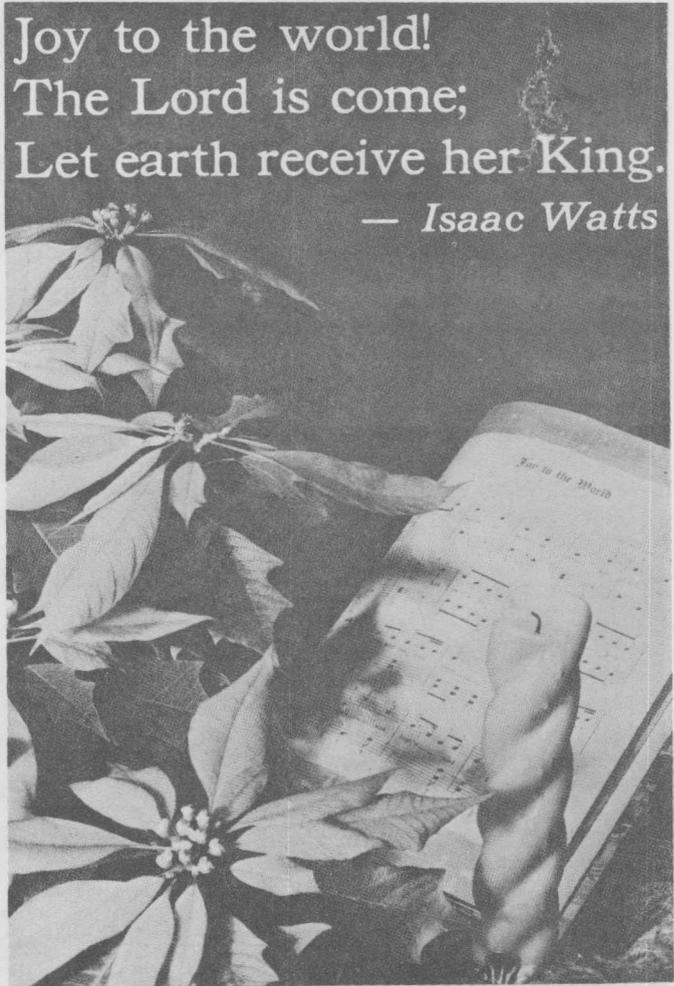
Some people tire of hearing the Carols sung over and over again during the Holiday Season, but not me. Every phrase of those old familiar carols is loaded with praises to God for sending His Son. I still thrill to sing them as I did when I was a small child. Singing is a gift from God; it lifts the spirits and gives release to the praises of the soul. How dull our services would be without first the ploughing of the ground for the Word by the singing of Praises to God.

Singing was in the beginning of creation; for the Bible tells us at the founding of the world the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Preaching and praying will not be needful in the world to come but the singing will go on for the Word tells us that there we will sing the song of "Moses and the LAMB". John on the isle of Patmos heard a great voice of much people saying "Alleluia, Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God." "Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Oh, the singing will go on and on. Yes, Christmas is a time of singing for Jesus did come and that's where it all began for you and me. In the Psalms, David tells us over and over again to "Sing unto the Lord." Singing is not alone for those with beautiful voices to engage in. Those of us who can't carry a tune can still make a joyful noise unto the Lord and sing in our hearts. I don't think

the Lord listens so much to the quality of our voice as he does to the sincerity of our hearts as we praise him in song. Make this Christmas a real time of singing from the heart. Let us let our hearts swell with praise to God for "His unspeakable gift" as we blend our voice with others in singing "Joy to the World, the Lord IS COME, Let heaven and nature sing."

n.r.b.

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
— Isaac Watts



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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The GIFT of God

by the late ROBERT GIROUARD

Christmas to many is a time of rejoicing. To some it is a time of family reunions and of good fellowship with relatives and friends. Far too many regard Christmas as only a time of festivity. Some people are unhappy at Christmas because of poverty, others because they feel that they are not loved.

Let us remember that we celebrate Christmas Day as the birthday of the Son of God. Only by honoring Jesus as we should may we have the peace and joy that a loving heavenly father desires that we should have. The Lord wants us to be happy. No doubt He has no objections to the sinless pleasures of the season. But we are sure that His great heart of love is grieved when the majority of mankind, even in nominal Christendom, rejoice in receiving lesser gifts and yet reject the supreme gift — The Lord Jesus Christ.

The very fact that God loves us enough to give us His son, Jesus, should make us supremely happy. Those who are unhappy because of their poverty might find comfort in remembering that Jesus has told us that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things that a man possesses. And those who may feel that they are not loved should rejoice to think that God loved them supremely — even to giving His son, Jesus, to die for their sins. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16.

God SO LOVED THAT HE GAVE — the greatest, the most precious Christmas gift that any one could give — HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. To have Jesus as our personal saviour and to fully trust Him means that our every need for spirit, soul, and body will be met. "Ye are complete in Him." Col. 2:10. We do not need to trust anyone or anything else for full salvation. Jesus saves to the uttermost.

To be saved to the uttermost means to be saved from all sins committed and also from the very pollution or nature of sin. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. After repentance toward God and faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, one receives the remission of all past sins and is said to be justified before God at the time of his conversion. When a converted person fully consecrates his life to God in an act of definite committal, Rom. 6:11-13; Rom. 12:12, and trusts the blood of Jesus to cleanse from the nature of sin, he receives the experience of entire sanctification and is better able, by the grace of God, to live above sin.

But to be saved to the uttermost means more than to be saved from all sin; it certainly includes being saved from, or healed of all of our diseases. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Sickness is one of the works of the devil, He healed all who came to Him in the days of His earthly ministry in the flesh. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Heb. 13:8. Him-

self took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Matthew 8:17. If we can but believe, we can be healed.

