

The Apostolic Faith Report

Volume X

December, 1963

No. 12



“Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

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.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Peace and Good Will

By DONALD D. DIBBENS

The wonderful story, that is old but ever new, unfolds to us again in carol, poem, hymn, and picture. We bow in grateful humility, as did the Wise Men and Shepherds, and worship the King—the Saviour of the world—“Thou shalt call his name Immanuel (God with us).” “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21. What a glorious plan. What a divine revelation. What a precious promise—“He shall save his people from their sins.” The only hope for redemption from the curse of sin: the way, the truth, and the life.

We live in a dying world. Men are not living on and on, but hastening to the grave. Another generation takes their place and the cycle will end only when immortal or incorruptible we shall stand in the presence and likeness of the King. This is the only hope of a dying world—a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. Yes more than this: A saviour dying upon a cruel cross between two thieves. Yes more than this: a figure arising from the tomb; with the stone rolled away by angelic hands. Yes more than this: A figure disappearing into a cloud to be at the right hand of God interceding for man. Yes more than this: A King coming in the clouds with power and great glory to subdue the kingdoms of this world and reign in righteousness: ruling the world in Peace. “Righteousness shall be the girdle of the loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.” Isaiah 11:5.

There shall be peace in the valley some day.

We live in a world of racial hatred, political mistrust, religious greed, and military lust for power. This swells from the small community through the city, through the county, through the state, through the nation, and across sea and land through the countries of the world. We can also include Space, in this day of mad rush for the lead in conquering space and going to planets.

Where is the Peace? It is not

in the large labor unions. It is not at the conferences. It is not in education. It is not in great accomplishments. It is not in riches. It is not in poverty. It is in Jesus. The most peaceful scene is a little babe, precious, dear, and sweet, wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. Yes, it is best portrayed in Joseph, Mary, the babe and the humble surroundings of the manger stall that silent night in Bethlehem of Judea. It is further magnified on the Judean hillside as the lowly Shepherds watched their flocks by night; where Angels proclaimed, “And on earth peace, good will toward men.” It is further magnified by the Wise Men bringing gifts most costly to lay them at the manger crib as they humbly knelt to worship and adore this priceless gift of God to a sinful world.

Jesus has not brought peace to the world, and yet Jesus has

brought peace to the world. He has made peace available to the individual heart, the humble heart, the contrite heart, the repenting heart. Men fight, kill and war—but a few have found this precious peace by coming to Jesus with their troubled soul. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. He gives hope to the hopeless and life to the lifeless. He enables men to live with peace in their hearts in the midst of greed, lust, sin and hate. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Where can we find this peace? At the foot of the Old Rugged Cross; with a broken heart and a contrite spirit; with a trust in God and a belief in His only begotten Son; with a will to serve and a determination to be faithful.

The wonderful heralded words, that thrilled the Shepherds that night in Palestine, can flood our hearts today, if we are right with God and love His truth and believe His word—“Peace on earth, and good will toward men.”

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

As shepherds watched their flocks by night, an angel did appear.
The shepherds trembled and quaked with sudden fear.
But the angel had such wonderful news, as he hovered over the earth;
He told the humble shepherds of the Christ Child's birth!
Then all heaven came out to sing, a lovely heavenly choir,
“Peace on earth, good will to men!”
Then hearts burned with desire to see the Christ Child where He lay,
In a manger full of hay!
On the very same night, far to the east, the wise men beheld
A star, much bigger, much brighter, than any before.
A great light they could see from afar.
They gathered together gifts for a king
They knew they would surely find.
For heaven had sanctified a great truth—A rare star—
The miracle kind!
When they found Him, wee precious mite,
They gave Him great gifts untold.
But the three precious ones, fit for a King,
Were frankincense, myrrh, and gold!
Frankincense, so rare and sweet, was only for the pure in heart.
And myrrh, so bitter, symbolized, the death
Our Lord was to impart.
The gold, a metal, oh so rare, when Christ first came to earth,
Was a noble gift that was bestowed only on those of noble birth!
As the Christmas tide draws near, may christians over the earth,
Sing, as the heavenly choir sang, of the Christ Child's birth.
May “Peace on earth, good will to men”
Fill every heart and nation.
May the miracle of Christmas awaken all creation!

—ALBERDINE WILHITE

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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*Pen
of the
Editor*



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APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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Ralls, Texas

I have accepted the invitation,
of the Bible School Board of
Trustees, to continue as Editor of
the Apostolic Faith Report for
another year. Bro. and Sis. Floyd
LaMunyon have graciously ac-
cepted my invitation to be As-
sociate Editors. Their work, the
past year, has been very helpful,
consistent, and good. God bless
them.

We accept this responsibility
humbly and prayerfully. We ap-
preciate the confidence that has
been placed in us by the Bible
School Board of Trustees and in-
tend to fulfill that responsibility
to the best of our ability in keep-
ing with the principles of the
teaching of the Apostolic Faith
Movement as we have in the past
few years.

