Bassett. — Esther Austin, daughter of William and Phoebe Bassett, was born in Independence, Nov. 5, 1861, and died at her late home in Independence, Sept. 7, 1877, and came to live on the Bassett farm. Her husband died in 1921. She was survived by her son Millford who lives on the old homestead and her family; two grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Farewell services were held at the home and at the Independence church, November 26, 1944, conducted by Rev. Walter L. Greene of Andover, a former pastor. Interment was in the Independence Cemetery by the side of her husband. The large attendance at these services witness to the respect with which she was held in the community.

W. L. G.

Beulin. — Beulah B. Coon, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. D. Burdett Coon, passed away at the Glenwood Springs Hospital, Glenwood Springs, Colo., on November 1, 1944, at the age of forty-three.

Her health had been poor for a number of years. Only a few months ago her husband was called into the armed forces of our country, and she moved from Atchic, Kan., to Gypsum, Colo., to be with her mother and sister, Mrs. Gladys Hemminger.

Funeral services were held at the Howe Mortuary in Boulder on November 4, 1944, and interment was made at Green Mountain Cemetery near the lot where her father is buried. The services were conducted by Rev. Earl Cruzan, pastor of the Boulder Church.

E. C.

Green. — Alice E. Rose, adopted daughter of Nancy and Nathaniel Rose, was born January 15, 1862, near Rock River, Wis., and died October 28, 1944, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William A. Thomas of Farina, Ill.

She married Thomas Vars Rogers of Milton Junction, Wis., and to them were born three children: Mamie E., Walter Vars, and Gladys A. Rogers. In later years she married Charles Green of Edgerton, Wis. She was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. Surviving are three children: Mrs. William A. Thomas, Walter Vars Rogers, and Mrs. J. Lane Beard; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister by adoption, Miss Maude Roer.

Funeral services were held at the home of her daughter in Alfred and burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery. Rev. Everett T. Harris, pastor of the First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, officiated.

E. T. H.

Masson. — Phoebe Ann Goodrich, the sixth of eight children born to William Anson and Rebecca Crandall Goodrich, was born at Rock River, Wis., February 24, 1856, and died at her home in Farina, Ill., November 14, 1944, the last of her father's family.

The family moved to Farina, Ill., in the year 1861 where they purchased a farm; in the farm home the first services of which later became the Farina Seventh Day Baptist Church, were held. A sister of Mrs. Masson was the accompanist at these services, and the melody used is now in the possession of a granddaughter of Anson Goodrich.

On June 13, 1873, at Walworth, Wis., Annah was united in marriage with Dr. Joseph Masson. To the union one child, Reginald, was born; he survives her.

She was a charter member of the Farina Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, and was for many years a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Farina. She was a beautiful character with her mind stored with knowledge which covered a wide range of subjects. She was a gifted conversationalist.

Funeral services were conducted at the Funeral Parlor in Farina Friday morning, November 11, 1944, by Rev. O. L. Hill, and burial was made in the family lot in the Farina Cemetery.

G. H.

Ralph. — Adeline Wheeler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Wheeler, was born in Farmington, Ill., April 7, 1857, and died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Rasmussen of Boulder, Colo., October 24, 1944.

She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Nortonville, Kan. For many years she was a lone Sabbath keeper at Brandon, Colo.

Funeral services were conducted at the Allardice-Kelso Funeral Home in Boulder on October 25, 1944. Interment was at Eads, Colo. The services were conducted by Rev. Earl Cruzan, pastor of the Boulder Church.

E. C.

Walker. — Alvina M. Davis, a daughter of James B. and Emily V. Davis, was born January 17, 1863, at New Milton, W. Va., and died at Riverside, Calif., October 20, 1944, after a long illness.

On June 4, 1903, she was married to Jerome B. Walker. About three years after their union they moved to Riverside, where she has since resided. She was baptized at the age of eleven, uniting with the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church. Since moving to Riverside she has been faithful and active in the work of the church till failing health put an end to her service.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Geo. H. Trainer and Mrs. Benjamin W. Kinney and by one brother, A. Grantham Davis.

In the absence of her pastor the funeral was conducted by her former pastor, Rev. E. S. Bal- lenger.