Every child of God needs more from the Lord than full salvation from all sin and sickness. We feel so keenly our need of additional help for daily living as well as for ministry and service whether we be laymen or in the ministry. Jesus told us that we are His witnesses. Many Christians feel a praise in their hearts for Jesus and for all His blessings. But how helpless, how important they are to tell others of the goodness of God. Jesus has promised to help us along this line. He promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The spirit is a comforter, teacher, guide, a help in prayer, and also He gives us power to witness for Jesus. So we do not need to remain powerless, helpless in service. It is the Lord's good pleasure to give his sanctified saints the Holy Spirit.

In Christ we also receive life and immortality. No one has eternal life unless he has received Jesus into his heart. "And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye HAVE ETERNAL LIFE and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I John 5:11-13. Those who do not trust in Jesus for salvation have only natural human life and will be burned up after the judgment day. No one has an immortal soul. The scripture tells us that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezek. 18:20. Now if a soul is subject to death why say that it is a never dying or immortal soul? The fact of the matter is that the soul is mortal, subject to death. Immortality refers to the change that will take place in the bodies of God's people at the appointed time. An immortal body is something that we seek after, by patient continuance in well doing and is something that we "put on," Rom. 2:7; I Cor. 15:53-54. The Lord is the only one who has immortality. I Tim. 6:16.

Freedom from all sin and sickness, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the hope of eternal life and immortality, to mention only some of the "unsearchable riches of Christ" — all these we may have by trusting Jesus. What better gift could one desire than Jesus, on account of who and through whom all these rich blessings and gifts may be ours? The poorest man is made rich by receiving the gift of God, and fully trusting Him.

Our prayer is that every unsaved person who reads this article may be moved by the spirit of God to seek the Lord for salvation and that every child of God will be moved, as the wise men were, to worship the Lord Jesus. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

— DEADLINE —

Copy for the Report must be in the Editor's possession by the 20th of the month preceding the date of the issue its to be in.



Guymon, Oklahoma

Bro. Bill Allen held a revival here November 1st through the 5th. We saw several saved and many were deepened by the wonderful services. We enjoyed every service and we saw many miracles happen. The Bible College Choir was with us Wednesday night, October 18. They were a blessing to us.

Every Wednesday the Student Center has services at 7 p.m. at Goodwell with Kenny and LaDonna Priest. Remember to pray for them and their work at the college.

Edwin Modrick, Pastor

Westminster, Colorado

Praise God! He was so good to us during our glorious revival. His presence was felt in each and every service. Our revival was held the week of November 5th and Bro. and Sis. Roland Busch of Katy, Texas were our Evangelists. His message stirred a lot of hearts and souls. We had one saved the first night and several praying throughout the week for greater blessings. Thank you Bro. and Sis. Busch. Thank you Jesus for this revival and for Your wonderful blessings.

We have heard that Sis. Edna Schultz is ill again. We are all praying for her and trust and believe that God will strengthen and heal her.

**Bob Taylor, Pastor
Kathy Storm, Reporter**

Cave Springs, Arkansas

We are making good progress on the church at Cave Springs. Bro. Nunn and several men in the church are paneling the classrooms and putting in new ceilings; this added to the work already done on the church makes it look beautiful.

Last month we had a baptismal service with five people being baptized. The Lord richly blessed all those who attended the service.

We have been enjoying wonderful services lately. Bro. Nunn has been a great blessing to our church.

**Cheryl Lohmann, Reporter
Rev. Onal Nunn, Pastor**

Tomball, Texas

We had the privilege of listening to some real inspiring sermons given by our Evangelist E. K. Cornell, Laverne, Oklahoma, from October 5th to 15th. Several visitors came to help us. The Andy Qualls family were there each night to assist in the services. Their singing was a big help during the revival. Everyone enjoyed the Cornells very very much.

On Sunday morning, October 22 some of the Bible College talent was in our service and it was so wonderful to have them in our midst. The choir did a wonderful job at their concerts in Katy and Alvin.

On Sunday night, November 5th, we had a visiting minister who is the general manager of KFMK, the "all religious FM Radio Station in Houston, Rev. Hardy Bundage. The church was filled. It was a gracious service.

Sunday night, November 12th the "Kingdom Seekers and Connie" of the Alvin Apostolic Faith Church, will give a concert for us. We are looking forward for another good service. Sunday night, November 19th, the "Stanberry Sisters of Sacred Songs" will have their first concert in their granddaddy's church here at Tomball. These three girls are the daughters of Buddy Stanberry of Katy, Texas.

From December 26th through 31st there will be services each evening at 7:30 here in our church at Tomball. It will close with a watchnight service. This is for the people of this area who are not able to go north for the convocation. An invitation is extended to all who can be with us.

So, we have lots of activity to look forward to. Pray for us.

**A. B. Stanberry, Pastor
Thelma Neff, Reporter**

Amarillo, Texas

The blessings of the Lord have been many in the church. There are a great number of things that need to be accomplished, but when we pause and realize all the blessings, and the many marvelous works of God's power we say, "Thank you Lord; blessed be thy name."

During the month of October our pastor was gone on vacation, and we were grateful to have Rev. and Mrs. Mitchell Modrick to have the church services. These services were very inspirational, and we appreciated the effort put forth for the services.

A revival, with Rev. M. D. Methvin as the evangelist and Dewayne Methvin assisting, is scheduled to begin the 26th, of November. The congregation is looking forward to this time, and have been praying for souls to be won for Christ. Cottage prayer meetings have been held each week in behalf of the revival.

There is a work for God to be done in every place. Our desire as people of this church is to fulfill the work God would have us to do so that others may know this wonderful truth that has shined on our path. We know it was this truth that set us free from sin and it will be this truth that will set others free.