The Board of Trustees have
been most considerate and faith-
ful in giving us their confidence
and allowing us freedom of oper-

ation in preparing and editing
the Apostolic Faith Report. You,
the Movement, have been most
gracious in praying for us, send-
ing us material, and giving con-
tributions to keep this Official
Organ of the Apostolic Faith
Movement going into homes, rest
homes, hospitals, jails, and to
foreign fields; spreading the glori-
ous gospel by the printed word.
We ask your continued support
and prayers that the coming year
will see the Paper grow, in in-
terest, in information, and in
spiritual blessing. May God's
most gracious blessings be yours
as the sun sets and rises unfold-
ing the days of 1964.

Let us look for and hasten un-
to that great and glorious day
of the soon return of Jesus back
to earth again. Surely Jesus is
coming soon.

"Let us not be weary in well
doing: for in due season we shall
reap, if we faint not."

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New year's Day— a milepost on
the way to eternity.

The angels broke into song
when Jesus came. So to every
life, song comes with the coming
of Jesus into it.

Financing God's Kingdom

By DALE DITTO

Apostolic Faith Bible School — Bible Doctrine
November 22, 1963

Every business of any kind to stay in operation must have some sort of financing. Most businesses have a product or service that they think the public needs. The Church is a business in this respect. It has the plan of Salvation which every person, bond or free, rich or poor, needs to live a complete and happy life. The business sets a certain price on their product and when the public buys it they obtain the financing they need to carry on. God has not set a monetary price on Salvation but yet God's work must have money to carry on. God has chosen tithing for this purpose. The word tithe literally means a tenth part, or ten percent, of anything, especially the tenth part of one's increase or profit.

Tithing is not a new thing. God gave the Tithing law to Moses at Mount Sinai fourteen hundred years before the virgin birth of Christ. In this law given to Moses the tithes of the people were to be given to the tribe of Levi, or the priestly tribe. The Levites in turn were to give tithes of what they received to the high priests, or Aaron's family. In this law of Moses there were three sorts of tithes to be paid by the people: Levitical, Festival, and Charitable. The Levitical tithes were to the Levites for their maintenance of the Tabernacle. The Festival tithes were for the Lord's feasts and sacrifices, and Charitable tithes were to be given every third year for the poor. The total was twenty one and seven tenths per cent of one's increase per year. There are also three types of giving expected of us today: Tithes, Offerings, and Alms. The tithe is a tenth of our yearly income whether wages or livestock, or crops. Offering is money or support given to God's work over and above our tithes, and Alms are support given to the poor and needy. Offering and Alms should

not be included in the tenth part of our income. They are a contribution separate from the ten per cent. The twenty one and seven tenths per cent that the Israelites were required to pay under the law would not be a bad minimum for us today for tithes, offering, and alms although it is not required.

The above is the first time in the Old Testament that the Tithing law is mentioned, but even before that we have record of tithes being given. Jacob, after seeing the vision of the ladder from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending, at Bethel, pledged to give a tenth of his increase to God from that day forward if the Lord would but give him something to eat and something to wear. Also in Genesis 14:18-20 we read that Abraham, grandfather of Jacob, when he was returning from rescuing his nephew, Lot, from his captors, met Melchisedec, whom Abraham realized was even more blessed than he. He was King of Righteousness, King of Salem, which means King of Peace, and a Priest of the most high God. We are told in Hebrews 7:3 that Melchisedec was without priestly descent. Thus his priesthood was of a higher order than the Levitical priesthood. Melchisedec's priesthood was a type of Christ's coming priesthood. The relation between Melchisedec and Christ is shown in Hebrews 7. They are: (1) Not of the Levitical tribe, (2) superior to Abraham, (3) whose beginning and end are unknown, (4) who is not only a priest but also a king of righteousness and peace. Abraham gave tithes of all to this Melchisedec. Just as Christ is likened unto Melchisedec we as believers are likened unto Abraham so we should give our tithes to Christ. We find also in Hebrews 7 that the Levitical priesthood was an example of what Christ's priesthood would be like and it was

only filling the gap until Christ should come. We cannot give money directly to Christ, but we can give our financial help to preachers, gospel workers, and other full time servants of God. These represent the tribe of Levi under the Mosaic law, and Christ is our High Priest.

In Psalms 24:1 we read that God owns this world and all that is in it. God could have chosen another way of financing his kingdom but he did not. We have what we have only by the grace of God. Deuteronomy 8:18 says that it is God who gives us the power to get wealth. We do not get wealth by our own power. In a way it might be said that we are stewards of what we have. A steward is an individual who possesses something that belongs to someone else. We do not possess it forever either. When we die we leave it all behind us. It is only right then that we should give back to God a part of what is already his.

