

# CHRISTMAS



A  
Special  
Time

The Apostolic Faith Report

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**THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT**  
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## THE UNIQUE CHRIST

Jesus Christ was born in the meanest of circumstances, but the air above was filled with the hallelujahs of the heavenly host. His lodging was a cattle pen, but a star drew distinguished visitors from afar to do Him homage.

His birth was contrary to the laws of life. His death was contrary to the laws of death. No miracle is so inexplicable as His life and teaching.

He had no farms or fisheries, but He could spread a table for five thousand and have bread and fish to spare.

He walked on the waters, and they supported Him.

When He died, few men mourned: but a black crepe was hung over the sun. Though men trembled not for their sins, the earth beneath shook under the load. All nature honored Him; sinners alone rejected Him.

Three years He preached His gospel. He wrote no book, built no church, had no monetary backing. But after 1900 years, He is the one central character of human history, the perpetual theme of all preaching, the pivot around which the events of the age revolve, the only Regenerator of the human race.

Was it merely the son of Joseph and Mary who crossed the world's horizon 1900 years ago? Was it merely human blood that was spilled on calvary's hill for the redemption of sinners, and which has worked such wonders in men and nations through the centuries? Obviously not.

What thinking man can keep from exclaiming: "My Lord and My God!"



### 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.

2:(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3:And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

4:And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5:To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6:And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7:And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8:And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9: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.

10:And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11:For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12:And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13:And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14:Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15: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.

16:And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17:And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18:And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19:But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them her heart.

20:And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

# AFBC NEWS

As we write these few lines we reflect back over the past few months of our study here at the Bible College. I feel they have been rewarding times as we of the faculty have seen the lives of our students grow and mature in the Lord and His Word. The weeks have gone fast and soon, on January 9th, we will begin our Spring Semester.

There have been many spiritual high times for each of us, for the Lord has given of His great blessings. On our recent choir trip we also experienced the blessing of the Lord in each service. Our "thanks" to all the pastors and churches who opened their doors to us. For many of our students these were thrilling times they will never forget.

We want to say "thanks" to all who have prayed for and supported the work here. You have been faithful and thus many lives have been touched. Please continue to remember this work. Also remember the faculty at this Christmas holiday time. They need your support.

An invitation is opened to anyone who would like to come and study the Word of the Lord. Our semester will begin January 9th and close May 10th. Also we welcome anyone who would like to come visit.

Supt. Jack Cornell

## Girl's Dorm

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee: which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men. Psalms 31:19.

"Isn't God Good?" What a statement and truly He has proved Himself over and over again to us this semester. We have had a great time of fellowship and study. I can see a growth in each one of the students this year and I pray they continue to grow strong in the Lord.

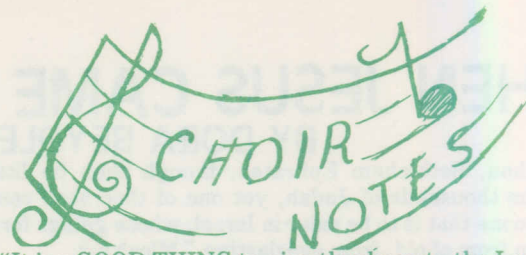
We have many precious moments we will always remember and many fun times also. The girls can always tell you about the big squirrels we had on the roof of the dorm one night. What an experience. And many, many more. We thank each one of you for your prayers, they have been invested wisely. As this Christmas Season draws closer, may we remember the little baby that came in a manger. May we show forth the Love to others that God showed to us by sending His only Son. May God Bless you all this Christmas Season.

Tony Bartel

## Boy's Dorm

Greetings from the boys dorm. This semester seems to really have passed quickly. The rapid pace that is set from the very start makes school seem very short. All the guys in the dorm this year are of exceptional character. Except for the fact that sometimes they have trouble keeping their rooms up to par, everything runs real smooth in the dorm. Already we can see the Lord working in many ways in the school. The students are earnestly seeking the Lord's will for this lives and their future. Each day as the Word of God is instructed, we can see added spiritual growth and maturity in their lives. I'm glad to know though, that when these students leave and go about their different ways, that they can continue learning and growing in the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We can never learn too much! Pray for each of the students and also for the teachers and workers here at the college so that the Lord can really work in the way that He can be glorified.

Danny M. Robinson



"It is a GOOD THING to give thanks unto the Lord and to sing praises to Thy name O Most High."

The truth of this passage is very real to the AFBC choir, having just completed our fall tour which consisted of fifteen concerts in the Oklahoma-Texas Panhandle area. It IS a GOOD THING to sing praise to the Lord; whether in worship directly to God, in songs of encouragement to the Church, or in singing songs of salvation as a witness to the lost. Music is not meant to replace preaching (I Cor. 1:21), but music does minister when it has a message and is sung with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As a choir, it is always our goal to present this type of music and to see people touched through the blessing of the Lord.