**Rev. Neil Ragan, Pastor
LeVonna Mitchell, Reporter**

Enid, Oklahoma

Greetings from the Enid church. We are thankful for the good services God has blessed us with and are very much enjoying our new pastors, the Elmer Christenson family.

We are very proud of our Young Peoples Group, though small in number they are glad to work for the Lord. We had a wonderful service brought by our young people during one of our regular Wednesday night services. The following Sunday night the young people challenged the adults to a Bible Baseball game. The adults were victorious, but both sides were very enthusiastic and it proved to be a very enjoyable time. Each one leaving having learned something from God's word.

We were all truly blessed by the gospel in song presented by our Bible School Choir on Saturday, November 11. We appreciate and are inspired by the faithful, hard work of Brother Ted and these young people for the glory of God.

We were greatly blessed by the Spirit of God felt in the services held here by Brother James Hosler on Sunday, November 12. Our pastor is happy for any workers of the faith that drop by and we invite all to come and be with us when they can.

Sister Eva Modrick was stricken with a stroke on November 12. She is in the intensive care unit of the St. Mary's Hospital, Enid. We ask all to pray with us for Sister Eva that God will bless and undertake for her. Also pray for Brother Mitchell.

Sister Karen Theilen wanted to share this little reading with the readers:

God is like Bayer Aspirin—HE WORKS WONDERS
Dial Soap—HE GIVES YOU 'ROUND THE CLOCK
PROTECTION.

Coca Cola—HE'S THE REAL THING.

Ford Cars—HE HAS A BETTER IDEA.

Scope—HE MAKES YOU FEEL FRESH

Hallmark Cards—HE CARED ENOUGH TO SEND
THE VERY BEST.

Sue Phares, Reporter
Elmer Christenson, Pastor

Arnett, Oklahoma

The Lord has been very good to us and our building project has continued to progress and we are very appreciative of this.

On October 7, 1972 the youth of the Church had an evening meal and time of fellowship. All reported an enjoyable evening.

The Church has set aside the fifth Sunday offering to go to missionary work. They have selected Sonny Brown to be the recipient of this offering.

We are planning our Church Thanksgiving Dinner for November 19, 1972. An enjoyable time is anticipated.

We were happy to have Reverend and Mrs. Harold Bollinger from Dumas, Texas visiting with us November 12, 1972.

Please remember we are looking for good used church furniture.

Rene Hiel, Pastor
Ruby V. Kibbe, Reporter

Hempstead, Texas

Dear Sis. Naomi;

I would like to submit a report for the Hempstead Apostolic Faith Church.

Recently the Hempstead Apostolic Faith Church was visited by the Royal Heirs and Vicki. They presented a concert and some sermonettes which I feel was a blessing to our church.

We have just finished a series of Bible Lessons on "God's Plan of the Ages chart", some of these were conducted by Bro. Wooster and some by Bro. Olen Bachelor.

Also Bro. Eugene Cornell visited our church for a Sunday morning service during the time he was having services in the South Texas area.

We are enjoying the Report, and feel you are doing a fine job for which we would like to commend you.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Donald Mathis, Reporter
Bro. Roy Wooster, Pastor

Modesto, California

Greetings from Modesto!! Rev. and Mrs. Jimmy Wallis of Alvin, Texas held a revival here November 1st-10th. We just Praise God for starting revival in our church even before they came, and for allowing them to take time from their busy schedule to come to our church. Several have been saved in our church recently. Some outstanding healings have been experienced, too. Two have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and several received relief of the oppression of the devil. Also, one night during our revival God gave the assurance of Cheryl's complete healing. All praise goes to God. We look forward to more great things from God. Our Stockton friends from Bethel Chapel joined us every night they could during the revival and were blessed of God, too. We were glad for this.

Beginning this Wednesday, November 15th we begin (Family Night) for our mid-week services. We pray that God will bless in this new area of our church work. May God bless you richly!!

Ross, Marie and Cheryl Briles, Pastors

Kings Mill, Texas

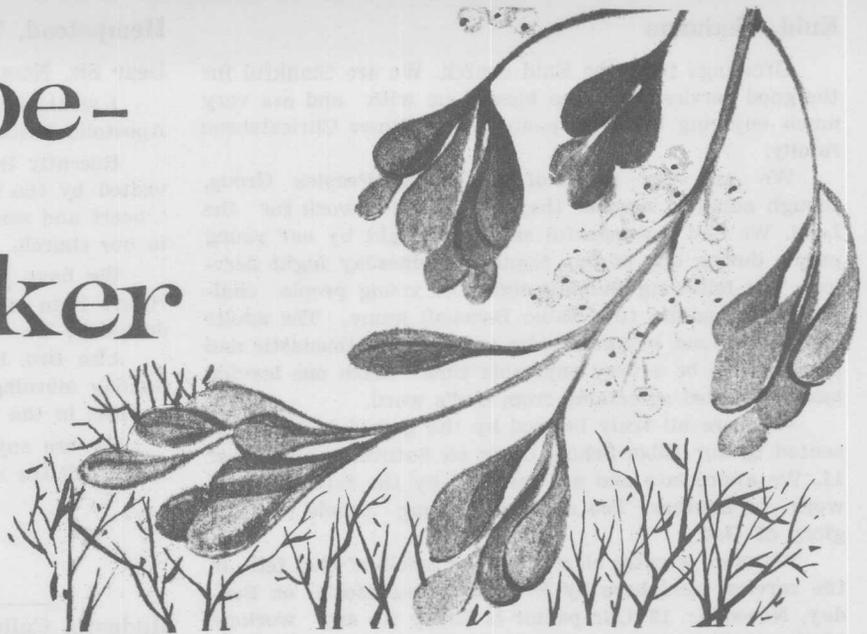
We have felt the Spirit of God in our services, and we are thankful for all the blessings that have come our way. The church has recently acquired a used pulpit which helps the appearance of our auditorium and we are in the process of remodeling the teenagers classroom, things are looking nice.