The idea of our being God's steward goes even farther than our money or earthly possessions. We are also only stewards of time. We have no promise of tomorrow. An old proverb is "Do not squander time, for it is the substance of which life is made." It is a good policy to live every day as if it were our last and spend much time doing God's will. We are also only stewards of our talents. God has given each of us certain talents hoping they will be used for his glory. God is very disappointed in a person if he neglects using his talent or if he uses it for some worldly purpose rather than for God's glory and honour.

In giving our tithes we should not wait until all the other bills are paid and then if there is enough left give God his part. Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honour the Lord with the firstfruits of thine increase." God fulfills more than his part of the bargain too. First he gave us power to get what we have, then when we give a part of that back to him he said that he would pour us out a blessing so great that there would not be room enough to receive it and that our barns would be filled

(Continued on page 5)

Financing--

(Continued from page 4)

with plenty. Malachi 3:10; Proverbs 3:10. The more we give the more the Lord will bless us but we should not give that we might receive a blessing but because we love God and want to see his work go forth. In II Corinthians 9:7 we read that God loveth a cheerful giver. Also in Matthew 6:1-2 Jesus said not to give to be seen of men for if we do we have our reward here on earth and God will not reward us for giving. God also placed in the tithing law a stipulation for a person who borrows his part of their increase. In Leviticus 27:31 we read that if a man should borrow the tithe from God that when he repaid it he should not only repay the amount but with a fifth part added unto it, or in our every day language twenty per cent interest added to it.

In Old Testament days the tribe of Levi was not only the priests but also the singers, janitors, repairmen or anything else that needed to be done in the Tabernacle. From this we see that not only preachers and evangelists should receive tithes but also gospel workers, singers, or any worker that devotes full time to the service of the Lord.

A christian should also give of his financial means, time, and talent to the church. The Church is God's house and is dedicated to keep it repaired and in good condition.

Tithing is one of the hardest things for some people to do. It is said, "The shortest distance in the world is from a man's heart to his pocketbook." But in Matthew 23:23 we read that we are not to neglect paying tithes. When we do, God's work suffers. This situation is portrayed in Nehemiah chapter thirteen. The Jews at this time had begun to neglect paying tithes and the Levites had been forced to go to the fields and get income by some other means. This could have been caused by either one or both of two things. These are: (1) Negligence on the part of Jews who knew the importance of tithing but failed to practice it,

Report of Bible School

The 1963 term of the Apostolic Faith Bible School was especially blessed of God in many ways. The number of students was larger than it has been for some years, and every financial and material need was supplied, but the most blessed and wonderful of all was the fine Christian spirit of love and unity that prevailed throughout the term. God was present to bless in such a marvelous way, thanks be unto Him.

The closing exercises were also favored with God's presence and blessing. The ordination service was of special blessing and uplift to all present. Nine of the students who had felt the call of God upon their lives were ordained, four for the ministry and five as helpers and gospel workers.

Those ordained to the ministry were: Danny Robinson and his wife, Patsy Robinson, ordained as his helper; John Blythe and his wife, Lola Faye Blythe; Kenneth Priest and his wife, Ladonna Priest; and Ollie Kinser. Those ordained as gospel workers were: Joye Regier and Anneta Harper.

Let us all remember these young ministers and workers in our prayers, then encourage them and help them in every way we can in their efforts for the spreading of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The harvest is white, the laborers are few, and we are commanded "pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest." Luke 10:2.

or (2) failure on the part of previous generations to teach their children the importance of tithing. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The work of the Lord can keep a person busy if he does not need to be spending precious time in other vocations. In I Corinthians 16:2 we read that God also likes for us to be systematic and regular in tithing. In doing this, tithing may become a habit. If it does it is one of the best habits we can have.

BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Apostolic Faith Movement was held Friday morning, December 6, 1963 with Olen Bachler, chairman of the Bible School Board of Trustees, presiding. There was a good representation of ministers present and also of laymembers. The atmosphere of the meeting was one of unity and brotherhood.

Announcement was made that Brother F. E. Waterbury had been asked to serve as Superintendent of the Bible School for the 1964 term and that he had consented to do so. Other faculty members will be selected later.

Each year a new trustee of Bible School is elected. Brother Jack Barker was the outgoing member, having resigned and asked not to be re-elected. Brother Barker has done a fine job as trustee and has served faithfully and to the best of his ability. In the election this year Brother Doyle Wiles was elected to serve for a three-year term. Other members of the board are Olen Bachler and Alford Whiteley.

Brother Donald Dibbens was chosen by the trustees to continue another year as editor of the Apostolic Faith Report, and Brother and Sister Floyd LaMunyon to continue as associate editors, which they all consented to do.

The only other business of importance was a motion made by Brother Jacob Regier and seconded by Brother Edwin Waterbury that at the annual business meeting in 1964 a different method of electing the Bible School Trustees be discussed. The motion was voted upon and passed. During the next year the ministry and the laity can think about this motion, pray earnestly about it, and God can lead us all to the right decision.