The Lord deserves all praise and honor, as always, for what was accomplished. We saw at least four souls saved and felt the conviction of the Spirit heavily in many services. It makes us to know the Lord is still unwilling that any should perish and is seeking to save the lost.

The choir was privileged to sing in three high schools while on tour. What a great way for our students to be able to minister to other young people; we can be proud of the witness our students shared in these schools and throughout the trip.

We must especially thank all those who opened their homes and churches to us. Without your generosity and hospitality, these outreaches from our Bible College would not be possible. We realize also that it takes much work and preparation to see almost thirty people provided with food, baths, and beds. We love and appreciate you for your willingness to minister to us in this area of physical needs. May God bless each church, home, and family.

Let us share with you some comments from our students taken from their written reports on choir tour. They encourage us to continue to invest our time, effort, finances, and prayer in the ministry of the Bible College.

"During choir tour, the thing I learned most was how to carry a burdeh for a service."

"To me, it was an experiance in witnessing to people I had never seen or heard of before."

"I learned alot about communicating and meeting new people."

"It really helped me because I tend to be shy about singing in front of people, but I have sung a special since tour and I wasn't even nervous."

It showed me that witnessing through song is very important."

I learned to depend on the Lord more for strength."

"The biggest blessing to me was when people came to the altar and accepted the Lord as their own personal Savior. It was wonderful to know that I had even a small part in it."

Our thanks goes continually to the Lord for this good choir tour; for His protection, healing, strength, wisdom, comfort, encouragement, and ever present help.

We are more convinced than ever that, truly it IS a GOOD THING to sing praises to His name.

Janae Harris

A.F. Report

# THEN JESUS CAME

BY DORA BEYDLER

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet one of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2

Micah prophesied during the same time as Isaiah who also prophesied of a coming Savior. Isaiah said, "Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel." Isaiah 7:14b. Then in Isaiah 9:6,7 we read, "For unto us child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will preform this."

These men preached under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost of a time that was yet future to them. They gave the people a renewed promise that the Savior would come. Micah said He would come to Bethlehem, a small town but rich in history. Jacob had buried Rachel near there. It was the city of Elimelech (husband of Naomi and father-in-law of Ruth). It was the home of Boaz who later became the husband of Ruth. David was born there and it was also where Samuel anointed David to be the future king of Israel. Bethlehem was the site of the well from which David's three heros brought him water. All of this history was before the days of Isaiah and Micah and it was long after their days that Micah's prophecy brought another day of importance to the quiet little town in the hills just a few miles out of Jerusalem when Bethlehem became the birthplace of the promised Messiah. A few years later another prophecy, Jeremiah 31:15, was fulfilled there when all the male children under the age of 2 years were slain by the order of Herod.

The Jews longed for their Deliverer to come. They had been oppressed by foreign rule for years. They were passed from the Seleucids to the Egyptians and back again to the Seleucids and now the Romans controlled their land. Foreign suppression was cruel and most of their own religious rulers were so corrupt they brought more troubles to the common people. The Jewish leaders made the rules to fit their own desires and to save themselves from the disfavor of the Romans. Yes, the Jews in general, longed for their King to come but they didn't realize that before He would be the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" He would come as the "Lamb of God". They forgot that the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah said He would come as a Babe, born of a virgin in a small town. They looked at the part still in our future when He will be King of Kings, and rule for a thousand years. To those oppressed people the main desire was to be liberated from the Roman tyranny. So in their earnest longing for that Promised One they expected a King to drive the foreigners from their land. They continued to follow their rituals in worship and could not understand that God no longer had any respect in their offerings. All they had was an outward show in their formal worship and God wanted them to look to Him for their spiritual needs.

Then the time came and as Isaiah had prophesied, God chose a virgin. "The angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a

man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:26b, 30-33. Later the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:20c,21. Then reading on in verses 22,23 "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

But Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth and Micah said Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. But these things are no problem to God. He knows just what to do and often uses people who do not know anything about Him or His Word to bring things around that His work might be accomplished. So in due time, Caesar sent out a decree that all the Empire should be registered again. It as a Jewish custom that each man should go to his ancestral city to be counted and Joseph being of the city of David, returned to Bethlehem for the registration. Though neither Roman nor Jewish law required Mary to accompany Joseph to Bethlehem, evidently the leading of the Holy Ghost prompted her to go. While they were there her days were accomplished and she brought forth her first born. Luke 2:6,7.