The Lord has been very good to us; a new family of five moved to Kings Mill and the children are in our children's choir. Another family of six has moved to the outskirts of Pampa, from Diamond, Mo., they have been coming also. That has moved our attendance of teenagers to five. In the past month we have also enjoyed attending the revival held by Bro. O. A. Busch at Bro. Edwin Waterbury's church in Pampa. Pray for us in our work.

Rev. and Mrs. Lyndel Arnall, Pastors

mistletoe- the hitchhiker

By J. K. GRESSETT



AT AN APACHE INDIAN CAMP MEETING held in a cottonwood grove by the river, I notice a large lone tree. A heavy load of mistletoe clung to it. Its great limbs were drooping, its leaves dying. This was its last year to live. Mistletoe was killing it.

For many, mistletoe is associated with the Christmas holidays. But for those of us who live where it grows, mistletoe is a blighting, destructive, hitchhiking parasite that clings to almost any kind of tree it lands on.

The pest appears on about every variety of desert tree down to sea level. And it attacks many varieties up to the timberline in the mountains. Mistletoe is never known to furnish its own nourishment, but saps the life out of any tree it fastens itself on.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's *Wildlife Views* (March-April 1970) said about this pest:

"Although mistletoe is found all across the middle and southern United States, the dwarf types do the most economic damage. The parasite occurs throughout the range of the great ponderosa pine forest and is present on at least one-third of the commercial acreage.

"All varieties of mistletoe are widely recognized as damaging to trees. On a large scale, no totally effective control of the pest has been devised.

"The dwarf mistletoe seeds are produced in berries. Pressure builds up in these berries as they ripen, and in July and August this pressure is so great that when the seeds break away from the berries and stems, they shoot out at 60 miles an hour and travel up to 100 feet when they leave the high trees and the wind is right.

"A gluey coating on the seeds enables them to stick wherever they land. This explains how the pest is spread and why it is so difficult to control.

"The sticky coating on the seed provides moisture for germination. Mistletoe grows from a few small stems on small branches, to witches' brooms 12 feet in diameter on ponderosa pine trees."

The pest will destroy even the largest trees. The length of time it takes mistletoe to kill a tree depends on how much mistletoe clings to it and how old the tree was when it became infected.

That is so much like sin as it works in a life. In Proverbs 5:22 (Amplified) we read: "His own iniquities shall ensnare the wicked, and he shall be held by the cords of his sin." Just as those sticky mistletoe seeds cling to and destroy trees, there are evil hitchhiking habits that cling to our lives. One evil leads to another. "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:15).

The devil is a hitchhiker. Job 1:7 says: "And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." This passage doesn't indicate whether or not this hitchhiker had long hair and was barefoot, but it does indicate he had no home. And it is still true that the devil has no dwelling place until someone opens the door to him.

Some states forbid hitchhiking or picking up hitchhikers because of potential danger. One state, for example, checked all the hitchhikers in a certain locality for 30 days and discovered that 80 percent of them had criminal records. They would be a bad risk to give a lift to!

There is a weird story in Luke 8 and Mark 5. It tells how a man of Gadara picked up a hitchhiker and how the hitchhiker hijacked the man's entire life and soul. The hitchhiker completely possessed this man until Jesus came. The man lived among the tombs. He broke any chains or fetters he was bound with. His cries were heard in the mountains, the wilderness, and the tombs.

Then Jesus came on the scene. It is interesting to read how those hitchhikers begged when Jesus com-

manded them to come out of the man. They begged to be allowed to go into some swine feeding nearby rather than being sent into the sea. Jesus gave them permission. And two thousand hogs committed suicide that day rather than live with such foul company!

It would be great if the hogs had been the last suicides these filthy travelers caused. But many, many lives have been totally destroyed because people have given place to the devil.

Joshua 9 records how the Lord told the Israelites to completely clean out the land He was giving them—to destroy everything and make it new so they would have a proper land in which to raise their families and serve the Lord. This was an object lesson on committing our lives fully to the Lord.

When Joshua made a league with the deceiving Gibeonites to let them live, the Lord held him to this miserable alliance. And the Lord's people had to live with these idolatrous hitchhikers the rest of their lives.

Why blame Joshua? Check on yourself. Many are victims of such things nearly everyday.

In the south there is an unattractive bird—neither black nor white, but gray—called a cowbird. It rides on the cow's back and lives off the insects that collect on the animal. Throughout its lazy existence it refuses to build a nest. It lays its eggs in other birds' nests and lets them hatch and feed its young!

In Genesis 12:1 the Lord called Abram to leave all his kindred and his father's house and journey to a strange land—saying He would make of him a great nation. But Abram softened and took his nephew Lot along. The Lord spoke to Abram only once in 36 years until he was separated from Lot. Then the Lord gave him all the land he could see, and gave him great promises and blessings. Was this only a coincidence? Does it tell us anything?

While there is no known effective control of mistletoe, praise the Lord there is a remedy for sin and evil. Jesus proved it many times besides the time He helped the poor demoniac of Gadara. There is a fountain flowing for sin and uncleanness. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Before there was a sinner, God provided a Saviour.

How can we be freed from the death-dealing load of sin? Romans 10:9, 10 says: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

In the Scriptures we are told, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We are told to draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to us. There is nothing greater for the Christian than to obey those two com-

mands, for obedience will bring victory to the soul and happiness to the life.