Meeting then adjourned and was dismissed in prayer by Brother Wallace Ditto.

Pray until you want to pray, pray until you can pray, and then pray until your prayers prevail — at all seasons.

PASTORAL REPORTS

LOGAN, OKLAHOMA

After a very successful meeting, conducted by Bro. M. D. Methvin of Galena, Kansas and Bro. Jimmy Wallis as leader of the singing, our meeting closed November 20, 1963. Everyone appreciated the songs sung by Candy and Randy Wallis during the meeting. Several young folks answered the altar calls during this meeting and were saved. Those that attended were blessed by each sermon that was preached especially the closing sermons on prophecy.

The theme chorus of our revival was, "God Hears and Answers Prayers."

As this will be our last report from The Midway Country Church before Christmas, "May the Lord richly bless each one during the Christmas season."

Rev. Edwin Modrick, Pastor
Gladys Klepper, Reporter

PAMPA, TEXAS

The church work here is moving forward with God's blessing upon it. Evangelist and Mrs. Floyd LaMunyon served as temporary pastors for seven weeks, and also conducted a week of revival services in November. The congregation is now meeting in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, corner of Ward and Buckler streets, which has been rented for use until the new church can be built, possibly next summer.

A half block of land has been bought for the new church, and eventually a parsonage. It is in a good location and has curb and gutter on three sides and paving on two sides.

Brother Robert Girouard took up his duties as pastor of the church after the close of Bible School.

KATY, TEXAS

God is blessing the church here and interest is good; Sunday School attendance was 79 on December 8. Construction on the new church building will begin shortly after the first of the year, God willing.

Rev. Harrol Waterbury, Pastor

DUMAS, TEXAS

Bro. and Sis. Waple Ferguson resigned as pastors of the church here and have moved to Perryton, Texas to make their home. The church deeply appreciates their faithful labors. May God bless these good people.

Bro. and Sis. Jacob Regier will take up their duties as pastors of the Dumas church about Christmas. They have been working in the Bible School the past three months, then conducted some services in the Austin, Texas church where Bro. and Sis. Stephen Welsh are the pastors.

BALKO, OKLAHOMA

Evangelist and Mrs. Olen Bachelor, assisted by Brother Richard Barker and Miss Leora Woodson, recently held a wonderful revival in our church. Three persons were saved, one received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the entire church was blessed in many ways. The church was filled each night and a most wonderful spirit was present in each service. Sister Leora conducted Children's Church each evening preceding the evangelistic service.

Our building project is now completed and we are enjoying the added space. Six new pews have been ordered to fill out the auditorium. We thank God for His blessing in this work.

The church has enjoyed the ministry of several visiting ministers in the past few months, among them: Bro. and Sis. Ben Barker, Bro. and Sis. Jack Barker, Bro. and Sis. Austin Morgan, Bro. and Sis. Ivan McKeever, Bro. and Sis. Jimmie Wallis, Bro. and Sis. Marcus Adair, and others. We desire the prayers of everyone for the Lord's work here that He shall continue to bless in the future as He has in the past.

Rev. and Mrs. Jack Cornell
Pastors

WAYSIDE CHAPEL— EDNA, TEXAS

Rev. and Mrs. Austin Morgan will assume the pastorate here the latter part of January.

FOLLETT, TEXAS

Our services are consistently good. We thank God for every blessing that comes our way. Several families have moved away, that attended services regularly and this has been felt, however, several new families have moved into our city and are a blessing to the work of the Lord here at the Follett Chapel. Bro. Bill Briles filled the pulpit for us Sunday night November 10th. We welcome Bro. Briles to come be with us again in service. May God bless you especially good as we near this Christmas season, is our prayer. Ministers and gospel workers of the Apostolic Faith Movement are extended a cordial invitation to come by for services.

Rev. Donald Dibbens, Pastor

ROCKDALE, TEXAS

Brother Kay Kerr conducted a very good revival here in November and God's spirit was present to bless hungry seekers in every service. The morning prayer services were a wonderful blessing. And we appreciated Sister Norma Jean Doty who came several times from Smithville to help with her singing.

The church is looking forward to having new pews in the near future. We are thankful to God for His material blessings as well as His spiritual blessings.

Edwin Waterbury, Pastor.

JOPLIN, MISSOURI

The church building here has recently been re-decorated with paint on the exterior and some of our basement classrooms were also re-decorated on the interior. God has been wonderful to bless our services with His Presence. The Lord willing, special services are planned for each night December 29th through the 31st with a Watch Night service the night of the 31st. An invitation is extended to people throughout the Tri-State district to attend these services.

Rev. and Mrs. Gail W. Schultz,
Pastors

RALLS, TEXAS

Rev. Jack Hopson writes: "We have recently finished our labors in the Bible School and we greatly enjoyed our work in this phase of ministering for the Lord. We will take up our duties as pastors of the Ralls church after the first of the year. We desire an interest in the prayers of God's people, and we extend an invitation to ministers and gospel workers of the Faith to come by for services whenever possible."