Jesus came as had been prophesied but not even those who longed for that day expected Him to come to a lowly carpenter's home. Had anyone known He was of the family of David, of royal birth or of a wealthy family He would have no doubt have had a royal welcome. But God had a different plan. There was no room in the inn when Mary and Joseph arrived that day in Bethlehem, and they found shelter in a stable. This stable was probably a cave or stone grotto which was used for cattle. We often think about their being given shelter in a stable with the thought that had the inn-keeper known who he was turning away he could have made room for them. But there is another line of thought to consider. there was always much noise and confusion and little privacy in such inns. Many of them had no private rooms but were only a shelter from the weather and perhaps a warm meal. This inn may have been more than most of them but at best it was a crowded place. To consider this makes one to feel perhaps they may have found more comfort and privacy in the stable. God in His infinite love and wisdom knew what was best and perhaps planned it that way.

God also knew Herod would not welcome the news of a new king's birth. The Priests, along with the scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees were all so blindly proceeding in their own way they had no time to hear the angelic choir announcing the Saviors birth. But He also knew the lowly shepherds out on the lonely hillsides would rejoice at the glad tidings. So it was to the shepherds near Bethlehem, on the same pasture land where David watched his father's sheep a millennium before, that the angels came. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over the 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 Savior, 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." Luke 2:8-14. Luke goes on to say the shepherds hastened to Bethlehem and found the new King just as the angels had announced. I seem to hear the quiet awe as the shepherds worship Him there in the cave and remember the words of the choir and the message they brought. Although it is possible, in keeping with the general trend of looking for an earthly king to save them from the Romans, the shepherds could have interpreted the angels message as political and material. However the entire New Testament gives the unmistakable interpretation of it being moral and spiritual. The words given to Joseph in his dream said, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins", then again, "They shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us". What ever the interpretation by the shepherds, they became excited and hastened to spread the word about the Babe who was heralded by the angelic choir. Their influence though, appears to have been soon forgotten and remembered mostly by their own circle. However, Luke tells us all those who listened wondered at the things the shepherds told them. Some perhaps thought about it for a while but failed to understand the significance of it and their interest became momentary. We might see a likeness of today in this remembrance of that night. The Savior is found by the meek and humble, often by the poor and unlearned, while the rich and intellectually elite are unaware of His gracious presence. So often people are too busy trying to find their own way.

There were, however, some wise men in the east who were greatly impressed when they saw a new star. These men were not only scholarly but were also learned in the scriptures, and apparently wealthy. Some say these men were Chaldean astrologers. The Greek term "wise men", originally meant of the priestly caste among the Persians and Babylonians. Daniel though, was a Jew yet he was numbered among the Babylonian wise men. It is possible these wise men were of Jewish descent from those who remained in Babylon and Persia after the time of the Babylonian captivity. If so, perhaps they were well educated in the Hebrew prophecies and that would have been of great influence in their recognizing His star. The wise men were in the east but the star must have been west of them as they could not have followed it had it been east of them. This was no ordinary star. For them to have followed a regular star would have meant night time travel and due to the dangers along the way even large caravans did not travel at night. This star evidently guided them by day. This same word used for star is found in Revelation 9:1 where it says a star fell from heaven and the key to the bottomless pit was given to him. In this verse apparently an angel was clothed in such brightness as to appear as a star. The star which led the wise men could have been an angel.

When the wise men arrived in Jerusalem and inquired about where to find the new King, Herod and all Jerusalem were much troubled. "And when he had gathered all the

chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel". Matthew 2:4-6. When the wise men left Herod, they again saw the star and it led them to the house where Joseph, Mary and Jesus were living. Matthew 2:11 says, "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mothers, and fell down and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh". Here He is called a young child which is a different title than when He was called the Babe which the shepherds found in the manger. Judging from the time it took to travel from Persia (it could have been the eastern part of Persia) and from the age Herod placed upon the children of Bethlehem to be slain, Jesus was probably between the age of one to two years old when the wise men found Him. The Bible does not say how many wise men but they brought three gifts. One gift was gold which was most appropriate to give a king; the second gift was frankincense. It was a gift for a priest, since the priests offered it in the temple. Myrrh, the third gift, was the gift for one who would die. I found an interesting thought in the meaning for the name "Bethlehem". It means "house of bread" and Jesus once said "I am the bread of life".

After the wise men left, God gave Joseph another dream, a warning to take Mary and the young child and flee to Egypt to escape the decree of Herod. They remained in Egypt until Herod died and Matthew 2:14 says this was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Hosea 11:1, "Out of Egypt have I called my Son". After the death of Herod, God again spoke to Joseph in a dream, telling him to return to Israel. "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene". Matthew 2:23.