If you see some mistletoe this Christmas, think of that hitchhiker Satan and his ways of attacking us. Then look to the Lord for help in overcoming this enemy. After Jesus rejected the temptations of Satan, the angels came and ministered to him. They still do the same when we obey.



Christmas Meditation

by Martha Snell Nicholson

Suppose that Christ had not been born
That far away Judean morn.

Suppose that God, Whose mighty hand
Created worlds, had never planned
A way for man to be redeemed.
Suppose the wise-men only dreamed
That guiding star whose light still glows
Down through the centuries. Suppose
Christ never walked here in men's sight,
Our blessed Way, and Truth, and Light.

Suppose He counted all the cost,
And never cared that we were lost,
And never died for you and me,
Nor shed His blood on Calvary
Upon a shameful cross. Suppose
That having died, He never rose,
And there was none with power to save
Our souls from death beyond the grave!

As far as piteous heathen know,
These things that I've supposed are so.

—Used by permission of Zondervan
Publishing House

Your Editor's Family Sends Greetings

O. A.



Naomi



Jene'



the
O. A. Busch
family
wishes you

Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year

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Buzz and Belva



Brandon Paul

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

(According to Luke 2:1-20)

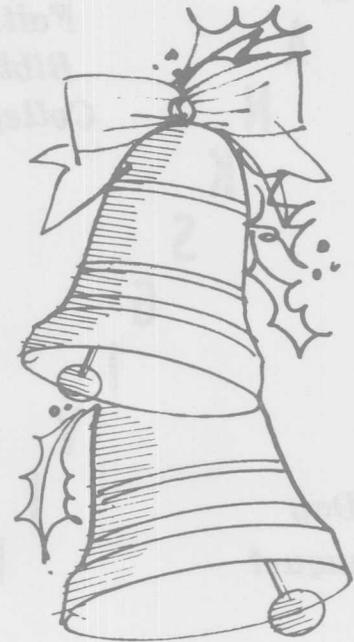


And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethle-



hem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 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 wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.





DELVIN WILES
Master of Ceremonies



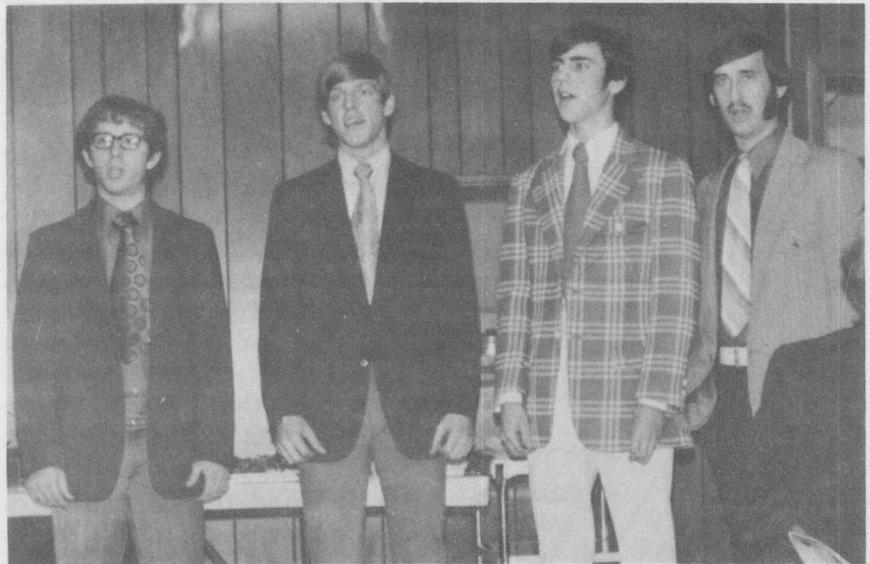
FACULTY

Left to right: Lee and Ione Brock, Mildred Bryant, Carolyn Quesenbury, Delvin and Rita Wiles, Louise Sutton, Rosalie and Jacob Regier, Shari Cook, Dorothy Kinser, and Lois Riley.

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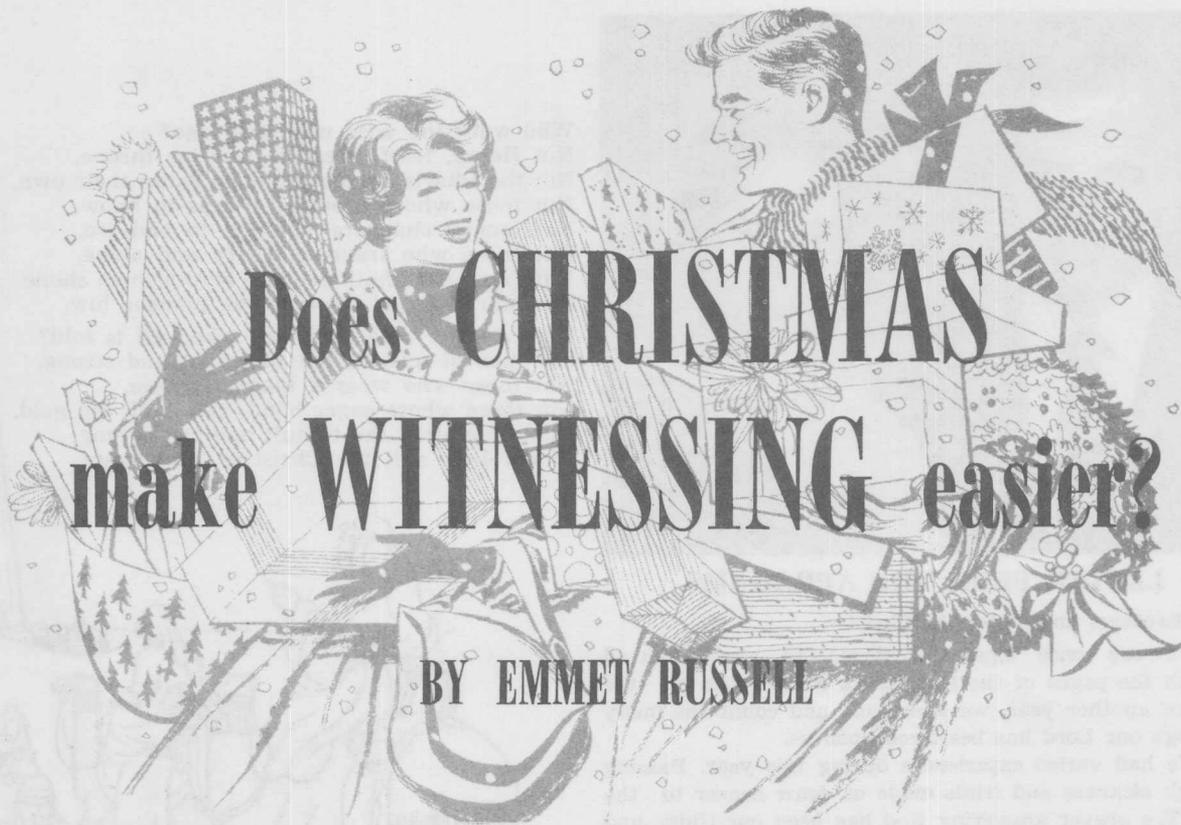
*Apostolic
Faith
Bible
College*