Rev. and Mrs. Jack Hopson

BROWNWOOD, TEXAS

We are having prayer meeting in our homes and Bible study every Tuesday night. Bro. and Sis. James Hosler came by and gave us some services, which was a joy to our hearts. We, here at Brownwood, extend to all the ministers and workers an invitation to come by and see us. We are praying that the Lord will open the way so we can have a church here. We have three families of the Apostolic Faith here now: Bro. and Sis. Marvin Bishop and Bobby; Bro. and Sis. Wayne Falls, and myself and wife. Anyone wanting to contact us can do so by writing, calling, or coming by. Pray for us at Brownwood that we may all know and do the will of the Lord.

Sol Getz

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Marvin Bishop

Route 4
Tel. MI 3-2178

CENTER POINT, TEXAS

Rev. and Mrs. John Blythe will take up the work as pastors here shortly after Christmas, and he has asked the prayers of the Apostolic Faith Movement for the success of his labors here to the glory of God.

LAVERNE, OKLAHOMA

The Laverne Church enjoyed a revival conducted by Bro. Roland Busch. Each night he brought an inspiring message and people were blessed at the good altar services each night.

DICKINSON, TEXAS

The Dickinson Apostolic Faith Church has had some wonderful services lately. We have had two people re-dedicate their lives to Christ, and have had several others saved. We know that if we keep on praying God will send more blessings our way.

We would like to let you know that we are having watchnight services. The services will be held December 29, 30 and 31. Last year we were fortunate to have with us some visiting ministers. We had a wonderful service and the Lord richly blessed the lives of every one there. We would like to invite everyone to be with us on these nights. If you are not free to come, we would appreciate your prayers.

Herman Hoke, Pastor
Cora Grigg, Reporter

FROM OUR EVANGELISTS

Evangelist and Mrs. Olen Bachelor have concluded their work as fill-in pastors at Wayside Chapel, Edna, Texas. They plan to attend Convocation at Stockton, California to help in the services there and following Convocation they will conduct revival services at Bethel Chapel, Stockton, California.

Evangelist and Mrs. Danny Robinson held a revival meeting in the Mill Creek Church near Doniphan, Missouri immediately after close of Bible School. They are available for calls to revivals.

Evangelist and Mrs. Roy Wooster recently held a good revival with the Bayard, Nebraska church here. Bro. and Sis. Gene Cornell are pastors. God blessed in every service.

Evangelist and Mrs. Jack Barker held a week and a half of revival services in the Apostolic Faith Church in Spearman, Texas the latter part of November. God blessed in each service and the church was encouraged in the Lord. There were some who prayed through to sanctification, and some who felt they had been touched by God's healing power.

Faith is dead to doubts, dumb to discouragements, blind to impossibilities, and knows nothing but success.

OBITUARY**JOSEPH T. SMITH**

Joseph Theodore Smith was born in Franklin, Texas March 12, 1880 and departed this life at his home in Brookshire, Texas November 8, 1963 at age 83 years. He was married to Olga Hammerling in 1908 and to this union one son, Hugh, was born. Survivors besides his wife and son are a sister, Mrs. Mollie Godkin of Houston, Texas and a number of nieces and nephews.

Brother Smith was converted as result of street meetings conducted in Brookshire in 1905 and 1906 and was one of the pioneers of the Apostolic Faith Movement in South Texas. For almost 25 years he and Sister Smith held weekly prayer meetings in their home and many people were blessed by these services. Brother Smith was a faithful member of the congregation of the Katy, Texas Apostolic Faith Church.

For more than 50 years Brother Smith was engaged in the lumber business and used his means to spread the gospel of Christ; also he helped to establish several Apostolic Faith churches.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Harrol Waterbury in the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel in Brookshire with interment in Pattison Cemetery.

THANK YOU NOTES

We want each of you to know that we humbly appreciate your earnest prayers for us. I am back in Laverne. Not in my home but in Room 6 of the Laverne General Hospital. I am resting without pain and thank the Lord for being so good to an elderly lady.

Mrs. Ella Whitaker and family
Editor's Note: You that would like to send Sis. Whitaker a letter or card, the address is: Room 6, Laverne General Hospital, Laverne, Oklahoma.

Thank you everyone for your prayers, for we have surely needed them. Mother is well in years and quite feeble but her faith in God has not wavered. A blessed Christmas season to you each, and again God bless you for your prayers. — Edna Baker

Conway Springs, Kansas.

The Children's Hour . . .

By ALBERDINE WILHITE

"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.
Luke 2:10-11

Again this year, let us keep "Christ" in Christmas. As we go into the Christmas season, let us worship Him not only in spirit and in truth but also in song.