E. F. H.

**How Bible Can Serve Daily Needs**

When you find passages in the Bible that have a strong appeal, read them slowly, lingering over them till fruitful, practical thoughts begin to come. Then mark these passages. That's one way to make the "wonderful words" of life serve your daily needs.
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To all our readers and friends the Sabbath Recorder staff—office and shop personnel—extend Christmas greetings with all the joys, pleasures, and responsibilities of the season.

It is so easy to say these words, but we speak them freighted with all the significance and holy meaning within the spirit of the Christ whose advent we celebrate. Let the spirit of Christmas—the spirit of love, justice, good will, and fellowship—unsafely prevail throughout the year. Then the peace which the angels proclaimed at Christ's coming, the peace for which we long and pray, will be realized.

Your editor with this expression wishes to extend the season's greetings to the many who will be unable, because of personal reasons, to reach with more personal message.

May I express an earnest prayer for all in the words of another?

Oh God,

At this Christmas season
Give to the Church, Wisdom
The native of the Vision
To the women of the world, Patience
To the men of the world, Strength
And to all who bow before Thee
Holiness like of the Christ Child.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Can humans be happy this Christmas? Has the angel message of peace and joy been entirely outmoded? Are the Christmas joy bells but clanging cymbals? With eleven million of our loved ones in the armed service at home in the training camps or overseas in actual lethal combat, with white crosses throwing shadows over thousands of homes, and tens of thousands living in hospitals suffering, with millions destitute, and unnumbered children starving—with all this upon our shoulders and conscience, can there be any Christmas joy and gladness?

It may be hard. The season will be different, but we are thankful for the privilege to publish Christmas joy.

In the first place, we can remember that we never had a wider opportunity or a greater responsibility of sharing our Christmas joy and American blessings with others than right now. The many relief bodies representing the millions of war and famine sufferers worldwide are keeping us posted of actual needs and sufferings to be met and alleviated. So joy is ours that we are spared and have so much in this beloved land which we can share with others. The Christmas spirit demands our best; and, while we are remembering loved ones and friends with gifts, we should be more than liberal with those who are hungry or sick or in prison of whom Christ said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Among other blessings which bring us consternation of a world at war may be mentioned the joy of possessing a personal Saviour, also the joy of a unifying fellowship of prayer. What a joy it indeed is to know that whom loved ones far away can have communion in prayer; and finally, the joy of an abiding faith in a God of power.

The world still clings to its chief reliance upon the heaviest guns, the greatest battleships, the most tremendous explosives. But God is not mocked. It is still true that "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." "God is able. We can see how this year can stop, but he can stop it—when men—. It was his sea that stopped Pharaoh's army; his snowstorm that covered the supply train in Russia; his hand seen at Waterloo, Ypres, Dunkirk, and in the Southwest Pacific. This God—the same yesterday, today, and forever"—is able to reach us when this world will fade. In him our confidence still. Such a faith gives us joy at this Christmas time. Faith resting in him brings a joy which the world does not begin to comprehend.

AN ABIDING CHRISTMAS

Christmas comes but once a year—much to the disappointment of many a youngster who looks longingly toward the happy day. All too soon the external things of the day begin to lose their thrills, and the day after brings its Christmas traps and notes of acknowledgment. But Christmas may be more an abiding season if true meaning back of its celebration is more deeply sensed. How much richer life would be for all of us if the spirit of the holiday were to continue throughout the year. The wish for such an abiding Christmas is expressed in the verses by Angela Morgan:

Oh, could we keep the Christmas thrill,
The spirit of gladness and good will,
The lifting of laughter and the touch
Of kindled hands that utter much,
Not once a year, but all the time
The melody of hearts in chime
The impulse, beautiful and kind
Of soul to soul and mind to mind
That sways the world.

And brings the world
On one great day of all the year
Close to God's treasure house of cheer,
Oh, could we keep the Christmas feast,
Even when goods and gold are least.
Here, amid our common, daily scenes
Could we but live what Christmas means,
Not one day, but for ev'ry day,
The miracle of wholesome glee,
The spirit, sweet, gift-giving, young,
From deepest well of feeling spring.