*Day
Banquet*



MALE QUARTET

Left to right: Joe Randolph, of Perryton, Texas, high tenor; Rick French, Wichita, Kansas, lead; Craig Waterbury, Liberal, Kansas, baritone; and Barry Methvin, Fallett, Texas, bass.



Does CHRISTMAS make WITNESSING easier?

BY EMMET RUSSELL

WE OFTEN HEAR someone say, "It is easy to talk to people about Christ at Christmas time." Is it easy? Think a bit.

My Jewish friend sees Christmas against a somber background of persecution and infamy perpetrated by centuries of professed Christians. How can he be sure that I might not turn out to be "anti-Semitic"? He hears raucous carols blaring from loudspeakers. He sees tinsel and glitter, dying fir trees and red-faced Santas, a nativity scene with its infant spotlighted against the cold night air on the lawn of a darkened church.

For him, Christmas time is "Hannukah," the Feast of Lights. My Christmas card does not bring him, like Jewish shepherds of old, to Bethlehem, seeking Jesus Christ.

To men in the postal service, Christmas is a nightmare of stacks of cards to sort, tons of packages, illegible addresses, torn wrappings, sticky juice from broken jars. Fortunate is the postman if he has the imagination to see happy hearts receiving messages from loved ones long unheard from.

To sales people, Christmas may mean a soft sell, but much after-Christmas exchanging of slightly damaged goods. It means long hours on tired feet,

impatient customers, absorption in things, things, things.

It is not easy, in busy hours, to speak to burdened people about Christ. Perhaps the best advice is: "Be ye kind one to another," remembering the infinite kindness of God in Christ toward us.

At home—here at least we can do something definite—if we begin in time. Gather the children around early—very early—and tell the Christmas story. Then enlist their help in making Christmas at your house a birthday party for Jesus. Your best gifts will be for Him. Send an early package to missionary friends. Prepare gifts for nearby ones less fortunate, gifts the better received because our children go with us when we present them.

Guests for Jesus' birthday party at our house? Yes, our own dear ones, of course, and some lonely ones, dear to us because "the love of Christ constraineth us."

It will not be easy to talk about Christ at Christmas time, unless we make it so, unless we breathe into Christmas the atmosphere of Jesus' birthday party. Perhaps then our Jewish friend will see that for us, too, it is "Hannukah," the Feast of Lights, that "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

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LETTER FROM THE ABRAHAMS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are once again privileged to greet you all through the pages of the Report. As we are nearing the close of another year, we look back and count the many blessings our Lord has bestowed upon us.

We had varied experiences during this year. Passing through sickness and trials made us draw nearer to the Lord. The prayer answering God has been our Guide and Helper.

The extension work of our church activities are being continued. We, together with our evangelists, are able to reach new villages with the Gospel. Several souls have been saved and healed during the past few months. Some who were worshipping heathen gods have left their old ways and are now worshipping the Living God. The Youth Fellowship of the church is doing a fine job on their holidays—going cycles to the neighboring places to distribute the Gospel tracts and to visit the houses of non-Christians. The womenfolk meet together and spend time in fasting and prayer for the work.

During the past year the Lord enabled us to help several schoolgoing children to pay their fees and meet other needs. We are also helping some evangelists who are staying in the villages and working for the Lord. Our Bible School is in session and the Lord is blessing the classes.