"Praise ye the Lord, Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints."
Psalms 149:1

When Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem, they could not find room in the inn. So they stayed the night in the stable, where Jesus was born.

O little town of Bethlehem! How still we see thee lie: Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondrous love.

Mary tenderly wrapped her child in swaddling clothes and layed Him in a manger.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

There were shepherds keeping their flocks by night on the plains outside of Bethlehem. As they were abiding in the fields, lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid. The angel told about a saviour, Christ the Lord, who was born in Bethlehem. His birth was to bring good tidings of great joy to all people.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come! Let the earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room and Heaven and nature sing!

After the angel had given the shepherds instructions on finding Jesus, a heavenly host joined him

in singing the first Christmas carol.

It came upon a midnight clear That glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heavens all gracious King! The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

When the angels had gone back into heaven the shepherds said, "let us go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Silent night, Holy night. Darkness flies, all is light, Shepherds hear the angels sing, Alleluia, hail the King. Christ the Saviour is born.

The shepherds went with haste and found the babe lying in a manger. When they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. All they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had seen and heard, as it was told unto them.

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed redeemer! Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim! Hail Him! Hail Him! highest archangels in glory; Strength and honor give to His holy name!

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem saying, where is He that was born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and are coming to worship him."

In the sky shines a star, and it beckons afar To the wise men their vigil keeping; There's a hush o'er the earth at the wonderful birth of the child in the manger sleeping.

And when they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and

stood where the young child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced with great joy.

This star drew nigh to the north-west, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh.

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him born the king of angels; O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lo, everyone that thirsteth come ye to the water—Come ye, buy ye and eat: yea, come—

And ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

YOUR CHOICE OF GIFTS

If you could have your choice of gifts
On Holy Christmas night,
What would you choose of all the gifts
That fill the stores so bright?
Would you prefer a fancy coat,
A suit or rings of gold?
Or would you like a lovely watch,
Or antiques, very old?
Or maybe you would like a car,
The very best on earth,
So you could ride around the town
To celebrate Christ's birth.
But if you had your choicest wish,
It would not satisfy
Unless it also pleased the Lord
Who came from God on high.
The choicest gift of all to get
Is something you can give,
A chance to help someone in need,
And by that service, live.
So when you think of Christmas gifts,
Just kneel in earnest prayer
And ask the Lord to send the gifts
That you can freely share.

—Frank L. Cross.

PANHANDLE TRI-STATE YOUTH RALLY

The Panhandle Tri-State Youth Rally was held at Guymon, Oklahoma Monday night November 11, 1963. Services were opened by President Rev. Ted Barker of Hardesty, Oklahoma. The singing was directed by Rev. Jack Cornell of Balko, Oklahoma.

Rev. Roland Busch of Katy, Texas brought an inspiring message. The attendance banner was won by the Balko Church with 32 present. The next Rally will be held at Hardesty, Oklahoma December 9, 1963.

Katherine Gaston, Reporter

SOUTH TEXAS YOUTH RALLY

The South Texas Youth Rally met on November 2, 1963 at Buckhorn, Texas. There was an unusually good representation from the southern churches which made the service of much interest.

After various special numbers were given by the churches present, a questionnaire was given to youth representatives of each group. The book of Jonah was the subject matter. As a result, we all felt the need for a little more Bible study. The attendance banner was won by Hempstead.

The next Rally will be at Wayside Chapel December 1, 1963. The Young People there are planning a special Christmas program.

Liz Elkins, Reporter

YOUTH BANQUET

A Youth Banquet was held at the Camp Ground at Laverne, Oklahoma November 29. The theme was "Thanksgiving Harvest Festival." There were 111 present with 13 churches of the mid-west represented. Each youth group had a special on the theme of Thanksgiving, and Bro. O. A. Busch brought an inspiring message on "Our Wonderful Heritage."

The tables were decorated with pine cones, dried leaves, evergreen and candles. The young people of this area enjoyed it very much and are looking forward to a Retreat in the spring.

GOLDEN SPREAD RALLY

"Are You Thankful" was the theme for the last Golden Spread Youth Rally, which met at Sunray, Texas, November 24, 1963. Bro. Neil Ragan led the congregational singing accompanied at the piano by Sister Velora Adair. A "Brief History of Thanksgiving" was given by Linda Barnett, Donna Stephens, Larry Barnett and Judy McCarly from Sunray, and Linda Adair from Canyon.

The special singers were: Linda Barnett and Donna Stephens, duet; Rita Conn, solo; Adair trio. Scripture reading was by Ann Adair. After an inspirational testimonial service, the Rally was closed by an altar service and a poem read by Beverly Peck.

Dumas, Texas gained possession of the Attendance Banner with a total of 27 present. The other churches were well represented also, with a grand total of 100 present.

Diana Summerford, Reporter

Testimonial

"And I saw as it were a great light."

