



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## Stuck on the Christmas spirit

Thank goodness it's Christmas. This is the one season of the year when people try their best to be jolly and kind to their fellow men.

All around us there are people singing and smiling. Young children's faces are aglow as they wait in unabated excitement for the coming of Christmas morning and all the festively-wrapped presents under a decorated evergreen.

The snow that blanketed the ground this week adds its special touch to the holiday spirit with 'children' of all ages taking time out to do a little playing in the fluffy white flakes.

I'm glad it snows at Christmas time. The frozen 'present' from the heavens makes us all realize that there are still things in this world that we have no control over. We all just have to sit back and wait to see how many inches will be insulating our winter grain fields by morning.

With the coming of snow, people have to slow down and take it a little easier, regardless of their hectic schedules. Without pressing fieldwork to call us, we can all relax over a cup of hot chocolate and enjoy the beauty of the snow-covered hills and trees.

The winter weather gives us all the needed time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas — as we trudge through calf-deep drifts or sit idling in vehicles, waiting as snowplows and cinder trucks clear the roads.

And, in the spirit of Christmas, people seem to be more patient and willing to be Good Samaritans to fellow travelers. I personally can attest to this phenomenon.

Last week as I was following up on a story in snow-covered Berks County, I managed to expertly plunge headlights-first into a deeply drifted driveway. Now, don't jump to conclusions and say "Lady Driver."

You see, the driveway was aimed in a north-south direction up a sloping hill. And with the east-west wind we were experiencing, the snow had blown a 'level' camouflage across

what I later found out was a low spot.

As my front tires began to sink, I knew I was in trouble. And with my back tires still on the highway, I futilely attempted to reverse the direction I was moving. Thanks to the snowpacked, icy conditions of the secondary road, my car just didn't have the gumption to back out.

Well, if the car wouldn't go backward, the only other choice was forward, right? That's what I thought, too, and decided to get the momentum I needed to buck my way out of my predicament.

As you've probably guessed, all I accomplished in this endeavor was to get my little blue car into deeper trouble — but at least I was totally off the road.

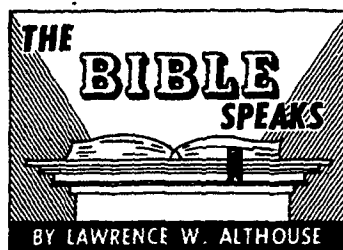
Just as I was beginning to despair my plight, help arrived in the form of a yellow highway truck followed by a compact brown Rabbit. Without a word, my 'rescuers' trudged toward the car, surveyed the situation, and took up their positions to the rear.

As I gave the accelerator the needed nudge, the suited businessman and the flannel-shirted public employee heave-ho'ed. With a whir and a whine, my little snowbound car was once again on the road, ready to try the next interviewee's lane.

Since I had to keep the car moving, I never did get to meet the two people who took the time to help me out of a bad situation. And, I never did get to thank them personally.

I suppose that's what Christmas is all about. Loving, caring and sharing our good will with others. My "thank you" to the two Good Samaritans on the road I'm sure was understood as I waved them a grateful goodbye.

During this season of sharing happy times with family and friends, may the spirit of Christmas be with you all. And, may God grant you safe traveling and a guardian angel as you gather together to celebrate this time of joy and love.



### FINDING THE MESSIAH December 27, 1981

Background Scripture:  
Mark 8:27-29; Luke 24:25,26;  
John 1:35-42; 7:25-31.

Devotional Reading:  
Colossians 1:3-14.

"We have found the Messiah!"

Thus said the Galilean fisherman to his brother, Simon Peter. According to John's Gospel (1:35-42), Andrew had gone out into the wilderness to see this man they were calling John the Baptist. He had heard John say of Jesus, "Behold, the lamb of God" (1:36). With a companion, Andrew had followed Jesus for some distance before Jesus turned and asked, "What do you seek?" And Andrew and his companion replied, "Rabbi (which means Teacher), where are you staying?" What they were saying to him was that they wanted to be his followers.

#### Andrew Found Simon

Yet, although Andrew called Jesus "Rabbi," when he found his brother Simon Peter, he didn't call Jesus a Rabbi, but "the Christ." Andrew had already decided that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, an expectation that appeared repeatedly in the Old Testament.

#### So what was the Messiah?

As a Jew, Andrew and Simon Peter probably knew that the term "Messiah" meant different things to different people. In Hebrew the word literally meant "the anointed one." Such a person was someone

specially set apart and designated by God for a particular mission or task. The anointing rite was a symbol of God's selection.

Andrew and Simon Peter probably also knew that the Messiah was often identified with a king, because it was the king who was in the position to bring help and deliverance to the nation. King David had been God's "anointed" and, according to the prophet Isaiah, so had been Cyrus, the King of Persia who freed the people of Israel from their Babylonian bondage. So the Messiah would be someone chosen and sent from God to bring deliverance to the people of Israel.

#### When Christ Appears

But what kind of "deliverance"? To be sure, many Jews looked for someone to deliver them from the bondage to Rome. But others looked, not only for physical salvation, but for spiritual deliverance as well. Still others looked for a Messiah who would bring the apocalypse—a time when the earth would be cleared of its temporal kingdoms and in their place erected the Kingdom of God.

