

FROM WHERE WE STAND -

Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus

WE TAKE PLEASURE in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-Fifth St.

VIRGINIA, YOUR LITTLE friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men

to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

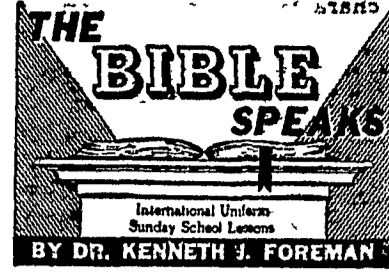
You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view the picture in the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives! and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

—The New York Sun, Dec. 21, 1897

The above is probably the most widely reprinted editorial ever written. Compared with the elegance of this piece, whatever we might add would be less than the babbling of little children.

May we wish for you and your family all the faith, fancy, poetry, love and romance that the coming Christmas season brings.



Bible Material: Isaiah 61; Matthew 11:27-30; Luke 7:18-23.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 42:1-10.

Promise Come True

Lesson for December 18, 1960

"IF OXEN could invent a God, it would look like an ox." So a scornful Greek wrote, long ago. He was making the point that men make gods in their own image—we like to think that God is like ourselves. This is all true; so the real God is not always like our pictures of him. Last week we recalled that although the Jewish people had long looked for a Deliverer, when the "coming one" came, they did not recognize him. This week we have an opportunity to look into this further. If Jesus, the Son of God, did not exactly match what people had expected, what was he like.



Dr. Foreman

Worker

If God himself took human form and walked our world's streets, what would we naturally expect? One thing we should look for is that he would surely do some great thing. A God, visible or invisible, who would only sit silently upon a throne, never lifting a finger, would be no sort of God at all.

So the ancient Hebrews thought, and so we think, and it is true. But when Jesus came, although his life was very busy, though he worked with all his might, he did not do the kind of things people looked for. He did not leap off a temple roof unharmed, as he was tempted to do. He did not send for 12 troops of shining angels to rescue him when his life was in danger. He did work miracles, but most of the things he did were not miraculous. And the miracles he did were simple, quiet, almost shy acts, never done to show off, always done to help some one. When Jesus said "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" he made it plain that

this Divine Spirit in him, itself in the healing and doing he did day by day.

This brings out the second point. The ancient Hebrews and we should all naturally expect that if God were here on earth, he would be of course the most powerful of all men. He would be by the absolute authority of his commands, he would be the way he bent all men to his mighty will.

Again they were disappointed and it can be doubted whether they should have been any surprised. We had been there. For Christ, the Son of God, was not known by the way he served. One of the passages in the Gospels, Jesus claims a knowledge such as no other has, come to him through the words of the yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The Son of God—we expect him to wear a crown, no, he carries a yoke. Only a slave wears a yoke. Only a slave carries burdens. Jesus speaks of himself in such a way as to call up not a picture of radiant glory, but just a servant ready to carry whatever burdens be laid there. Is that too

Friend

People who listened to Jesus were familiar with oxen as they were harnessed. You know two were very common (who perhaps had many oxen carved out ox yokes in the carpenter shop) speaks of the yoke of things when he says "I will yoke upon you." Let us go on a minute. Let us ask once again the question, if God himself came upon this earth, what might we expect him to do and to be? Something that would be natural to us, be on our side, and to our part. And so it is, but not to most of us would expect. We would want him to get us out of trouble, to share with us responsibility, to make things easy for us. Well, true, but again is a surprise. Christ the Promised Son of God, "true" in a way we had not expected. He offers us his friendship. Take my yoke—share the burden—lift the burdens of your side. We cannot know friendship if we never share the work.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Religious Community Press Service)



THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

The New Japan

Last summer we reported that some of our friends in Japan did not believe the riots which resulted in President Eisenhower canceling his visit represented the feeling of the majority of the Japanese people.

A more recent appraisal of what is happening in Japan, and what it means to us, has been written by another long-time friend, Charles W. Doyle, who has lived in Japan for many years.

He reminds us that the difficulties of American-Japanese relations grow out of the fact that each nation's views have been shaped by a different history. The Japanese are fearful of a return to the totalitarian police-state that existed before World War II, he points out.

Many of them view the military alliance with the United States as increasing the danger that the Japanese army will again become so

strong as to again rule the nation and destroy their new democratic government.