There are those who will read this who will not believe—for I have often been guilty of being skeptical of such testimonies. Nevertheless, the Spirit bears witness it is true!

Because of such doubts, I found myself so bound I was unable to seek the Holy Spirit, for I knew in my heart I must believe or I could never receive. Yet, I thank God for a deep abiding faith—a result of childhood teachings in our Apostolic Church in Alvin.

I have always remembered Sis. Edna Mae told me that "the Holy Spirit comes in at the end of a perfect praise." Then last Friday night (Oct. 11) Bro. Gail said we must "work out our salvation". So, when I could find no spirit of prayer, I started to sing softly—I can always sing! So, I began to praise the Lord in the only way I really knew how. I don't know how long I sang—but I became completely lost with God.

Suddenly, I heard my voice in another language—there was a

burst of light—and I was completely astounded to find myself within the very presence of God—completely surrounded by the brightness of His light. I sang as I have never sung before! Yet, not I, but the Holy Spirit through me, in English now—but from deep within my throat, not my usual shallow, nervous sound. I sang for God alone—who am I, that I have been permitted this marvelous, glorious experience? I am nobody special, but all things were made new—it's Monday and I'm still rejoicing.

Our 14 year old son prayed through last night. He said he saw no light, but he talked in another language for hours. I heard him speak in the night when he turned over in bed. So, for each person, it is different.

God has been so good to us. We've had a glorious revival. I was singing the chorus to Stuart Hamblin's "How Big Is God" when I prayed through and I've been singing for three days! I became hoarse Sunday, but it pleased the Lord to touch my throat and permit me to sing this beautiful song Sunday night. I added an extra chorus to relate my experience:

"I've walked with God—
I've journeyed to the throne of light—
So over-whelmed to in His presence be—
I've bridged the gulf transported—
with His Spirit filled
All things are changed—so changed—
I've walked with God."

Perhaps these words will encourage someone to seek the Holy Spirit, as others encouraged and prayed for me. You see, I lacked the hungering to seek. Why? God has been so good to me all my life—blessed me in everything—many times, even before I would ask. He has given me a special gift with music, and I felt like an ungrateful child—asking for more and more. So, I just stopped to sing songs of praise to thank Him for what He had already done. And somehow, I reached that glorious place which words cannot rightly describe.

All glory and all praise belong to Him!

"How Big Is God!"

Martha Etta Flora

Alvin Apostolic Church.

Battle of Armageddon

The Battle of Armageddon will be the last battle fought. It is the last battle fought before the Millennium. The name Armageddon is taken from Megiddo, which, is a village that lies at the southern edge of the Plain of Jezreel. "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Revelation 16:16). The war will be between the Anti-Christ and Christ. It consists of three nations (1) King of the North (Russia). (2) King of the South, which is ten nations or ten horns, then it will be one little horn which is the Anti-Christ, governing Southwestern Asia, Europe and Africa, (with seat at Babylon: but) upon his ascension to the position of Anti-Christ, his headquarters are established at Jerusalem. (3) Kings of the East, but the battle will be between the King of the North and the Kings of the South against Jesus.

What brings about the battle is the King of the South and the King of the North have a desire for the possessions of all the wealth of the land. The King of the North, will gather all the Military Forces in his Kingdom, and comes down like a whirlwind and follows the route of General Allenby into Jerusalem. "And thou shalt come up from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army." "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the north."

Part of the city of Jerusalem will be taken, thus begins the struggle.

Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

The nation will come against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be taken and the houses rifled and the women ravished, and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. (Zech. 14:1-2).

Then Jesus shall come as a thief in the night. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

The Beast and the Kings and armies will gather together as one. "About this time Christ shall appear coming in the heavens." He will come down with the Redemption class and the Bride class will meet him in the air. Then they will all come down and Jesus' feet will touch the Mt. of Olives and it shall be divided and cause a great valley. The Bride class will be in the valley made by the division of the Mount.

Warring elements help in the Battle of Armageddon. Men are afraid of these elements. Hailstones fall from Heaven, great and heavy, about the weight of a talen which is about 50 to 60 pounds. These hailstones, melting and mingling with blood of the slain, will flow along the battle line, forming a red river for the entire length of the battle line from Megiddo to Bozrah, a distance of 1,600 furlongs, or about 160 miles. "And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." (Revelation 14:21).

Also their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

After the blood is subsided the birds of the air and the beast of the fields are invited. "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of Kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

And the remnant were slain

with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword preceded out of his mouth; and all of the fowls were filled with their flesh. Rev. 19:21.

Following this feast all the people of Palestine proceed to gather the wood from off of the battlefield, which provides fuel for seven years, so that nothing is taken out of the forest.

"And they that dwelt in the cities of Israel shall go forth and shall set on fire and burn the weapons both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves and the spears and they shall burn them with fire for seven years."

"And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying them, that they may cleanse the land." "And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search.

