

From Where We Stand . . .

We Wish You A Merry Christmas.

Christmas is still a few days away as you read this, but since we won't be seeing you good people again until after Christmas, may we take this occasion to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas from all of us at Lancaster Farming!

It has been said that these days there seems to be too much Santa and too little Golden Rule. The truth of this is all around us. Christmas should be a joyous time of the year, but also it should be a time to seriously contemplate the true meaning of Christmas. Peace on Earth won't come from simply exchanging gifts; it will come only as a condition of the heart and the mind of each individual.

Let's hope we can bring that worthy objective a little closer to reality in the coming year.

Are You Listening?

Everyone listens, but few people really hear. As it has been said we see only what we want to see, so do we hear as our experience and desires dictate.

Real listening is an art. And artful listening is the important counterpart of skilled speaking. Just as all the radio stations in the world would be worthless without that little receiver in your home, the words of all the communications would be simply noise without trained ears to receive them.

Good communications — a clear, concise exchange of ideas between two or more individuals — is a fundamental necessity in the successful execution of our daily lives. Yet the majority of the time we fail in some degree to "get our point across" effectively to our listeners, or readers.

How can this be? It has been said that there is always one word that says exactly what you mean. Therefore if a person knows enough words he should have no problem making himself understood. It has been our unhappy experience to hear college professors, with a string of degrees as long as your arm, who simply could not make themselves understood. Their students readily admitted that the good professors knew their stuff, but "they just couldn't put it across."

So the answer is not just an extensive formal education and knowing a lot of words. A good part of the answer lies in knowing the same words that your listener knows. But even that's not enough because words are public property and the same word may come to mean a dozen different things to a dozen different people. This means that the speaker is often out of focus with his listener; he may be broadcasting on an entirely different wavelength than the one to which his listeners are tuned.

However, the blame does not rest only with the speaker. Too often the cause of a communication breakdown is the fault of the listener. Dr. S. I. Hayakawa, a world-renowned professor of words (semantics), says that " . . . living in a competitive culture, most of us are most of the time chiefly concerned with getting our own views across, and we tend to find other people's speeches a tedious interruption to the flow of our

own ideas." This is rather a harsh accusation, but an honest searching of our memory tells us that such is often the case.

A good listener, according to Dr. Hayakawa, does not remain silent. He asks questions — not challenging, hostile questions — but questions generated by curiosity. And a good listener will try to literally get into the mind of the speaker in an attempt to see the subject in the same frame of reference as the speaker.

So we must conclude that listening is not a passive act. The mind of the listener must be as alert and thoughtful as that of the good speaker. He must be attentively focused to the speaker's point of view, and keep an open mind until he has enough facts to reach a conclusion. We think that such an accomplishment would be a solid contribution to better everyday understanding of our neighbors, and would help to translate a lot of the noise, with which the world abounds, into meaningful words that could enrich all our lives.

What Do YOU Think?

Have A Safe Christmas

Each year the newspapers carry stories of somebody's Christmas that went up in a disastrous puff of smoke. Fire is a constant hazard but it seems to reach its height during the Christmas season.

One contributing factor, of course, is the Christmas tree. Too often we bring in a tree that is tinder-dry, and then we string hot, electric lights all over it. Often the light cords are old and the insulation cracked and broken. It wouldn't be much more hazardous if we used lighted candles as they did before the days of electricity.

There are some standard precautions that can substantially reduce this traditional risk. First of all, choose a tree that is as fresh as possible. You can check for freshness by pulling lightly on some of the needles. They should be tightly attached to the twig. Shake the tree; bounce the butt on the ground. A fresh tree will take this kind of treatment without losing needles. A nice green color is another indication of freshness.

After securing a fresh tree it is important to keep it as fresh and fire resistant as possible. Cut the butt on a slant at about one inch above the original cut. Then bore a hole about four inches deep in the end of the stem and pack the hole with cotton. Place the butt of the tree in a bucket of water, and store it in a cool, moist place until you are ready to set it up.

There are materials available for making trees more fire-resistant. One simple formula you can whip up yourself requires nine ounces of borax, four ounces of boric acid powder, and one gallon of warm water. Spray or sprinkle this mixture on your tree taking care to get good coverage. A tank sprayer would be handy for covering a large tree, or a sprinkling bottle used for dampening clothes would do the job on a small tree.

One word of caution. You are not fire-proofing the tree in this process. You are simply increasing its resistance to burning.

were appointed at Tuesday's meeting. Among these were National Legislative State Legislative, and Women's Organization Committees. A Susquehanna River Basin Committee was also formed to work with the Soil Conservation Service on that government project for the purpose of protecting the interests of farmers that may be involved.

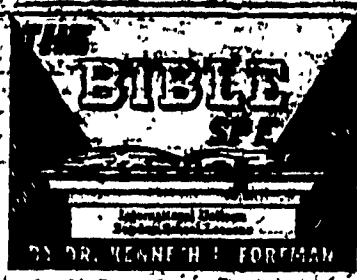
Farmers Ass'n

(Continued from Page 1)

Any farmer wishing to join is invited to mail this amount to the Association's secretary, Donald E. Ney, Marietta Rl.