We read how the mother of Jesus treasured the words concerning him in her mother heart. The birth of Christ should fill us with a joy unspeakable and unsuffused—joy unutterable that shared with others again and again. No doubt the mother of Christ, as long as she lived, remembered the hour of his coming and increasingly sensed its significance.

Why not keep Christmas by a continuous study of the life of Christ, by constant devotion to the work of Christ, and by unceasing communion with Christ in prayer? The praise that marked the first Christmas may be continued as we seek to glorify him in thought and words and deeds. As wise men presented their rich gifts, our lives will be enriched as throughout the
year we bring him our devotion and offerings for humanity's need in his name.

The divine occupation that filled the hours of the first Christmas are still opportunities for our best investment of life.

The essential of Christmas need not pass and will not pass if we draw near the abiding Christ and ask him as did the shepherds and wise men of old.

EDITOR AT PITTSBURGH

One gets a better impression of Pittsburgh, "The Heart of America's Industrial Empire," from pictures employed by civic and booster clubs than by views from the ninth story hotel rooms or by the council of the city's streets in the famous "Golden Triangle," through the fog and smoke. We are as tufted as "The Weary Live, to Work, to Play." The most busy one in a three-session, three-day convention can do is to accept in good faith the claims made by those who seem to be fair-minded and loyal. One could wish for time to visit some of the pleasant places to which invited.

But business is bornenly. The business of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is of vital importance and took all time of delegates and visitors at the biennial meeting held at the William Penn Hotel, November 28, 29, and 30. Business was expedited by President Tucker, the various secretaries and officers of the council, and secretaries of departments, and many others. Perhaps speakers and reports were sometimes unduly long, often interesting, forceful, and challenging.

Three other Seventh Day Baptists besides the editor were present: Dean A. J. C. Bond and Rev. Albert N. Rogers were delegates, and Rev. Marion C. Van Horn of Lost Creek attended as a visitor. It is a debate that each of these men will write for the Recorder some of their impressions. Indeed, it would be a revelation, enlightening, and challenging, if all our pastors and earnest laymen and women could have sat in on any of the sessions of these meetings.

From this last ideal spirit of faith, brotherhood, and ecumenicity was evident, with but few exceptions. Perhaps an outstanding spirit of this kind was seen in the refusal to accept into membership of the council the Universalist Church—a denomination in whose application for membership was the statement:

"The primary motive that prompts this action is a sincere desire to remain true to the stated purposes of the council, "more fully to manifest the essential oneness of the Christian family in Christ Jesus as their divine Lord and Saviour, and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service, and cooperation of all bodies of believers in Christ as the basis of Christian fellowship.""

The Council declared the applications of the Universalist Church as follows: "The bond of fellowship in this convention shall be a common purpose to do the will of God as Jesus revealed it and to cooperate in establishing the kingdom for which he lived and died."

It is in that spirit that we are moved to apply for membership in the全日Council. We should be proud to add our testimony to the essential oneness of Christ in the Church and Christian church research and research seeks to manifest and to cooperate more fully in this great cause. We believe there is no apathy at a time when such expressions of unity are so greatly needed at this time.

The request was refused by a large majority vote which we do not seek to analyze more than to say that on the part of some delegations it was a matter of expediency.

The Seventh Day Baptist delegation voted unanimously in favor of granting the request since it was based, as we interpreted their requests, on the request to the Universalists the council's preamble and constitution which does not require any theological shibboleth. The representatives of part of the denominations voted in all good conscience. On expressing our feeling of disappointment to a prominent Northern Baptist of long acquaintance with our beloved bishop at the New York Fall Council Seventh Day Baptists are fortunate; you are Christians.

The Council approved in principle the Dumbarton Oaks proposal for lasting peace, but it asserted some shortcomings of the proposed organization may necessitate modifications. The council took a strong stand on maintaining the separation of church and state, firmly opposing the flip-flop of American relations with the Vatican. To establish such relations "would confer upon one church a special preferential status in relation to the American Government. Such an arrangement would be contrary to our American tradition." In taking such a stand the council's, as well as a stand against Roman Catholicism as a form of Christian faith and worship. The distinction is made between the Roman Catholic religion and the political power exercised by the Roman Catholic hierarchy for its own institutional ends.

