

FROM WHERE WE STAND

Who Art Thou, Lord?

"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."

In these days when men are breathing out threatenings and slaughter against other men as did Saul of Tarsus in those days of long ago, the words as written in the Gospel according to Saint Luke take on a strange significance.

And men around the world pause in their headlong plunge after the things of the world, just as Saul did, and ask, just as Saul did, "Who art thou, Lord?"

And a babe in Bethlehem replies, "I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd knoweth his sheep."

There are those doubters who will tell you it is all a myth, this story of the Babe in the manger — a pretty story for mothers to tell their children. There are those who will say that perhaps there was a Mary and a Joseph, and perhaps they did have a son in a stable in Bethlehem, but many other couples have had sons in stranger places than this.

These doubters may even go so far as to admit that this child, while just another child, might just possibly have been a little bit brighter than most children.

They, these doubters, will say that this Babe, when he grew to manhood was probably the best teacher who ever lived, but he was just another man. That is as far as the miracle goes.

But every time we see 1962 A.D. we will be reminded anew that this was no ordinary baby born in the lowly cave in the hillside near Bethlehem so long ago.

The birth of the child, unnoticed by all men, except a few ignorant shepherds of his own race and a few astronomers who had traveled far in search of a star and a king, heralded a new era on the earth—an era in which even the calendars of most of the people on earth would recon time from this night.

Born in a stable, never owning a single possession except the clothes he wore, never having a roof he could call his own, the Babe of Bethlehem left the world a bountiful heritage.

Never writing more than a few words in the sand, he gave the world some of its finest literature.

Never having had formal education, he became the greatest teacher the world had ever known.

Teaching patience and non violence he helped bring about the downfall of the Roman Empire, one of the mightiest man-made forces of all time, and left to the world a rich legacy in history and government even though he never ran for nor held a public office or entered into government himself.

Out of what he taught has sprung governments, philosophies, educational precepts, and a new way of life. Out

of his ideals have come the desire to build hospitals, to perfect new medicines and practices to help the sick, and aid the poor, the unwanted and the needy in all walks of life.

Libraries have been written about this Man—yes even about his birth, and yet the half has not been told — never will be told. For as it is written in the last chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, that which, if they should be written, every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."

And so when this Christmas season has passed, there will have been the doubters still, who said, "There was no miracle," but while they maintain this was just another baby, they remember his birthday after one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-one years. And they remember this miracle and say with us, "MERRY CHRISTMAS."

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

Watered Hams

Do you like the gelatin in canned ham?

We do. We think it is one of the pleasant reasons for buying ham already cooked and ready for slicing or slight additional browning in the oven.

We would not like to see the ham turn out of the can completely dry and with no liquid.

But recently the stabilizing influence in our home brought a canned ham for her devoted slave to open.

We like the gelatin, but this was ridiculous.

We probably wouldn't have thought too critically on the subject except for the bombardment of propoganda we had been getting in the mails from the National Meat Board—an organization sponsored mainly by the large packing companies.

The literature had almost convinced us, that the United States Department of Agriculture ruling (that hams may not have more water pumped back into them than the fresh ham had) was an unfair and unjust ruling. But now they have killed their goose of the golden egg so far as we are concerned. Let them sell us dry hams and we will manufacture our own gelatin at a lot less than \$1.25 per pound.

The last propoganda we received asked, "Are consumers to be allowed to buy the particular kinds of food they want, or will regulations imposed at the whim of bureaucracy determine what they may have?"

If another "watered ham" comes into our house, one consumer is going to have the right to choose, and the choice will be to purchase our meat and our water separately.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

out making some drastic changes in their operation. Also it is well to note that the big increases in production in 1955 and 1959 came after prices were above the 20 dollar mark for several months.

Farmers across the country indicate they plan to market six percent more hogs next spring than in the spring of 1961. The summer outlook is for a five percent increase over last summer.

These are small increases compared with other years. A decrease in broiler production and increased consumer buying may largely offset this, McAllister believes.

● FFA Showmen

(From page 2)

pected to compete in the open classes with commercial breeders. The local entries are as follows:

Guernsey. Willis M Hackman, Elizabethtown R3; Holstein - Stanley Graver, Lancaster R7; Rye A Klinc, of

Denver R2; Larry N. McCormsey, Christiana R1; Glenn A. Musser, Mount Joy R1.

Also, Hampshire gilts - Jerry Snader, Ephrata R3, and Martin Wenrich, Denver R2; Duroc-Jersey gilts - John W. Eby, Jr., Gordonville R1, and David Heisey, Sheridan R1.

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BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20.
Devotional Reading: Matthew 1:18-25.

Tears at Christmas

Lesson for December 24, 1961

CHRISTMAS is not always what we expect it to be. We have been to church, we have received presents and given them, we have toured the stores, all decorated for the season, and we have seen who knows how many lighted trees and Christmas stars. Maybe we went home for Christmas, or if we are older, the younger members of the family

Dr. Foreman came to see us. Surely there is little left out of what it would take to make a happy Christmas. And yet the passing of the Day does leave heartaches amidst all the happiness. This is nothing new; it has been so since the first Christmas.