Not Anti-American

"It is definitely a mistake to explain the recent agitation as an outburst of anti-Americanism," Mr. Doyle writes. "On the other hand," he cautions, "to attribute it merely to the work of a noisy minority is misleading. Popular sentiment supported the demonstrators in their general aims."

The demonstrations, he contends, were not so much anti-American as they were anti-military. Mr. Doyle emphasizes that we need to understand the reasons behind the riots in order not to jump to the conclusion that Japan is turning against the U. S.

"Americans see international communism as the greatest threat to security, and all of our defenses are oriented in this direction," Mr. Doyle writes "but the Japanese consider that the greatest menace is from the right."

"To them anything is preferable to returning to the totalitarian police state. This cleavage of thought makes Americans not as acutely sensitive to the signs of resurgent militarism in Japan as we ought to be, and it makes the Japanese somewhat naive in their evaluation of communism."

Japanese Are Puzzled

Because of their different background Japanese find it hard to understand what the true aims of America are. Mr. Doyle says

"On the one hand," he says "America destroyed the hated militarists, on the other

she is now encouraging the creation of a new army. America made the present peace and prosperity possible, but now she seems to be jeopardizing this by pushing measures that antagonize Russia. "She gave Japan her constitution with the clause that renounces war, and now seems to be urging disregard of the constitution. She encouraged the Japanese to be politically active, but now frowns upon the political activity of students," Mr. Doyle says.

The article by Mr. Doyle emphasizes a point in our international relations which it seems to me, is of paramount importance. We Americans need to make a greater effort to understand the viewpoint of others, and to take that into account before criticizing them for not seeing communism through the same eyes as we see it.

International understanding must take into consideration what others think, rather than our own views alone.

Average per capita income of the farm population in 1959 was \$965—\$644 from farming and \$321 from non-farm sources. Per capita income of the non-farm population was \$2216.

Lighting the way to betterment is the finest profession known.

Rural Rhythms

WINTER NIGHT

By: Carol Dean Huber

The sky is deep and frosty clear;
The stars are twinkling bright.
The windows glow with welcome cheer;
It is a winter night.

The wind is cold; the snow is deep,
But we are safe inside.
The chores are done; it's time for sleep,
And here we will abide.

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO GET YOUR AGRONOMY GUIDE

The 1961 edition of the Penn State Agronomy Guide is now available. This publication covers all crop recommendations of the Extension Service and should be useful to every farmer in the state. Varieties of grains and seeds, as well as kinds and amounts of lime and fertilizer, are included. We urge all land owners to get their copy soon.

TO PROVIDE MINERALS

— Again stress the importance of an abundance of calcium and phosphorus in all livestock rations; this is especially important in the milking dairy herd, the young stock, and steer feeding operations. In dairy herds many breeding problems have been corrected by adding either dicalcium phosphate to the ration as a source of both calcium and phosphorus, or in more difficult situations the adding of mono-sodium-phosphate for added phosphorus could give good results. Minerals are very important in the reproduction system of farm animals and in proper bone development.

TO INSPECT CORN IN STORAGE

— Due to the heavy crop, many bushels of corn are being stored under poor drying conditions. This high-moisture corn will mold unless good ventilation is provided. Corn that is piled on a soft floor and surrounded by a hay mow, or solid wall, through which air cannot pass freely will certainly mold unless it was quite dry. Corn that is heating or molding should be moved to a place with cross-ventilation, or piled around an air duct through which air is forced by an electric fan.

TO FEED AMPLE HAY

— The rations for most successful dairy herds are based upon the heavy feeding of high quality hay and other roughages. Feed nutrients from quality roughages are cheaper than nutrients from grains or other mixed feeds. The milking herd should be fed plenty of hay at least three times daily; some grassland dairymen feed more frequently and feed results are good. The important thing is to give them all they can eat every day.

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly
P. O. Box 1524
Lancaster, Penna.
Offices:
53 North Duke St.
Lancaster, Penna.

Phone - Lancaster
Express 4-3047
Jack Owen, Editor
Robert C. Campbell, Advertising Director & Business Manager
Established November 4, 1955
Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lancaster, Pa.
Entered as 2nd class matter at Lancaster, Pa. under Act of March 3, 1879 additional entry at Mount Joy, Pa.
Subscription Rates: \$2 per year; three years \$5. Single copy price 5 cents.
Members Pa. Newspaper Publishers' Association; National Editorial Association