We cannot know just what Andrew meant when he said "We have found the Messiah." Yet, it is not so important what Andrew meant as it is what we mean when we call Jesus the Christ. Our situations and needs in life are different and thus the meaning of the Christ for us will vary somewhat. Jesus is the Christ because God sent him to heal our brokenness and we are broken in mind, in body, in spirit, and in relationships. We experience broken families, broken homes, broken communities, and live in a broken world. The Christ is the one anointed by God to heal our brokenness wherever he finds it.

It matters little that Andrew and Simon Peter discovered in Jesus their Christ, unless we too can say with them: "I have found the Messiah!"

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

### Give credit where due

I was at the Penna. Ag Arena Sale and I heard the auctioneer (Harry Bachman, swine sale) state he purchased this bred gilt and was donating her to the sale arena fund.

She was then resold so that half of the \$500 went to the sale plus full amount the second time she went through the sale.

Harry Bachman should be given credit for \$500 donation and I believe the same picture should run in your next edition with

proper credits given.

Charles D. Kler  
Monroeton, PA

Editor's Note — Bachman was one of many buyers who resold an Ag Arena purchase and contributed 100 percent to the building fund. We feel that every donation to the Ag Arena fund was noteworthy, whether it was time, livestock, or money. However, space does not permit mentioning every important individual who made this sale a success.

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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#### To Sort Tobacco

Tobacco stripping is underway in this part of the state and many hours will be spent removing the leaves from the stalk. The days of special handling and sizing seems to be over; however, it is still very important that growers sort the injured and ground leaves from the good tobacco. This will be required if the crop is being sold on grade. With some "pull off" crops this is less important. On the other hand, growers should be fair enough to sort out the undesirable leaves. If this is not done, the buyer will be unhappy and look elsewhere for their tobacco supplies. Some sorting is necessary with every crop, regardless of the method of selling.

#### To Take Inventory

An area of our operation that is very important at this time of year is inventory. With the close of the year most of our farmers close-out their records for the year. This means that if you are going to have a Farm Analysis made, you should take inventory of all your supplies. You'll need this to do any kind of farm analysis, because the amount of grain, hay and other supplies

that are in storage will vary from year to year, and unless this is taken into consideration, you cannot have an accurate analysis of your year's operation. So, as accurately as possible, record the amount of hay, grain, feeds, seeds and fertilizer that are on hand. This is the first step in an accurate farm analysis.

#### To Understand Firewood Volume Terms

Energy costs are continually going up and many people are using woodburning stoves as a means of reducing oil and gas use. This means buying more firewood.

It is a good idea to know what you are buying. Some firewood sellers may offer such "measurements" as face cord, rick, rank, stack, truckload or "pile" and buyers often believe they are getting a cord.

A "cord" is defined by Pennsylvania law as "the amount of wood which is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet when wood is ranked and well stowed". This means a neatly piled rank of wood 4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet long. Those selling fuelwood are

name under the law when they use the term "cord" alone.

A "face cord" which is the term most widely used is a neatly piled rank of wood 4 feet high, 8 feet long and as wide as the lengths of the sticks of wood. If the pieces are 16 inches long, you have one-third cord of wood.

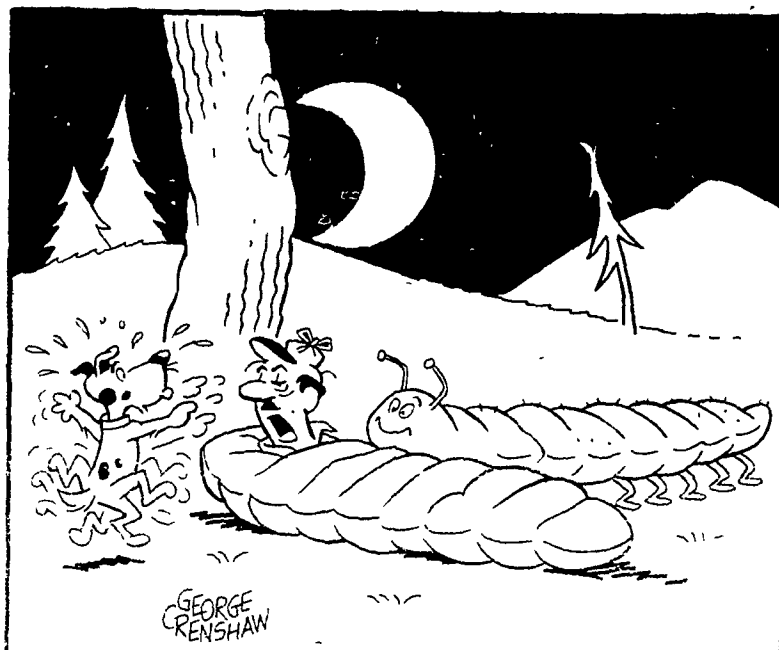
It pays to know the amount you agree to buy.

#### To Register for Farm Builders Conference

A Farm Builders Conference and Tour is being held January 21 and 22 in the Lancaster area. It will be an opportunity for farm builders and their staff to learn more about farm structures. A tour of six area farms will highlight new building and remodeling ideas, and the performance of these buildings in cold weather.

According to County Agent, Glenn Shirk, the conference is designed to cover a variety of topics of interest to farm builders, and should be valuable to those who are looking for new and better ideas to incorporate into their designs. For more information and a registration form, contact our office.

## HAY HAWS



"I thought I told you not to wake me until you heard the sound of 36 little feet and a jolly ho, ho, ho!"