As I sit here pondering the fulfillment of so many prophecies made so many years ago by men of God from various walks in life, I am amazed at the greatness of a God who spoke the words and then was able against enormous obstacles to bring them to pass. But I think the most overwhelming thought is the tenderness of the love He had that caused Him to pay such a price to purchase back a wayward and sinful people that we might enjoy His salvation. The thought of being a part of something so great just makes me feel so small and my heart fills with gratitude. THANK YOU JESUS.

## Prayer

Prayer is so simple--  
it is like quietly opening a door  
And slipping into the very presence of God;  
There in the stillness  
To listen to His voice;  
Perhaps to petition  
Or only to listen;  
It matters not;  
Just to be there  
In His presence  
Is Prayer.

## AMARILLO, TEXAS

We thank the Lord for His blessings to our church this past month. The fall school term is in its second six weeks and we need to continue to pray for all of our young people, that they can stand fast for the Lord and not be swayed by peer pressure.

We pray that our attendance will continue to pick up now that summer vacations are over and we are all back in our work routine.

We invite you to come and worship with us if you are in the Amarillo area.

Brent Blythe-Pastor  
Marietta Heisch-Reporter

## ENID, OKLAHOMA

Greetings from the Apostolic Faith Church of Enid.

We are very thankful to the Lord for answering our prayers and sending us such good people to pastor our church. We have really learned to appreciate and respect Bro. and Sis. Robert Beydler. They have been an inspiration to all of us.

We have enjoyed some terrific services since they have come to be our pastors. We have also had some great lessons on Sunday night from Sis. Dora's book on Revelation. We are expecting some really good things to happen in our church. We would really like to see an increase in our attendance. We believe there are a lot of folks in Enid who need a church to attend and pray God will help us reach those who need Him.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to drop in and attend our services at any time. Our doors are always open to visitors and I can assure you, you will receive a warm welcome from all of us here in Enid, Oklahoma.

Bro. & Sis. Robert Beydler-Pastors  
Brenda Phares-Reporter

## WEBB CITY, MISSOURI

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice. Phil. 4:4. We at our church are rejoicing because of the Lord's presence we have been feeling in our services. We are so blessed.

In September we had a revival with our pastor, Bro. O. A. Busch ministering to us each night.


We have also enjoyed having students from the Apostolic Faith Bible College visiting in our services. They are all a blessing to us. We can really tell that the Lord has been teaching and blessing them so much. We missed them while they were on choir tour in October but were happy to hear that there were some saved because of their efforts.

We have had several visiting ministers with us these past few months. Bro. Tony Jacobs filled in for us before Bro. & Sis. Busch came. Bro. Dwight Wilson filled in for us while our pastor was on vacation. Also Bro. Richard Morris, Bro. Jim Arnall and Bro. Gene Cornell have ministered to us.

In December we are looking forward to our church Christmas supper and our Christmas program. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Vanessa Oakes-Reporter  
O. A. Busch-Pastor

# DECEMBER NOTES



## UNION CHAPEL

Greetings from the Union Chapel Church! The church has been greatly blessed the last few months. The O. A. Busch's were sent to us and God worked through them and the church was blessed and strengthened. Since the Busch's left in July, the Lord has supplied our need. Those who have helped are: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Price and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bergen and singing group and Randy Dalton, who came the most and helped. Randy and the others were great for the church. The church now has a regular pastor who is Wapel Ferguson, formerly of Cave Spring, Ar. We are thankful that the Lord has sent us a pastor. Pray much that God will have His way in everything and that the church will grow. We are remodeling the parsonage. Come by and visit us.

Pastor-Wapel Ferguson

## BAYNARD, NE.

Greetings from the "Sonbeams". God is really blessing our young people and children.

We started our Wednesday evening children's church about a year ago. We started with one teacher and five students. Now we have grown. We have five teen helpers and over 20 students, ranging from age one to 12 years of age. Praise the Lord!! They are so hungry. God says He will fill our empty vessels, all we have to do is be willing to tip them up right. We have seen such a growth in these little ones. We have given away close to 10 children's Bibles. The children earn these by learning the Books of the Old Testament. The Sonbeams have started a missionary offering. Each month they send their offerings, 100% to whoever the Lord leads. The children are urged to earn this money themselves. Our children are praying for you and your churches that God will richly bless. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Pastor-Kevin Cornell  
reporter-Tena Cornell

## PROSPERITY, MO.

Changes can be scary sometimes and quite difficult too. But...changes can be good when they bring about growth. And that's what our little church in Prosperity has been experiencing over the last few months--growth. Last March, we were blessed with being able to buy new pews for the church. In October, everyone pitched in and helped to tear down the old tile ceiling. Bro. Jim Higley then, with the help of two others, put up new sheetrock and textured the new ceiling. They were such nice and beautiful changes to the inside of the building. But, there have been more important changes than these. We have been growing in spirit and number. Our Sunday School attendance has doubled in the

last three or four months. New families have come in and several new children. We're looking forward to starting a separate children's church and getting up a youth group again. Everyone seems to be growing and all are so willing to be involved and help out in God's work.