"And the passengers that pass through the land when any seeth a man's bone then shall he set up a sign by it, til the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog."

"And also the name of the city shall be Hammonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land."

So the battle of Armageddon shall end. The Gentile Age is ended and we then have the Millennium.

Theme from Prophecy Class, 1962

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

By EVELYN R. LIBBELL

Christmas like the Bible means varied things to man—

To some a reawakening of God's momentous plan.

To some a day of gladness, a special time and place,

To give a gift, to greet a friend, or wear a smiling face.

But some there are, who seem to me, forever set apart;

Who through the years serenely walk with Christmas in their heart.

Our lives are judged not so much by their length of days and years as by their breadth of visions and sympathies and outlook.

HOLY CONVOCATION

(Num. 28:18)

December 26 -- 31, 1963

LIBERAL, KANSAS

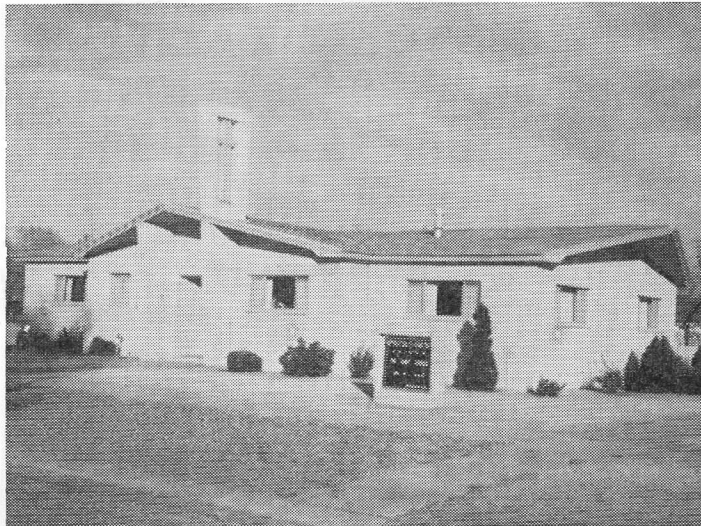
— AT THE —

Apostolic Faith Church - 6th & Roosevelt

First Service
9 a.m. Thurs.
Dec. 26th

Last Service
2:30 p.m., 31st

Watch
Night
Service
at
Laverne



Common
Table
at
National
Guard
Armory
Extreme
West 7th

COMMITTEE

TED BARKER
Box 133
Hardesty, Okla.

JERRY McCLENAGAN
1103 W. 2nd
Liberal, Kansas

LOWELL LONG
Box 323
Beaver, Okla.

Room Reservations: Ted Barker, Box 133, Hardesty, Okla.,
Phone TU 8-4335

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We bring you a wish that is true and sincere,
A hearty new wish for a happy new year,
With blessings uncountable coming your way
Through season by season, and day after day.

That Springtime bring beauty to heart, soul, and mind,
That beauty which all of God's children can find
In everyday service and worship revealed,
As well as in garden, or forest, or field.

May summer bring happiness, sunshine and song,
To make life a joy for you all the day long;
And may your surroundings be lighted by love

As clear and as bright as the blue sky above.

May Autumn bring harvest from well chosen seeds
Of kindest, friendliest thoughts, words, and deeds,
No wasted, neglected, lost hours to regret,
But sheaves of accomplishment, duty well met.

May winter bring memories sweet to recall,
A whole year of peace and of good will to all,
Of twelve months well spent in Christ's kingdom on earth,
Until, once again, we shall honor his birth.

We bring you these wishes, all true and sincere;
We hope they will give you a happy New Year.

—Edith Sanford Tillotson.

THE BEST GIFT

God does not see the lavish gift
Made for all eyes to view;
He does not see the costly price
Of big things sparkling new.
He sees the small and honest gift
That's given from the heart,
The kind of gift that love alone
Is able to impart.
The thoughtful act so simply done,
The deed of kindness—
It is the gift of one's own self,
That can most truly bless.
Then let us give the gift Christ gave
When He was here on earth—
He gave his love that we might know
What gifts of love are worth.

—Rega Kramer McCarty.

Good manners and soft words
bring many a difficult thing to pass.

WEST COAST CONVOCATION

OF THE

APOSTOLIC FAITH

BETHEL WAYSIDE CHAPEL 836 South Drake, Stockton, Calif.

December 26 -- 31, 1963

COMMITTEE

LEE BROCK
2636 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, Calif.

ROSS BRILES
Modesto, Calif.
241 Emerson

BILL PATTERSON
804 S. Drake
Stockton, Calif.

Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Bible Lesson 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.

Worship Service 2:00 p.m.
Youth Service 6:30 p.m.
Evangelistic Service ... 7:30 p.m.

MEALS WILL BE SERVED AS THE LORD PROVIDES
ROOMS AVAILABLE AT MOTELS, HOTELS, AND IN PRIVATE HOMES

For further information, contact the committeemen

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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