Representatives from Canada and England brought the word of encouragement from their own national councils—and some of the most challenging and inspiring messages of the meeting were broadcast from England and the United States and closed his staring address with a telling illustration:

Docks and maritime equipment were found intact and ready for full use of the allies at Antwerp. The retreating Germans had left tons of high explosives with electrical connections to blow everything up at the last moment. But, in their thoroughness they had destroyed the powerhouse. When the lever was thrown to blast the docks, nothing happened. The lesson is obvious. With all our splendid organization and equipment nothing is going to happen if connection with our great source of power is broken.

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of the New York Area of the Church was unanimously elected president of the council for the next biennium.

MIDWINTER COMMISSION MEETING

The Seventh Day Baptist Commission on Christian Relations met in Lima, Ohio, Thursday, December 28, 1944, beginning at 9 a.m., in the Barr Hotel.

On invitation the Commission will meet for worship with the Jackson Center Church of Sabbath, December 19.


THE CHANGEBLE BOOK — THE BIBLE

The Bible is better known and more eagerly read today by more people than ever before in history, and it has the same power it has always had. It truly is "The Changeless Book."

American Bible Society.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves our servants for Jesus' sake.

—American Bible Society.
STANDING IN THE WAY

The other day I drove to a filling station to get gas. When served, I found a car without a driver in front of me and another man in the car behind me waiting for gas. We were both disgusted because the man had left his car in our way.

The fault of the man at the filling station was a small offense compared with standing in the way of the intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of others. By actions or indifference we may hinder others from accepting Christ, coming to the church, and making the most of themselves in every way. We may dishearten the workers in the church and denomination till the church is weakened, missions strangled, and the evangelistic spirit crushed.

This is not all. We may stand in our own way. Pastors, ministers, missionaries, superintendents, teachers, professed Christians, may hinder the work they desire to advance, and then wonder why it does not advance. We, by actions or indifference, we put ourselves in the way, hinder others, also.

It is blessed to have the witness of the Spirit that we are doing all we can, and doing it in such a way as not to hinder others.

W. L. B.

CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGEMENT

By Rev. E. A. Witter

(Condensation of sermon delivered at Adams Center, N. Y., Sabbath morning, October 28, 1944.)

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Vol. XVIII.

Correspondence should be addressed to Rev. William L. Burdick, Ashaway, R. I.

Checks and money orders should be drawn to the order of Karl G. Stillman, Wusterly, R. I.

The Star of Bethlehem—still leading glad messengers to distant lands with news of Christ's love and peace and saving power.

If you are looking for incidents that bear undisputed evidence of our heavenly Father's interest in the welfare of the human family, there is a beautiful and very interesting story in the book of Exodus that shows his hand dealing with the children of Israel as they are being tutored and led towards a knowledge of God, and toward the knowledge of Jehovah, who thenceforth was the only God of the children of Israel.

Turning to our text, Exodus 14: 15, 16, we read: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: but lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." It is also well to bear in mind the words of Jesus when he said: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." The children of Israel had not chosen God, but he had chosen them out of bondage into a land of comfort, that they might become acquainted with him and find in him the true source of life. Dear soul, this is God's way of bringing to you the waters of life, that you may be prepared for the land of your inheritance.

This is the way of God's approach to you. The waters of life are at your feet. This is the way he comes to you when, under his leadership, you come to realize that he knows every soul, that he has not only begun his Son, that whosever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16. He will not leave you in bondage, but will deliver you from the children of Israel after their four hundred years of bondage in Egypt.

After a period of many severe trials and suffering, though he put them up to the heart of Pharaoh that he might let the Israelites go, he stand

with the children of Israel on the shores of the Red Sea with its broad expanse of water stretching out before them and the range of mountains behind them. It is no wonder they cried out in terror as they see the Egyptian Army filling the narrow space between Migdol and the sea. There is no visible way of escape.