Disappointments

Put yourself in the place of some of the persons who figure in the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke. Joseph, we know, was a carpenter, no rich man, but not on the bottom of the heap either. We can imagine that he must have wanted, for Mary's first born, the best of everything. But now the little baby has to be born in a stable, surrounded really by the worst of everything. What may have galled Joseph, and Mary too, was the thought that if it had not been for the wicked Romans, this long winter journey to Bethlehem would not have been necessary. The child was robbed of all that Mary and Joseph had planned for him,—and yet he was by legal descent heir to the throne of David. The Romans had long since abolished that throne. Heirs to vanished thrones got no favored treatment from the Romans.

Mary must have been sorely disappointed no less. That her Son was born to be a king, she had no doubt; but a king's first appearance should surely be more dignified, if not more splendid. Everything the baby's eyes fell on,—the manger, the cattle, the

crowds,—suggested poverty, struggle, the lot of the dispossessed. We know that when Mary went up for the purification ceremony a few weeks later, her offering was one which was allowed only in the case of people who were extremely poor.

Our Own Disappointments

If some recording angel went about the country on December 26, asking the same question of every Christian: Did you have a perfect Christmas? he might seldom get the answer Yes. Yes, it would have been perfect if she had been here. Yes it would have been perfect if I could only forget the terrible state the world is in.

There is joy in Christmas, and it ought not to be a season of tears. But beneath the carols there are the hearts heavy with frustration, disappointment, bereavement, and the sadness of those who realize that after all these centuries peace is harder to find than ever, men of good will too few. Christmas may remind us that in this life we cannot put off joy until all causes of sorrow and regret have been abolished. Jesus our Lord was born where and as he was, because of the military power of a pagan people. The first Christmas had its shadows, and they were deep.

Joy and Tears

The Christian's joy is not built on a make-believe. There are people who can persuade themselves that there is nothing wrong with the world, nothing really bad in it. But this is not the Christian view.

We do not deceive ourselves by mere happy-talk. We must not turn the Christmas-carol record up so loud as to drown the sounds of weeping in the darkness. Christmas is not a season to forget the woes of the world, it is a time to resolve afresh to do what we can to make those woes fewer. Christians can join in every good work for the benefit of the oppressed and the lonely and the victims of man's inhumanity to man, because we believe that God is still on the throne. Christmas should remind us that it is possible to rejoice even in the midst of frustration, disappointment and regrets, possible to cherish hope even long deferred. And Christmas-tide may even rebuke us: For the troubles of the world, are we not partly to blame? Can we honestly say that we have never caused a single tear in the sorrowing world? Is our Christianity all a matter of carefree carols, or of outstretched helping hands?

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

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO PROTECT FARM POND FISH—Winter is at hand when low temperatures will freeze the surface of most farm ponds, if the pond is frozen solid for a period of 10 days or more, there is danger of the fish suffocating from lack of oxygen; this is especially true if the ice is covered with snow. To chop holes in the ice daily when temperatures are low is not very appealing to most pond owners. It is suggested that rails, logs, or brush be put into the water at several places around the pond with part of the material out on the edge of the bank; this will permit some air to get into the water at all times.

TO PARTICIPATE IN TOBACCO SHOW—The County Tobacco Show is set for January 4th. Lancaster County growers are urged to take part in the show in order to represent this great product; this is the only tobacco show held in the state of Pennsylvania. All exhibits are taken to the State Farm Show for state-wide competition. Greater participation in this event will make it more worthwhile.

TO KEEP ACCURATE FARM RECORDS—Farming is a business on every single farm and complete farm records should be kept at all times. This good farm practice becomes more important each year and all farmers are urged to start out 1962 with a good set of Farm Account Books. These are available at our Extension Office.

TO GET YOUR AGRONOMY GUIDE—The 1962 Agronomy Guide is now available to every farmer in the county; this is one of the very best publications from Penn State University and we urge that all farmers get a copy and study it carefully. You can't afford to be without it.

TO CARE FOR HEIFERS PROPERLY—Your future dairy herd depends upon your present heifer raising program. With good quality hay and silage fed in liberal amount most heifers over six months of age will need very little grain; with poor quality roughages they will need more grain. Feed alone won't insure good healthy heifers at freshening time; they must be given exercise, kept free from internal and external parasites, and be handled under sanitary conditions. Special attention to growing heifers will pay dividends.

Economist Says Swine Outlook Is Encouraging

Don't look for a big increase in hog production and a sharp drop in prices during 1962, says W. T. McAllister, Farm Management Specialist, University of Delaware.

It would be dangerous to predict that prices for 1962 will be as high as those for 1961, but all indications point to favorable and steady prices.

Unusually strong prices over the past 20 months have led a lot of folks to predict a big build-up in swine numbers. This may not happen for these reasons. Many farmers have reduced their total corn production and are willing to sell what they do raise to the Government for \$1.20 per bushel; a lot of producers have reached their capacity to raise hogs with-