We pray that our growth will reach out to many more in the community and that the Lord will bless our little church and help us continue to change and grow in the Spirit of our Lord. May He bless all our churches and may He bless you!!

Pastor-Tom Day  
Reporter-Carrie Reed

## HARDESTY, OKLA.

We thank God for His blessings on His church in every place. We at Hardesty are rejoicing in the Lord as He has helped us to move forward in the ministry of the word. We are now, as God leads us, preparing to build for the glory of God. Plans are now being drawn for a 40' x 70' steel building to be erected on the north side of our present sanctuary. The initial use of this building will probably be for a fellowship hall and classrooms. With growth, it may then be converted to a larger sanctuary, with the present building being made into a kitchen and fellowship hall. We ask an interest in the prayers of all the brethren that we shall accomplish this for the glory and praise of God. We are looking forward with excitement to the new kinds of ministries that we will be able to set forth now. On Sunday, October 30, we had a "Basketsful and Cups Running Over" service. This was a time of giving for the building. As God prompts people to give, we expect to receive the finances it will take. All this building is made possible through the work and anointing of the Holy Spirit. May God bless His children everywhere.

Yours in Christ,  
Ollie Kinser

## ROCKDALE, TEXAS

We have neglected sending news to the Report for several months, so we will bring you up to date on our church news.

In April Bro. Ted Barker of Laverne, Okla. was with us for special services. His ministry was a special blessing to us. Bro. Calvin Springer was with us in June for a revival. His wife, Doris, and daughter, LeeAnn, assisted with music and special singing. Bro. Paul Carrol and wife, Darnell, have visited and Bro. Paul has brought some inspiring messages.

Joan Hall from Roswell, New Mexico was here visiting her parents, the Floyd Blackmons. Joan's daughter and husband, Tammy and Dwayne Wilkerson, were also here and they all favored us with special music.

Charles and Debbie Ament visit occasionally and both are very talented musicians. Debbie is the daughter of Jerry and Peggy Hosek.

Bro. Jerry Criddle has ministered to us several times. His wife is having severe headaches and is really in need of healing. Please remember her in prayer.

One of our young men graduated and moved away. We were sorry to lose Bro. Todd Russell, but he visits often and we are always glad for these visits.

Our two sons, Marty and Warren and their families moved here in the spring. We enjoyed having them with us through the summer. Marty and Sandy recently move

to Killeen, Texas where Marty is teaching school. Warren, Dora and daughter, Allison, live in Rockdale. Dora directed a Vacation Bible School for us on August 4. We had 46 enrolled and feel it was a help to the church.

One new family has recently been attending services and have made this their church home. We praise God for His many blessings.

Roland Haney-Pastor  
Loretta Haney-Reporter



## Brening

Mike and Peggy Brening of Kingman, Ks. announce the birth of their second son, David Alan. David was born on September 16, weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces and measuring 20 and one-half inches long. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brening of Aurora, Colorado. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Gray, also of Aurora.

## Waggoner

Bill and Rhonda Waggoner, Rt. 2, Elkins, Ark. are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Jacob Allen, born October 25, 1983. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 21 inches long. Jacob was welcomed home by Kristal and Jason. Maternal Grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Glen Sanger of Elmwood, OK. Paternal Grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Waggoner, of Elkins, Ark. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Zana Yeakel also of Elkins, and Mr. & Mrs. Glen Waggoner, Roswell, New Mexico.

## NOTICE

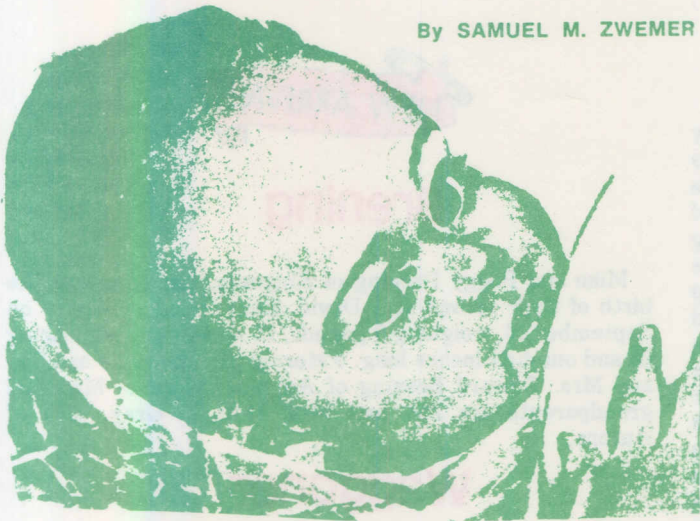
A quarter a time is what the Post Office charges us whenever a copy of the Report is returned with a reader's new address. If you are moving, won't you tell us at once, allowing at least 4 weeks for the change? Send the mailing label from the back page so we will know your old address.