This is a realizing sense of the state of mind that is true of many of you, has put yourself in such a position as to hinder your own pathway, as you live over the experiences of your bondage, under the fear of being returned to that bondage by the army. This was a condition of war as truly as many people are experiencing today. Let us take note of God's word as it is found in our text. "And the Lord said to Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: but lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." Consider carefully the teaching of this text. The realization of danger begets fear, stirs up unrest of mind and distress of soul. None knows this any better than God and the person who faces consequences of the awfulness of crime. Each one of us conscious of sin knows something of this distress of soul. Can't you hear God saying to the children of Israel, "Don't grow nervous with your crying unto me, but press on in the way in which you are being led; press forward." This is the way of God's approach to you. The waters of life are at your feet. This is the way he comes to you when, under his leadership, you come to realize that he knows every soul, that he has not only begun his Son, that whosever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16. He will not leave you in bondage, but will deliver you from the children of Israel after their four hundred years of bondage in Egypt.

If you have not made your peace with God, if you are doubtful about your Christian standing, turn your face Godward in all things, and press forward toward the kingdom through full obedience to his revealed will. There can be no oneness with God, but through unconditional surrender to him. There should be no hesitation about such surrender, for if God is true, all is true for the one surrendering; not a thing is lost but the unrest and uncertainty which has been yours.

A young woman from a wealthy plantation home in Georgia was a student at Wellesley College, and while there she became a Christian. When she graduated and went home she was received by family and friends with a real banquet at her home. As they were eating, her father asked what were his plans for life. She replied, "I wish to give my life to mission work." The father was much disserted and replied, "This cannot be; your mother and I have different plans for you." She replied, "I am a Christian and want to be first and primary." In haste the father replied, "One who will not do as I plan cannot be a daughter-in my home." After a few moments she quietly arose from the table and went into the parlor sat down to the piano; she played and sang softly:

Jesu, I cross my race has taken;
All that I see or do is inanimate;
Dust to dust, despoiled, forsaken,
Thou, from hence, my all shall be.

All I've sought or hoped, or known;
Now rich, is now my poor;
God and heaven's all my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have been lost or taken away;
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like man, untried;
Appear as thou didst appear,
God of wisdom, love, and might;
Lose not the loss thou hast won me;
Show thy face, and all is bright.

Ere she had sung thus far her father stood by her side with tears running down his cheeks and said, "Daughter, you have won.

What a picture is that of the reward of consecration to God's service.

We are in the midst of a fearful war, an atrocious war. While I speak of this, I am possessed of a deepening conviction that
THE SABBATH RECORDER

CHRISTMAS GOOD WILL

Christmas is almost here. The day we celebrate with gladness and with mirth and gift giving and receiving is nearly upon us. On buses and on the streets the topic of discussion is no longer the war; but, rather, I hear people say: "Have you finished your Christmas shopping?" or something like, "How crowded the stores are this year!"

Yes, the day called Christmas is almost here. It will not be quite so much a happy Christmas as we sometimes have, for loved ones are far away and in danger. But, for many Christian men and women and children upon the earth, there will be no Christmas celebration. Oh yes, they know and are thankful that the Christ child came to bring them new life; but how can they be glad, how can they give gifts when they are wandering homeless and hungry? How can they show joy in the thunder of the guns and bombs?

Christmas comes over nineteen hundred years ago and a baby was born in a stable at Bethlehem in Judea, Palestine, who was destined to become the Great Teacher and the Saviour of all men who come to live. This is God's gift of love to men. As you, in your mind's eye, look upon that stable scene with the baby and the shepherds, remember Jesus words: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." And remember that poverty and the poor, the unfortunate, the war-stricken peoples of the earth send such gifts, marked for the treasurer of the Denominational Relief, to the treasurer of the Denominational Budget. Help to make this Christmas a time of rejoicing, a time of relief from want and despair for the countless victims of war's ravages. - Committee on Overseas Relief.

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as ofourselves, but our sufficiency is of God." - The Secret Place.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Woman's Work

A Flawless Christmas-in-house—Remember Mother Concern gives stockings not only with gifts but hearts with love for the Christ whose birth as a babe we remember and honor.
unify—why not have it in life? . . . If we do not love one from whom we have seen how can we love God whom we have not seen? . . . The present world stands alone. By the light of human relationships must be built on Christ's ideals. If we are to endure peace . . . Before God no man stands alone. Your country, your church, your God, your event. Hence, to be important to us democracy, we shall not lose it in our midst. Some have said that because of it is inevitable in wartime today. The result is that it may not terminate when the war is over. If we believe that the Church is the whole of society in its life and witness the meaning of the kingdom as a spiritual fellowship in Christ. This is already a living reality through the ecumenical movement, through its efforts to establish a foundation for a just and durable peace. In spite of grave shortcomings when viewed in the light of its call to be one in Christ, the Church is already a world society transcending nation, race, and class. It is thus equipped, and in the providence of God is called to be the nucleus of a new international order.