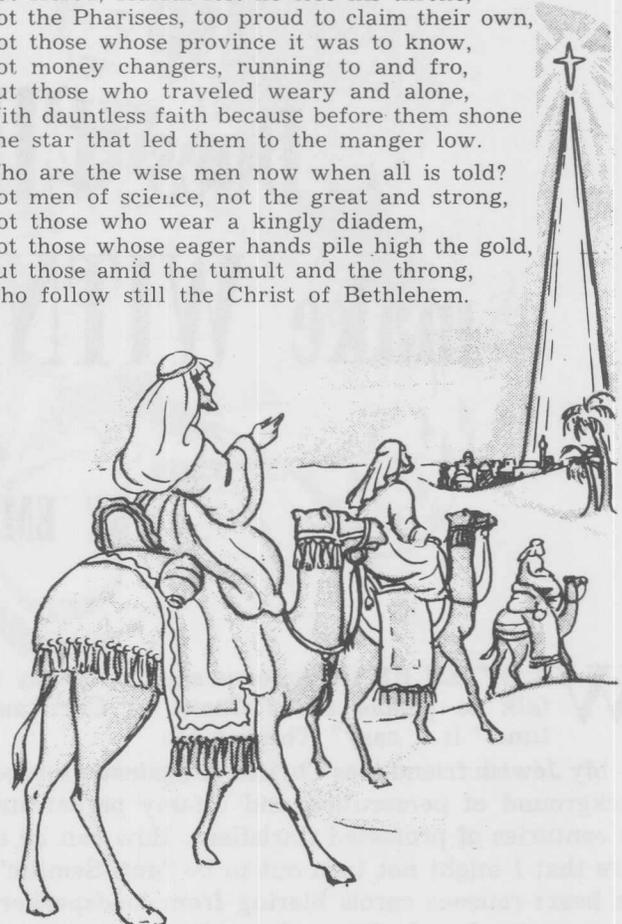
We take this opportunity to thank everyone of you for your prayers and financial help on our behalf. We request you to continue to remember us. May the good Lord bless and reward you all.

We Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With Christian Love,
Yours In Christ,
Bro. and Sis. T. S. Abraham
and Children
"Philadelphia"
India — Secunderabad 500025

Who were the wise men long ago?
Not Herod, fearful lest he lose his throne,
Not the Pharisees, too proud to claim their own,
Not those whose province it was to know,
Not money changers, running to and fro,
But those who traveled weary and alone,
With dauntless faith because before them shone
The star that led them to the manger low.

Who are the wise men now when all is told?
Not men of science, not the great and strong,
Not those who wear a kingly diadem,
Not those whose eager hands pile high the gold,
But those amid the tumult and the throng,
Who follow still the Christ of Bethlehem.



Patrick, Arkansas

We are rejoicing in the Lord for His goodness. Zana requested prayer for healing from the Bible School and feels God answered prayer.

We are free to travel in the service of the Lord again. We will be open for revivals or fill in appointments. Thanks a lot and may God bless you.

Bill Yeakel
General Delivery
Patrick, Arkansas 72750

The Ministers and Laity of the South Texas Apostolic Faith Movement have started a fund to construct a tabernacle at Lost Pines Camp, Warda, Texas in the near future in memory of Sis. Jessie A. Tucker. Several of the ministers and laity started the fund with contributions of \$100 a piece and others gave lesser amounts. If you would like a part in this memorial make your check payable to The Tucker Foundation Memorial Fund: % Stacy Botter, chairman; Box 687, Alvin, Texas 77511. All checks made out thus will be tax deductible.

Phyllis Bachler, Secretary

OBITUARY OF CLARA HOSLER

Clara Harriet, daughter of John C. and Clara E. Gift, was born May 20, 1903, near Enid, Oklahoma, and passed away at her home October 23, 1972 at the age of 69 years, five months and three days. In 1905 she moved with her family to near Seiling, Oklahoma. Her parents and brother preceeded her in death. At her mother's passing when she was 11 years of age she made her home with her Uncle and Aunt. This Uncle survives.

She graduated from Woodward High School in 1923 and taught school in Dewey, Beaver and Harper Counties in Oklahoma and in Bayard, Nebraska. On October 11, 1923 she was converted in her home after attending a Pentecostal Holiness revival. Later she became affiliated with the Apostolic Faith Movement and remained faithful until death. Some of her favorite scriptures were Psalms 1, 27 and 91.

She was united in marriage to Rev. James Hosler of Logan Community on August 26, 1933, at Beaver, Oklahoma. To this union two daughters were born. They traveled in Evangelistic work and they also pastored several Apostolic Faith churches as long as her health permitted. She was a kind, affectionate wife, a fond mother and a friend to all.

Survivors include her husband, James, of the home, two daughters, and their husbands, Lela Mae and Albert Walls, of Barstow, California, Leota Faye and Jack Sheedy, of Grapevine, Texas. Three grandchildren, one brother, Hobart Gift of Seiling, Oklahoma, one sister Lottie Durfey, of Logan, Oklahoma, one Uncle, Mike Pritchett, of Rolla, Missouri, and a host of other relatives and friends.

This poem was a favorite of Sis. Clara's and was on a record that she received after she had lost her sight. She requested that it be read at her memorial service and dedicated to her husband.

SOME DAY

Someday when fleeting time shall take its toll,
And one of us be laid away to rest.
The other left with heaviness of soul
To spend alone a few brief years at best.
Should you go first and I be left alone,
Without my loved one daily by my side,
The memory of the years that now have flown
The faith that you inspired shall still abide.
The fragments of your life linger on,
To cheer and comfort my remaining years
I will not falter till my race be run,
Even though the way be strewn with bitter tears.
Some day when fleeting time shall be no more
We both shall meet together no more by sorrows pressed
together to enter Heaven's open door,
Should I be left and you be laid to rest.

Memorial services were held Thursday, October 26, 1972 at 2 p.m. in Laverne, Oklahoma, at the Apostolic Faith Church. Rev. Jack Barker officiated and was assisted by Rev. Lowell Long, pastor and Rev. Paul Clanton of Galena, Kansas. Rev. M. D. Methvin of Follet, Texas sang and spoke a few words and Bro. and Sis. Floyd Lamunyon sang a couple of songs.

Pall bearers were the Rev. Bill Briles, Doyle Wiles, Mitchell Modrick, Elmer Christenson, Harrol Waterbury, and Art Whitaker.

A Square, Honest Look

THE PEOPLE were being heavily taxed, and faced every prospect of a sharp increase to cover expanding military expenses.

The threat of world domination by a cruel, ungodly, power-intoxicated band of men was ever just below the threshold of consciousness.