A number of committees, day by Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.

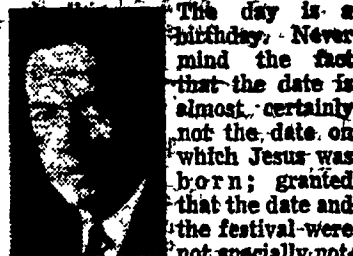
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"God With Us"

Lesson for December 20, 1964

Development Reading: Matthew 1, 1-18
Devotional Reading: Isaiah, 40:1-5



WHAT DO WE SEE most at Christmas? A fat "candy" who probably never lived; babies; manger scenes; sleighs (who sees real ones any more?), wreaths and poinsettias. But these are not the real Christmas. This day is a birthday. Never mind the fact that the date is almost certainly not the date on which Jesus was born; granted that the date and the festival were not specially noted until about three hundred years later. The fact is, this is the day now marked off by the church as an annual celebration of the birth of our Lord. It is not meant to be a day for glamorizing motherhood or babyhood; not a day best celebrated in department stores. Santa Claus will do as a happy make-believe; but Santa is not the meaning of the day. If we celebrate it as the Lord's birthday, we may well say we are at the same time celebrating the birthday of the world.

The two names of Jesus

We can put together two sentences about the name of Jesus. When a baby is born, visitors who come to admire ask as a first question: What do you think you'll name her (or him)? The baby born at Bethlehem, whatever the year, whatever the weather, had been named before he was born. It's a very interesting thing Matthew says here. The child is to be called Jesus, the angel told Joseph; and Matthew comments that this fulfills a prophecy which says plainly that his name shall be called Emmanuel. So far as the New Testament goes, no one actually called Jesus Emmanuel. The family did not; his mother did not; the writers of the New Testament generally use other ways of speaking of him. Every reader

is entitled to his own opinion as to why this was. The word Emmanuel is a Hebrew word meaning "God with us." It is a name which would be called Emmanuel. It is a name which would be called Emmanuel. It is a name which would be called Emmanuel. It is a name which would be called Emmanuel.

Names of an Army man
Nobody in Jesus' time could have been supplied by the army he bore. No doubt many boys had the same. Just as boys of this day are named for George Washington and Robert E. Lee so boys in those days were named now and then for Joshua, the famous army man, and of Israel's heroes in her hall of fame. The name Jesus and the name Joshua are just the same in Hebrew; Jesus' own language. The name means deliverer, rescuer, one who comes to the help of those in distress. The name has also a tinge of triumph about it. It means a conquering hero, one who delivers by beating down the enemy. The name would suggest something like a gallant knight of feudal times; his sword unsheathed for the defense of the weak and helpless; rescuing prisoners from dungeons. In olden times men had given the name "Messiah" to the hoped-for Deliverer; and the language of many of the prophets used had led people to think the Coming One would be a great military man, saving the Jews from the Greeks or the Romans as the case might be. But the name Jesus was never taken by Jesus in a military way. He raised no army, would not accept even an army of angels if it were offered him. Jesus' enemy was not the Roman empire, not Pilate, not Herod. It was Evil in every form, it was most of all Sin. Sin is the worst tyrant that ever choked the life out of men who should be free. Every time we hear the name Jesus, we are meant to think of him as the deliverer from sin.

(Note: an outline, copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., published by Community Press Services.)

Go To Church Sunday

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Soil Test Potato Ground
Potato growers are advised of a new soil sample mailing kit designed especially for potato production. A complete field history is necessary along with the soil kit in order to secure the proper fertilizer recommendations. Please ask for the potato soil test kit when ordering so that proper forms and blanks will be provided.

To Ventilate Barns
Proper ventilation of dairy barns is very essential to herd health and to top milk production. Many barns need forced air ventilation through the placing of one or more electric exhaust fans. Condensation on walls, windows, and ceilings is a signal of improper ventilation. Information and assistance is available.

To Soil Test for 1965
Many farmers will be ordering their fertilizer long before crop planting time. In order to do this properly, we'd suggest that a complete soil test be made on the ground in order to purchase the elements needed. Many dollars can be saved through the guidance of a soil test. It's still time to draw the soil sample and get it tested during the winter months.

To Sort Tobacco Carefully
Tobacco stripping is getting into full swing throughout the county. The topic of how well the farmer is paid for a good job of stripping and handling is controversial and in many cases in the past, little encouragement is given for an extra good job. However, little is known at this time as to the exact buyer of the crop and on what basis he will pay an extra price. Therefore, we suggest that growers do a good job of sorting the leaves in order to have a product of good quality to sell. Many growers have decided to sell on a quality and grade basis in order to be repaid for a good crop and a good job of handling.

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