**Deadline!**

Copy must be in by the 15th of the month to be in the next month's issue.

# The mystery of Bethlehem

By SAMUEL M. ZWEMER



Within the covers of a small pocket Testament is hidden and disclosed the greatest mystery of the ages. The two foci of the great ellipse of Christian teaching are the incarnation and the Atonement, the manger and the cross. And we can never understand what took place on Calvary or at the empty tomb unless we know who it was that was born in Bethlehem 19 centuries ago.

"At Bethlehem," said Leo the Great, "two natures met together on one Redeemer. Nothing is wanting in either; entire majesty and entire littleness; His the infirmity whose is the power. The selfsame person is both capable and conqueror of death. God knit Himself to manhood in pity and in power; either nature was in the other; and yet neither in the other lost its property."

What a rebuke such a magnificent ancient theological statement is to the frivolous and superficial words we often use at Advent season when we speak of a merry Christmas!

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us at Bethlehem, and ever since those who believe that the Word was God have seen this glory, a glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Read again those early chapters in Matthew and Luke and John, and then read Paul's interpretation of them in Colossians the first chapter. Then your Christmas joy will be deeper and fuller, for great is the mystery of the Incarnation. The central figure in the story of Bethlehem is not Joseph or Mary or the shepherds or the angels or the Magi-but the Holy Child.

"I cannot tell why He whom angels worship  
Should set His love upon the sons of men,  
Or why as Shepherds He should seek the wanderers  
And bring them back, I know not how or when.  
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,

When Bethlehem's stable was His only home,  
And that at Nazareth he lived and labored,  
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come."

The oldest Christmas carols join together the manger and the cross in their exuberant joy. They see it even in the holly leaves that deck the festival:

"The holly bears a blossom  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus  
As white as lily-flower  
To be our sweet Saviour  
The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus  
To do poor sinners good."

God's love manifested at the Advent was dying love, and we lose all the meaning of Christmas if we fail to realize that God loved us enough to send His son to be our Redeemer on the cross. The star and the cross go together. Do not separate them. The Incarnation was necessary to redemption. Even aged Simeon knew a little of it when he said to Mary, "A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also." And Mary understood the mystery of her Son's birth better at Calvary than at Bethlehem. Our merry Christmas needs that note to make it a holy Christmas. Then we shall have peace in our hearts and good will to men-the peace of God's Son, the Prince of Peace.

"I cannot tell how patiently He suffered  
When with His peace He graced this place of tears,  
Or how upon the cross His heart was broken,  
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, He heals the brokenhearted.  
And lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,  
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here."

In a sense never imagined by those who read the four Gospels, Jesus Christ has become the Saviour of the world. The prophecy of the angels has been fulfilled. The joy has reached to all peoples; and the story of the Nativity can now be read in over a thousand languages; and yet there are hundreds of tongues that have not yet spoken the message, and those who sit in darkness are still waiting for the light of the star that shone over the manger.

Dr. Zwemer, now deceased, was noted for his ministry among Muslims. He authored numerous books and served as professor of missions and history of religion at Princeton Theological Seminary.







## CAROL OF THE CENTURIES

Richard the Lion-hearted was a beloved king in British history who spent most of his time vainly attempting to recover Jerusalem from Saladin, the sultan of Egypt.

When the crusade was abandoned, King Richard was shipwrecked on his return home and imprisoned in Austria. His exact whereabouts was unknown.

According to legend, the king's favorite minstrel traveled near and far in search of his master. Everywhere he sang the king's favorite song, knowing that if the king heard it he would respond.

At length the minstrel came to the castle where the king was imprisoned, sang his song, and was rewarded to hear his king take up the melody from within the castle walls.

So it was with the song of the angels. The strains of hope and peace came to a world imprisoned by the adversary of mankind. That song proclaimed salvation and deliverance through the birth of Christ.

For 20 centuries the song has continued to penetrate the dungeons of dark despair, bringing hope to wretched captives, liberating the prisoners of sin.

And in every clime, wherever it is sung, the redeemed of the Lord take up the glad refrain. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

## THE CRADLE OR THE CROSS?

Christ was tenderly cradled and cared for in birth. Mary knew she had brought the Savior into the world.

