

# Editorial - - -

Many damaged carcasses are seen each year at packing plants, and these carcasses represent considerable monetary loss to both packers and shippers each season.

The usual causes of damages are bruises, abscesses, parasites, and serious injuries.

Recently another practice has caused damage to numerous carcasses when cattle have been injected with various antibiotics to treat foot rot, or tranquilizers before shipment. As a result of recent or improper injections many carcasses have to be severely trimmed. Some have been trimmed in the round, others in the flank and also on the shoulder.

One midwestern packer reports that a single shipment of 50 heifers contained 15 animals which required trimming due to an injection of tranquilizers.

Individuals making such injections should choose a site which does not contain valuable cuts of beef and be certain to use properly handled equipment and solutions.

The 92nd annual convention of the National Grange which came to a close recently, put itself on record as being unambiguously in favor of basic policies for the strengthening of the family-farm through self-help, commodity-by-commodity programs.

The oldest national farm organization called for "positive and constructive action" in the development of a program which would give family farm operators equality of opportunity in the building of a strong and prosperous nation, and in the sharing of the fruits of that prosperity.

The convention deplored the "negative approach" of those who would abandon constructive programs in favor of an attitude that "ignores the good and emphasizes the faults of our present programs."

The meeting emphasized the need for "understanding and cooperation" between farmers and urban consumers, pointing up that "there are no conflicts of interest . . . that have not been created by lack of sufficient understanding, or by carelessly created misunderstandings."

It is the stand of the Grange that

farmers can find no freedom in a "free economy" which denies them the bargaining strength of other segments of our national economy.

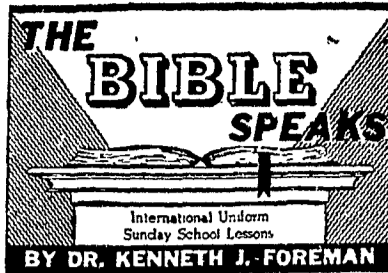
The national organization feels that the control of farm programs should be primarily in the hands of farmers and that the costs of farm commodity programs should be borne by the producers to the extent that the benefits of such programs accrue to producers. And they want returns to farmers for their products to be comparable to the returns in other segments of the economy for labor, capital, investment, risk and management involved.

Predicting that farm production would stay ahead of increasing demand, the convention said that "unless effective ways are devised to adjust production to effective market demand, total supplies will exceed demand under normal conditions, even if prices are permitted to go lower.

"We do not ask for advantages not shared by others," a Grange statement said, "nor do we seek special favors. We deny that farmers now receive or have received preferential treatment. On the contrary, we have not yet shared equitably in the rewards of an increasingly productive prosperous national economy to which we have contributed our full share of progress."

The Grange urged immediate priority on research to develop a program for control of leptospirosis in cattle, hogs and sheep; expressed concern that vertical integration will, if not controlled by farmers, shift management decisions to others than farmers; opposed automotive excise tax increases for any purpose; unambiguously rejected both alternatives in the Nov. 25 corn referendum as offering any prospect for adjusting production or stabilizing prices, urged increased emphasis on foreign aid programs for the development of markets; gave full support to the Soil Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Districts; and among other actions authorized construction of a National Grange headquarters at Washington, D. C., and voted to hold the 1959 convention in California. - -

—Eastern Indiana Farmer



Bible Material: Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-20.  
Devotional Reading: John 1:87-79.

## Joy

A MAGAZINE which advertises expensive things — cufflinks for \$100 and over, cute little earrings for \$500, mens shirts for \$15 each—carried once a full-page advertisement with exactly eight words besides the manufacturer's name. It read: "JOY—the most costly perfume in the world."

As an ad for perfume, that was obviously silly. It would appeal only to the kind of person who does not ask, "How good is this?" but "how expensive is it?" You do not raise the quality of your merchandise merely by raising the price.



Dr. Foreman

Nevertheless, as a parable, or a starting-point for meditation, that is worth several minutes' serious thought.

## Joy Is Life's Perfume

Perfumery is at the same time one of the most useless and yet most popular things sold. How many thousand gallons of it, will be sold for Christmas presents no one knows. And yet what good is it? A very practical-minded character might ask. All it does is to smell good. Ah, but that is just the point. Let the reader think back over the happiest moments of his or her life. Isn't it true that some sort of fragrance pervades each happy memory? The mint in Grandmother's back yard, the turkey at Thanksgiving, the smell of the Christmas tree, and the spring lilacs, and the perfume she wore the night she said "Yes." An odorless world would be a dull world. It's the pervasive and haunting fragrance of life that lift it out of the commonplace.

So with joy. Unlike perfume, it has no market value; but like perfume, its usefulness is mainly indirect. As there are cheap and vulgar perfumes, so there are cheap

and vulgar joys. But there are rare and exquisite joys too. The same situation, the same relationship, the same duty, the "same old story" can be for one person a drudgery, and for another a delight, because one person lacks the joy the other has. Just as literal odors make past moments memorable, so joy makes life's best moments memorable.

