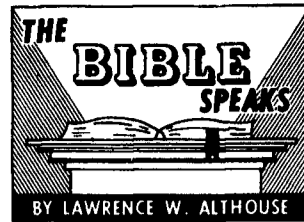


The Richard Herr family of R6 Lancaster has extended their holiday decorations to the barn. Two Christmas trees decorated with white lights clue visitors that the Christmas spirit is alive and well here.

Deck  
the  
barn  
with  
holiday  
cheer



A few greens, a candle and a bow bring holiday cheer to this barn window. The window is on a barn owned by Richard Herr of R6 Lancaster.



**A FINITE INFINITY**  
December 23, 1984

**Background Scripture:**  
John 1.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
John 1:35-42.

Several months ago I attended a conference on the campus of a Philadelphia college and heard an astronomer bring us up to date on current knowledge of the universe. It was a mind-boggling experience, for although I had known the universe was huge, I had never realized that it is beyond my powers of comprehension to even consider how gigantic it is. I had understood that the universe was also intricately as well as grandly complex, but that evening I came to realize that the complexity of the universe can only be apprehended, never comprehended.

As I left the lecture hall and looked up into the starry heavens, my mind reeled with thoughts of the implications of what I had just heard for my understanding of God. How vast and complex and utterly incomprehensible God must be! And, in fact, whenever I consider "the heavens, the moon and the stars which thou hast established" (Psalm 8) my concept of God becomes alarmingly more vast and incomprehensible.

**WORD BECAME FLESH**

Sometimes I have somewhat the same reaction when I contemplate the complexity or moral and ethical issues. God commands us to love our enemies, but if we treat our enemies only with love

will they not take advantage of us and enslave us, if they can? And if they prevail with their military might, will not religion itself vanish from the face of the earth? The more I ponder these issues, the further away seems the guidance of the one whom we call God.

Yet, whenever God seems far away from me because of my intellectual and spiritual limitation, I share with all human beings, I remember Jesus of Nazareth and suddenly the remote and unknowable Ultimate Reality and Ground of Being comes into focus in the image of the Christ. Let the theologians and others dispute over the questions of just how Jesus was divine, the fact is that if I focus upon Jesus Christ I can see God clearly enough to know that He-She-or-Whatever is not just the remote and ultimate Reality, for Christ makes God a personal experience. The infinite becomes existentially finite or at least concrete enough to dispel the darkness.

**DWELT AMONG US**

"And the Word became flesh..." (John 1:14). The Divine was expressed in human form, the only form human beings can understand. I cannot comprehend the Creator of the Universe, but I can look at Jesus Christ and know what I am intended to do with my life. For "the Word" not only "became flesh," but "dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (1:14).

That is why Christmas, when truly experienced, is a "light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (1:5). In the midst of a world that becomes ever more complex and where moral issues become increasingly more intricate and involved, it is the essence of our Divine Source—the love expressed in a Bethlehem manager—that gives us light sufficient to make our way through this bewildering world.

**NOW IS THE TIME**

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
Phone 717-394-6851



**To Review**

**Partnership Agreements**

There are a number of advantages to establishing farm partnerships, but an annual review of the agreement and its value in

relation to current needs is essential.

I would like to offer a few suggestions for those who have entered into farm partnership agreements.

Once a farm partnership is drawn up, the agreement should be reviewed at least once a year. This should be done for two reasons. First, to see how well each of the partners is meeting their obligations—and secondly, to carefully evaluate the agreement to see if it is doing its intended job.

Then, too, farming is a rapidly changing business. So, don't be surprised if the agreement you set up just a couple of years ago isn't entirely adequate to meet today's needs.

So review that agreement carefully. If it doesn't quite measure up to current needs, plan to make necessary changes before 1985 rolls around.

**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

(Turn to Page A12)

**Comments requested on dairy promotion**

**CHAMBERSBURG** — Comments will accepted until February 4th on U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed procedures for conducting referenda on the Dairy Research and Promotion order and proposed amendments to the order.

Edward T. Coughlin, dairy official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said that the action is in preparation for a referendum on continuation of the

order that the Secretary of Agriculture is required to conduct within the 60-day period ending Sept. 30, 1985.

The research and promotion program, which was authorized in the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1963, is financed by a 15-cent per hundredweight assessment on all milk produced in the contiguous 48 states and marketed commercially by dairy farmers. The program is administered by a

board of 36 dairy farmers appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture with representation based on area milk production.

Coughlin said the USDA proposals include procedures for conducting the initial referendum and any subsequent referenda. He said the proposed amendments would change the name of the order to make it consistent with the name of the board and make a change in board voting

procedures.

The proposal is published in the December 5th Federal Register. Comments should be sent in the Dairy Division, Room 2968-S, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Dec. 5 Federal Register is available for public review at County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Offices in Pa. The Franklin County ASCS Office is located at 550 Cleveland Avenue, Chambersburg, Pa.