But Jesus came with a death appointment. He kept an appointment with death made before the foundation of the world. He did not come to live so much as to die. He must needs come by the way of the cradle to go by the way of the cross.

No one ever lived the life Jesus lived because no one was ever born as He was born. He was born sinless. He lived sinless. His death was substitutionary. The reason God imputed all sin to Him was because in birth and life there was no sin in Him. He was made sin for others because He did not have sin as others.

His birth did not save us, but His birth made possible His death that does save us. What a Saviour! We may tarry at His cradle and be inspired by His life, but the vilest may look to His cross and be saved.

It involves a decision in the cemetery.

# A Christmas Carol

by V. Raymond Edman

For this season of the year the centuries have produced no story more intriguing or entrancing than Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* with its plot and personalities, memorable ones like Bob Cratchet and his courageous wife, and of course Tiny Tim; and alongside them, lesser personalities but equally delightful, Master Peter, Belinda, the nephew who so stoutly defended celebration at Christmastime, and by all means dear old Fezziwig.

Then too, there is the mournful and meaningful portraiture of the melancholy Marley, wandering forever with his locks and ledgers, account books and balances. All of them, the lovely and the lonely, revolve about Ebenezer Scrooge, greedy, grasping, and soulless.

The Carol brings to us 19th century London and its contrasting characters, with the atmosphere of dingy offices and little shops, of narrow streets and homes of poverty, of tall churches and little children.

We know the story so well we can almost repeat it by heart; nevertheless, we read it again and again. Christmas seems incomplete without the Carol and its spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and To Come.

These creatures of Dickens' vivid imagination lead the self-sufficient and self-centered Scrooge to complete deliverance from himself-first by reminding him of his youth and what might have been the course of his life had he not made gold his god; then by bringing to his remembrance the jolly celebration being held in the Cratchet home despite the grinding poverty to which he was the principal contributing factor.

However, Scrooge did not really come to the end of himself until the spirit of Christmas to Come led him to a lonely cemetery and the solitary stone which bore his name. Then it was that he implored the spirit that such should not be fate; and you recall how he awakened from his dream, clinging to his bedpost-a new Scrooge, with the true spirit of Christmas in his heart.

The point of *A Christmas Carol* is that the certainty of that solitary headstone on a grave brought Scrooge to a decision.

Christmas is not a time for thinking of cemeteries; and yet it is, for we remember that the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem's manger that He might die for us upon Calvary's cross. He, the Good Shepherd, came to give His life for us who were lost sheep.

We should remember that the Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment." And it also declares that the Lord Jesus "died, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." By receiving Him as our Saviour at this Christmastime we receive indeed God's greatest gift to us.

Just as in the dream Scrooge clung to the bedpost in utter penitence, so we in full consciousness and true repentance can make our decision to receive the Saviour as in faith we cling to His cross. Then *A Christmas Carol* will have pointed us to the true content of the Christmas story as announced by the angel, "He shall save His people from their sins." He does!

# THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

As it was in the beginning, so it is today some 19 centuries later: the road to Bethlehem is thronged with busy people, but very few of them will look upon the infant Saviour. Nearly everyone is too concerned with his own material needs or worldly pleasures to think of the birth of the holy child Jesus.

But there were some humble shepherds who had time to think of this great event. They were poor men, but honest and industrious. They were not leaders of armies, nor expounders of philosophies. Neither were they advocates of political theories, nor bankers counting piles of money. They were just throwers of stones whose job it was to keep the wolves away and they were keeping watch over their flocks that night when the angels sang the first Noel.

These humble shepherds traversed the road to Bethlehem. They had time to listen when the angel made the great announcement: "Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." They had time to listen to the angel's instruction too when he said "And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

The shepherds listened as the angelic choir sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And they were sensible enough to do something about it. They said one to another, "Let us now go into Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

They did not wait to finish a game of cards or take a few days to make their minds. They acted immediately, without delay. They did not say, "The first chance we get, we'll go and look into this thing." No, they went immediately. No doubt they detailed a minimum of their number to watch over the sheep, and the rest of them started out for Bethlehem without another moment's hesitation. The Bible says, "they came with haste" to find the inn where the babe was lying in a manger.

There were others too who trod the road to Bethlehem in search of the newborn King. They were Wise Men from an eastern country. In their far-off land they had seen His star and immediately they set out to visit Him, for they wished to worship Him and to bring gifts of homage. It mattered not to them how far they must travel. Anticipation made the distance shorter.

When God spoke to them through the star, they responded quickly. They came to inquire after Jesus. This should be the first impulse and ambition of men-to seek after Jesus, to become acquainted with Him, to worship Him, to serve Him. Nothing else is as needful or as important.

