



OPINION

The Christmas Story

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 this taxing was first made when Cyree-ni-us was governor of Syria.) 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 Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn 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 flock 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 seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. All they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Protect Evergreen Trees

Many property owners become concerned at this time of the year about the possible loss of valuable evergreens to Christmas tree "thieves." To protect trees the following "ugly mix" recipe has been developed and recommended by Cornell Plantations Gardener, Gerardo Sciarra.

This easy-to-make concoction is designed to temporarily render treated trees unsightly. Here is the recipe: Pour 2 gallons of warm water into a large bowl. Mix separately 20 ounces of hydrated lime with 4 ounces of an antidesiccant, until a uniform paste is produced. Fold the paste slowly into the water. When the mixture is an even, light milky color, add 2 bottles of pink or other brightly colored food coloring. Blend until the mixture is a uniform color. Then spray or splatter the material on the trees you wish to protect. The weather should be mild and dry at the time. Rains will gradually wash the "ugly mix" off.

To Consider Manure Nutrients

Did you know that on the average, more nutrients are brought onto the farm in feed for the animals than fertilizer purchases? Well, that may be a surprising fact but research has shown this to be true in southeast Pennsylvania. This serves to make a point for considering the importance of manure management. In the past, management of manure nutrients has "taken the back seat" to other management problems. The research done in this area in the past several years has had the same conclusion: taking a closer look at the benefits you are receiving from manure applications is a profitable idea! It is time to turn the manure problem into an opportunity.

To Prepare For Slippery Conditions

Slippery roads, walks and steps will be a common hazard in the next few months. Many people use salt too freely in cutting the ice; it may get the job done but also may injure nearby turf or shrubbery. I'd suggest the use of sand or sawdust. These materials will make the surface safe without possible injury to vegetation. In areas without any vegetation, salt will give good results. Along our main highways there is some evidence that the constant use of salt is inflicting injury to nearby trees and shrubs. Don't let this happen to your favorite tree, shrub

or the turf lining your walk.

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, feed, seeds and fertilizer that are on hand. This is the first step in an accurate farm analysis.

Income Tax Meeting Set For January

DOYLESTOWN - Tax preparers, farmers, homemakers, and other interested individuals can secure information about federal income tax at the 1987 income tax area meeting to be conducted in Quakertown on Wednesday, Jan. 7. According to Richard A. Bailey, county extension director, discussion of recent changes in tax law should make this year's meeting very informative.

The topics covered at the meetings will range from a look at new developments to a review of important tax principles. The program will include a discussion of recent changes in tax law, deducting expenses for business use of autos and pickups, taxes and financial distress, a review of several practical tax filing exercises, and more. Handout materials will be provided to support discussion by the instructors. Jesse Cooper and Larry Jenkins, Extension economists with Penn State University, will

serve as instructors for each of the sessions.

Starting time for the income tax meeting is 9 a.m. The session will end at about 4 p.m. The meeting will be held at Meyers Restaurant, Route 309, Quakertown. The registration fee is \$25 per person including lunch and reference materials to be used during the day. Additional reference materials, including a Master Tax Guide, may be purchased for a small extra fee. The registration deadline is January 1, 1987 and persons registering after that date will be charged a late registration fee of \$5.

A brochure/registration form and more information about the one-day income tax meeting is available at the Bucks County Penn State Cooperative Extension Office. Questions about the meetings may be directed to Richard A. Bailey, County Extension Director, who can be reached by telephone at 345-3283.

has spoken to us by a Son...He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature..." (Hebrews 1:1-3).

AS MAN

*Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

Not only did God fully express himself, but he did so in the form of a human being, a child who would become known as Jesus. God revealed himself as "a man with men." How often we think the speak of human nature in negative terms, but, as Hebrews tells us, "Since therefore the children share in the flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature... he had to be made like his brethren in every respect..." (Hebrews 2:14,17). Jesus didn't just look like us, or seem to be like us, he was made "like us in every respect." We can identify with him because we are assured that, as a human being, he knows all of our human frailties, temptations and concerns.

In the early centuries of the Christian Church, the hearsay of docetism became a threat to the Gospel. Docetists believed that, although Jesus appeared to be in human form, he wasn't really a human. They said, in effect, that he was really God in the disguise of a human being. Even though the docetist threat was officially condemned by the Church and the group eventually disappeared, Docetism has often survived in the minds of Christians who do not take seriously the full humanity of Jesus. They continue to think of him as God in disguise. But that isn't what the Bible says and Hebrews doesn't say that he was like us in some respects, but "in all respects..."

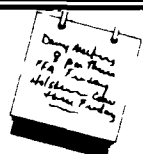
SECOND BIRTH

*Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.*

It is the "second birth" that many people miss at Christmas, the "birth" of God's other "sons." Jesus was born as God's Son so that we might realize our own "second birth" as sons of God. "But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son... so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Hebrews 4:14,5). He became "like us in every respect" so that we might become like him.

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Farm Calendar



Monday, December 22
RCMA meeting, 1 p.m., Room B, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

Thursday, January 1
Annual Family Style Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner, Leola War

Memorial Building, noon to 6 p.m.

Friday, January 2
Lebanon County Livestock Roundup, Lebanon Fairgrounds; show, 10 a.m., sale, 6 p.m.

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Dear Editor:

How can I obtain more information about the committee that is forming in Pennsylvania-The Dairy of Distinction Program that is going into effect?

We are told over and over again we have the most beautiful farm around. And we are proud to ship milk from here. Something like this means much more to me than to have 15 cents taken off for advertising milk after the dairy has it all torn apart.

I read your "Opinion" article so I thought maybe you could give some information.

Hilda M. Blatt
Jonestown

Editor's Note:

The requested information is being forwarded. Anyone else who has an interest in helping with their district program or who would like to apply for the award, may write to this editor until the program is more fully organized.