Moral deterioration had corrupted the upper levels of society and was moving rapidly into the broad base of the populace.

Peace propaganda was heard everywhere in the midst of preparations for war.

The latest rulers were covering the landscape with their statues and images, invoking a subtle form of state-worship.

Intense nationalistic feeling was clashing openly with new and sinister forms of imperialism.

Conformity was the spirit of the age.

Government handouts were being used with increasing lavishness to keep the population from rising up and throwing out the leaders.

Interest rates were spiraling upward in the midst of an inflated economy.

External religious observance was considered a political asset.

An abnormal emphasis was being placed upon sports and athletic competitions.

Social life centered around the banquet and the pool.

Racial tension was at the breaking point.

In such a time and amid such a people, a child was born to a migrant couple who had just signed up for a fresh round of taxation, and who were soon to become political exiles.

The child was called, among other things, the Prince of Peace.

When he had grown up and had entered upon his ministry, he said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. . . . Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Xmas?

Each Christmas season we receive letters from earnest Christians who are disturbed over some phase of Christmas celebration. This is understandable, for the real meaning of the season is lost to many people, covered up as it is by commercialism, frivolity, and in some cases, even debauchery. This is not the whole story, however. There are still many who use Christmas in a way that honors God and that helps to spread the gospel message.

One of the main objections some believers raise with regard to the celebration of Christmas has to do with the date of its observance. They point out that we do not know the day of the year on which Christ was born. That is true and is one reason why not all Christian groups celebrate Christmas on December 25. Let us not lose sight of the fact, however, that Christ was born, and to celebrate His birth at anytime in the year helps to keep the fact of it before the world.

Even the date, December 25, should not be brushed aside as having no basis in fact. A Jewish Christian scholar of a past generation, Dr. Alfred Edersheim has this rather interesting note in his book, *Jesus the Messiah*. He says, "There is no adequate reason for questioning the historical accuracy of this date (December 25). The objections generally made rest on grounds, which seem to me historically untenable . . . a curious piece of evidence comes to us from a Jewish source . . . the ninth TebBeth is marked as a fast day, and it is added, that the reason for this is not stated. Now, Jewish chronologists have fixed on that day as that of Christ's birth, and it is remarkable that between the years 500 and 816 A.D. the 25th of December fell no less than 12 times on the ninth TebBeth. If the ninth TebBeth or 25th of December was regarded as the birthday of Christ, we can understand the concealment about it . . ." (Vol. 1, p. 187).

This is not conclusive proof that December 25 is the correct date, but it should make us realize that it may not be as arbitrary a date as some of us have thought.

Still another area of controversy is the yearly issue of a Christmas stamp by our government. Stamps featuring a holly wreath and a Christmas tree are two examples. Holly and evergreen trees have become associated with Christmas in the minds of many because of their widespread use at that season though there is no Biblical basis for them. This year the religious theme that has been chosen is the angel Gabriel. The design is said to be taken from a water color painting by a Boston artist. She is said to have used as her model an antique New England weathervane that pictured Gabriel in flight, blowing his horn. The enlarged version of the stamp we saw depicts a rather feminine looking angel. Regardless of that, however, Gabriel did have an actual part in the Christmas story. He was the messenger of God who announced to Mary that she had been chosen of God to bring forth Jesus who would be the world's Redeemer and future King.

Another source of controversy is the spelling of Christmas with a capital X followed by the "mas." Many feel that in this way Christ has been dropped out of Christmas entirely. This is not necessarily the case. X used in this fashion is the Greek letter "chi" and is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ—Chi-r-i-s-t-o-s. This was how the use of "Xmas" began, though not everyone using this shortened form for Christmas knows this.

During the very early centuries of the Christian era, the first two letters of Christ's name were commonly used among Christians as a monogram testifying to their faith in the Lord. The capital letter X and the capital letter R (written like our capital "P"), are the first two letters of Christ's name in the Greek. Sometimes "P" was written through the center of the "X" and often appeared that way on the graves of Christians. This was particularly true of those buried in the catacombs. Sometimes the first letter of the Greek alphabet and the last which are used as names of our Lord in Revelation 1:7—the Alpha and the Omega—were added to indicate that Christ was the beginning and the end of all things.

Remember that our Lord's name, "Christ" or "Christos," signifies the "anointed" and is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament word "Messiah." The monogram XP is to be found on the coins of Constantine the Great and of a number of his successors.

Since we are on the subject of monograms here, another very popular one with the Christians in the early centuries is worthy of special note. In the days when Christianity was outlawed and Christians were persecuted, they sometimes identified each other by wearing a small article that spelled out the Greek word for fish or was the figure of a fish itself. This pictorial monogram carried the message of the gospel in its name.

The Greek word for fish is expressed in the following way in English—I-CH-TH-U-S. These five letters are initials of five words which in the same order of sequence express "Jesus—Christ—of God—the Son—Saviour." In this way, by either wearing the letters of the word or just the simple picture of a fish the Christians carried with them the gospel story.

This would do more than help to identify them to other Christians. It must have also given them a talking point on many occasions with those of other religions who would wonder what the monogram meant.

This leads us to suggest that instead of letting present trends in the celebration of Christmas disturb us unnecessarily, that we, as Christians, begin to take advantage of some of the things in Christmas that point to Christ. For example, the "Xmas" could become a subject of conversation leading up to a presentation of the gospel. We do not mean to suggest that we should use it in our writing. But when others do, let us take advantage of it to point them to Christ. This is surely preferable to a criticism of the present debasement and secularization of the celebration of our Lord's birth that might drive away a potential convert to the Christian faith. The picture of Gabriel on the Christmas stamp could also be used as a point of witness. Let us buy up our opportunities in these matters this Christmas season.

—John I. Paton