There were others who marched along the road to Bethlehem seeking out the baby who was born "king of the Jews." They were the soldiers of Herod, but they did not wish to worship Him. They sought to kill Him. Fortunately God had warned Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary and the Babe, and Joseph had obeyed without delay, so that Herod's wicked plan was frustrated.

Christ was holy, undefiled, separate from sinners, and fit to become our Saviour because He never sinned.

Jesus was God manifest in the flesh. "Having glory with God before the world began, loved by the Father before the foundation of the world, Jesus Christ was virgin-born. When Mary, overshadowed by the power of the Highest, went down into the mysterious land of motherhood, she came back holding in her arms the eternal Son of God!

"Christ's virgin birth, on which rests the credibility of the Scriptures and the sinlessness of Jesus, is the Alpha of our Christian faith. Accept that, and all else rightly follows.

"What was the grand design of the Saviour's birth? It was the redemption, by His death, of all fallen, guilty, helpless men and women. That was why He came down from heaven to be born as a human baby. 'God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law' and condemned with guilt (Galatians 4:4,5). He was named Jesus because His purpose in coming to earth was to 'save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). There is something sublime and delightful in that name Saviour."

"As the shepherds and the Wise Men made haste to come and worship the Saviour, will you not hasten to the cross where Christ died for you? You cannot come to a manger to look upon a Babe but you can come to Calvary and see, with your mind's eye, the mighty Saviour who died on that cross to save you from all your sins. He died not only to forgive you but also to set you free from the grip with which your sins have laid hold upon you. Christ can break the grip of sinful habits and sinful desires, and set you free."

The Bible says, "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Do not wait even for one hour. Think of Jesus now. Give yourself to Him now. Let this be the day of your salvation. When you have accepted the Saviour as your personal Saviour, and when you have acknowledged this King as your King, then you will praise God as heartily as the shepherds and Wise Men did that first Christmas, and you will say this gift of eternal life was the best Christmas gift any person ever received.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23).

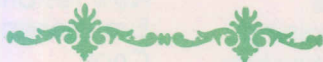
**May the holiday season bring  
the richest of God's blessings to  
you and your family.**

## Happenings in 1984



Valentine Banquet for all youth, youth sponsors, pastors and wives at the Apostolic Faith Bible College on February 11, 1984, 5:30 p.m. Special singing by the Royal Heirs Quartet of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Please notify of your coming and number coming.

AFBC  
Box 110  
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Teacher Training Seminar - Workshop

April 5-7, 1984 Kathryn Cornell

Subjects to be covered-  
The Ministry of Teaching in the Church  
Planning a Session  
Bible Learning Activities  
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Workshops-  
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## New Album-

Naomi Busch and Joan Cooper of Baxter Springs, Ks. and Sue Beaver of Granby, Mo. have recorded a new album titled MORE ABOUT JESUS that will be released around the first of December. There are 10 older songs of Praise about Jesus. Albums or cassettes will be available at \$6.00 each plus handling and postage.

Please order from:  
Rev. & Mrs. O. A. Busch  
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It is this ladies trio's desire that you can worship with them as you listen to these songs about Jesus and even sing along with them.

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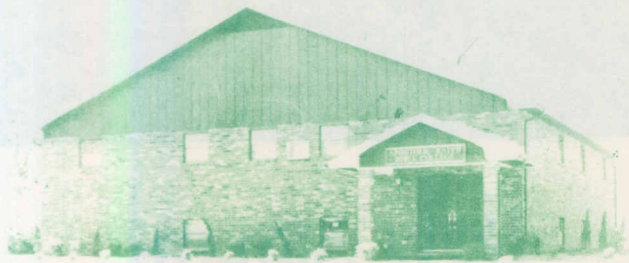
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# Apostolic Faith Bible College

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announces its  
**SPRING SEMESTER**  
January 9 - May 10, 1984



## Classes Offered

Bible Doctrine	Prophecy
The Epistles	New Testament History
Teacher Training	Evangelism
Christian Ministries	Choir
Music Appreciation	Organ
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## General Information

This is a Faith School, made available to all who want an opportunity to study God's word in a spiritual atmosphere.

A high academic, college level standard is maintained through 9 months of concentrated study.

## Entrance Requirements

1. In harmony with the Spirit and purpose of the school.
  2. Be willing to accept detailed work.
  3. Abide by school regulations.
  4. Each student will be required to take at least four subjects. Two of these must be Bible subjects.
- ALL students are required to maintain a passing grade.

## Accommodations

This school is supported entirely by free will offerings and gifts, without solicitation or collections.

Meals are served to all as the Lord provides. Students furnish personal effects including linens.

Dormitories for single students provided.

*If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*  
O Timothy 2:21

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