

From Where We Stand...



The Christmas Story

St. Luke — Chapters I and II

And 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 came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not Mary; for thou hast found favour with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and thou 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 forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

... And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar-Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed every one into his own city

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem. (because he was

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LANCASTER FARMING

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of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

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.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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 Saviour, 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.

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.

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

And when they had been it, they made known abroad saying which was told them concerning this child.

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

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

Across The Fence Row

THE MISTLETOE

In ancient times, before the Christian era, mistletoe was gathered during the winter solstice and revered as the symbol of future hope and peace. Enemies, meeting beneath spray of it, would drop their weapons and embrace in a gesture of friendship. . . . Thus today's custom that a maid under a mistletoe may be kissed.

Quote

No opportunity is ever lost; the other fellow takes those you miss.

And Unquote

Getting up in the morning is largely a matter of mind over mattress

One's brain is no stronger than its weakest think.

Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Harrisburg State Airport)

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average below normal with daytime highs in the upper 30's and overnight lows in the low 20's. Cold throughout the period. The normal high-low is 39-24.

Precipitation may total one-tenth inch as snow flurries over the interior on Saturday and as light snow over the whole area at the end of the period.

THE FANTASTIC CELEBRATION

Lesson for December 21, 1969

Background Scripture: Matthew 1.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10.

It was the most lavish birthday party anyone had ever seen or imagined. The banquet hall had never been more gayly or colorfully decorated. Waiters were hurrying back and forth between the kitchen and the long tables,



bringing a seemingly endless procession of heaping platters of exotic foods. The conversation at the tables was gay and punctuated with hearty laughter. Adding to this hubub were the strains of several orchestras and choruses performing in various parts of the vast hall.

"Happy Birthday"

While merry people stuffed themselves with the rich food, entertainers passed among the tables performing songs, dances, stunts, and tricks to an audience that gave only half its attention at best. No one seemed to mind the confusion, however, and it grew as the evening went on.

Finally, there was an ear-splitting blast of trumpets and people turned expectantly, ready to listen to the popular master of ceremonies. "Ladies and gentlemen," he began in a loud voice that resounded through the great hall, "let us all join in singing 'Happy Birthday.'"

Hundreds of voices massed together with the combined orchestras and filled the hall with:

Happy birthday to you.
Happy birthday to you.
Happy birthday, dear
(There was an inaudible mumble at the place where the name should have been, but everyone recovered and finished.)

Happy Birthday to you!
A great ovation followed the song.

The guest of honor

The voice of the master of cere-

monics was heard again: "Ladies and gentlemen, let us remain standing as our guest of honor comes forward and with this golden knife cuts his birthday cake." The trumpets blare once again as the doors of the kitchen swing open and a huge wheeled table is pushed to the center of the room. On it, towering high above the waiters, was the largest birthday cake ever baked. Tier upon tier of creamy icing reached high into the air.

There was a hushed confusion at the head table, growing louder and more confused as the long minutes ticked by. People began to shift from one foot to another, wondering what the problem was.

Then there was an embarrassed announcement from the head table. Red-faced, the master of ceremonies turned to the audience and said, haltingly: "Ladies and gentlemen . . . uh . . . we are having difficulty in locating the . . . uh . . . guest of honor." Then, as if he were calling a child playing hide-and-seek: "Will the guest of honor please step forward and cut the cake!" It was not a question, but a plea. An expectant hush settled over the hall . . . but no one stepped forward.

The uninvited guest

Smiling a forced smile that kept sliding off his face, he consulted an officious-looking man at his side. He, in turn, consulted someone else. Soon the whole hall was buzzing with incredulous voices, all confessing: "THERE IS NO GUEST! HE WASN'T INVITED!"

Fantastic? Of course. Yet is it any more fantastic than what happens each Christmas: a gala birthday celebration to which the guest of honor is not invited?

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Enjoy Your Family

The Holiday Season is a good time to enjoy all members of your family. In these times there seems to be so many places to go and things to do that seldom is the entire family together. During the holiday season the children are home from both school and college and will appreciate more attention from Dad and Mother. In the past few years many farmers have said they could not attend some of the activities because they wanted to be home with their family. This sounds like one good qualification of a good parent.

To Check That Fire Extinguisher

In case this chore has been missed, the one or more fire extinguishers around the farm buildings should be checked and put in order. The winter season presents more fire hazards and the extinguisher could prevent

a serious loss. In addition to it being in good working condition, it is very important that every member of the family knows exactly how to operate it.

To Prevent Wild Bird Infection

The problem with starlings and some other nuisance birds is a growing one and one that is very difficult to control. This was discussed at one of our farm meetings last winter with very little firm recommendations for control. These birds become very common during periods of heavy snow cover. Some buildings may be kept tight, or can be screened to keep them out; however, in many open buildings and with outside automatic feeders, we are still searching for the control method. It should be recognized that these birds may carry infection and should be controlled if possible.