## Fragrance of Christmas

Christmas is a time of joyous fragrances; but if they are all for the body and none for the soul, we have missed the true fragrance of Christmas. There is a word in the Greek New Testament which, the first time it is used (John 12:3) means literally fragrance — the odor of the precious ointment which Mary poured on Jesus. Four other times it is used figuratively in speaking of the "fragrance" of the Christian life. This and another word (II Cor. 2:15, Eph. 5:2, Phil. 4:18) suggest that the Christian life is more than correct, it is lovely. Beauty is inwoven with Christianity. The perfume of joy comes to us in the song of the angels, in the song of Mary, in the adoration of the shepherds. Wherever Christ has come, it is as if sour and horrible odors had been replaced by fragrances from beside the River of Life. What are the high days the church celebrates? They are called, and they are, "feasts" or festivals. Christmas and Easter are seasons of joy; not reckless devil-may-care pleasure, which is quite another thing, but joy that links earth to heaven.

## Good News of a Great Joy

How stupid and twisted some definitions of religion seem, in the light of the Christmas story! You may detect at least some of the counterfeits passing for Christianity by this, that they are joyless, they are without fragrance. An enemy of Christianity once defined religion as a sum of scruples—in other words, a mess of Don't's! A would-be friend of Christianity defined this religion as "God's attack on man." We should take our cue from the joyous angels, not from such gloomy scholars. Did the angels sing, "You'd better be afraid—we have a whole new list of Don't's!" Did the First Angel shout in a voice of doom: "I come to announce God's attack on man!"—? Christmas is the word of freedom to men in prison, Christmas is the word of joy to a world in sorrow, the coming of a Rescuer to a world that was lost.

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Davidson

## THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

## DEBT TO CHRIST

This is the week, above all others, each year that we like to dwell for awhile on the deep significance of Jesus Christ and the Christian religion which He gave to the world.

Christianity is only one of the many religions the world has known. It is, however, much more than just another religion. Other peoples have worshiped and made sacrifices to the sun, the moon or to carved idols.

Christ, whose birth we observe this Holy Week, gave a meaning to life and to the brotherhood of man. Through the nearly twenty centuries since Christ was born, many men have sacrificed their life for Him, but not a life has been sacrificed to Him.

He lived and taught the dignity and the meaning of life, its purposes and its rewards on Earth as well as after death. Christianity is, truly, a way of life and of living that has made the world more beautiful and more satisfying.

### The Lesson of Giving

When we think of Christmas we think of Christmas gifts. In fact, "Christmas gifts" is about the most frequently used expression during this week. How many of us get more pleasure out of giving than receiving?

Christ said "it is more

blessed to give than to receive." He also said "give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over."

He said "there is no one who has given for His sake who shall not receive a hundredfold."

Does that sound very practical to you? Or does it sound like a beautiful but impractical theory heard only from the pulpit? Well, let's see how it has worked when applied to our Nation.

Almost a hundred years ago the United States was the first among modern civilized nations to give up slave labor. What did we receive? We have made America into the most mechanized and productive nation in the world.

### Our Brother's Keeper

Christ taught us that we are our brother's keeper and He said "inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, so have you done it unto me." During the past 15 years we have given liberally of our material wealth to the less fortunate people of the world.

We have, I believe, given more than \$30 billion worth of food, clothing, tools and other sustenance to the peoples of more than 40 nations. We have "cast our bread upon the waters" and it has

come back to us one hundredfold.

I am 70 years old and I have never seen a Christmas when the great majority of the people of this country had such good homes, as good food, as good clothes, as many of the conveniences that make life more satisfying.

This is a Christmas season when all of us can truly say Jesus was a wise prophet when He said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." For, in giving we have received many times over what we gave.

We have in our hearts that peace for which He died on the Cross of Calvary.

A Georgia Exper. Station study showed that when poultry feeders are filled to the top, feed losses averaged as much as 45 per cent. When filled only two-thirds full, wastage dropped to 15 per cent; when half full losses were only five per cent, and when one-third full, a mere two per cent of the feed was wasted.

## Lancaster Farming

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



Max Smith

**TO VENTILATE AND INSULATE DAIRY BARNs**—Many barns filled with animals during these periods of extreme cold weather have ventilation and condensation problems. In some cases an electric fan exhaust system installed at the cold end of the barn will correct or improve both problems. Other barns may need some extra insulation, either on the ceiling above the cattle or on the sides and windows. Sweating windows and dripping ceilings and beams are a sign of the problem.

**TO GIVE SPECIAL CARE TO THE MILKING MACHINE**—One of the most used pieces of machinery on the dairy farm is the milking machine; this equipment is used at least twice a day and every day in the year. Frequent checking of key points such as the pump, belts, pulsators, vacuum lines and rubber parts and daily taking apart and washing of equipment which contacts the milk is strongly recommended for top quality production.

**TO PREPARE STATE FARM SHOW LIVESTOCK**—All cattle to be exhibited at the coming State Farm Show must meet certain health requirements; this relates to tuberculosis, brucellosis and shipping fever. Exhibitors are urged to refer to pages eight and nine of the Farm Show premium Lists in order to learn all requirements. Many of the tests and injections should be made soon in order to qualify.

**TO WATER TOBACCO SPARINGLY**—Reports have indicated that some tobacco farmers are using too much water on their tobacco in the cellar during the dampening process. In these cases the tobacco after going in bales will rot and decrease in quality. The spraying or sprinkling should be only enough to dampen the leaves and make them handle without breaking. The 1958 crop is thin and should not require large amounts of water to put into good handling condition.

**TO CHECK FARM EQUIPMENT**—In following the practice of putting farm machinery under cover for the winter, it is also essential that drills be cleaned out. The remaining bits of lime and fertilizer will surely corrode the metal parts and cause trouble next spring. Weed sprayers should be thoroughly drained and all moving parts oiled and greased.