Another dynamic personality and brilliant speaker of the assembly was Mrs. Harrison Elliott, general secretary of Y.W.C.A. A digest of her address will appear in a coming issue of the Recorder.

Miss Speakers

Among the noted men speakers of the assembly were Dr. Walter Van Kirk, from the Department of Justice of the World Good Will, Federal Council of Churches; Dr. Walter Judd, Congressman from Minnesota and for many years medical missionary in China. Dr. Van Kirk's address on "The Church and World Order" I feel as one who introduced him said, "It takes one mightier than I to report his message. The gist of his thought, however, was that the Church was a great vehicle he built on higher aspects than that ruled by emotions of war. He said: "It is convenient for rulers to forget the Atlantic Charter, Christians have not. A Power, we believe, should be educated to the idea that we will have more wars because our Good physicians purify bloodstream. We should let the Great Physician do that for us."

Dr. Judd, who had just returned from a trip to the Philippines with the United Nations Commission of Christian Councils in China, and who has experience in this country which has taught him Christian ideals.

Group Discussions

I have not yet told of the most interesting reports of ten commissions appointed two years ago and prepared by various Council of Church Women groups from all parts of the world. These reports are: "The View of Missions after the War at Home and Abroad," "A Critical Study of Prejudice in the Light of the Color Problem," "Our Profession Versus Our Behavior," "Can the Women of the World Prevent Another War?" and "We Realized that the Churches had a unique opportunity to do the Lord's work."

The group discussions which followed the programs each morning were very well attended if one could judge by the jams in the halls and elevators as we went to the rooms to which we were assigned. In one study group where I sat on the edge of a radiator, we were sitting on the floor and discussing the topics were: "Racial Tensions," "Education for Family Living," "Postwar Employment," "Church Women and Community Co-operation."

One wished she could be in more of these groups—all of which had excellent leaders. I was fortunate to be in one group led by Mrs. Numaga. The assembly closed with a dinner which was served in the ballroom. The tables were gay with candles and flowers; the food, "turkey with all the trimmings." There were the usual songs and toasts; the installation of the new president; the introduction of representatives of different churches and boards, when I, even, was called upon to rise and say the meeting closed with the singing of "Blest be the Tie That Binds" as each joined hands with their neighbors.

Salem, W. Va.

A Letter

Dear Friends:

You who were at the Assembly of the United Council of Church Women in Cincinnati heard the call for help with clothing for the Philippines. This letter asks you to use your every channel to give the women of your churches the opportunity to help answer this urgent need which seems to have come suddenly. Certainly the Philippines are a special responsibility of us as a nation, and as a Christian Church that has sponsored the growth of the younger church there.

The call is for 450,000 garments. Our government is furnishing the cloth; the churches and the Christian Community in the Philippines will cut the garments. "Bundles for America" is distributing and collecting them, and we hope the church women will do the sewing.

If your church will be responsible for sewing, write at once to "Bundles For America," 26 W. 45th Street, New York City. These supplies are very simple and are in bundles of ten. They will mail the garments, all cut ready to sew, in a carton which you are to take in which to mail back the finished garments. Inside the carton you will find a return sticker which you can place on the top of the carton and mail the completed dresses C.O.D. to "Bundles for America." The only cost will be the thread and labor.

Here is another opportunity for service. We have faith that church women will do this job, and do it quickly so that the need, already urgent, will be met more effectively. It is another chance to demonstrate the eagerness of Christian women to share the sufferings of the world and to hasten to relieve it.

Valuable minute for the devoted women in God's Church.

Ever sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ruth Mougey Worrell, Executive Secretary.
above the ermine blanket of the snow—he withheld his powers of creation in the beauty of ornamentation and suffered his only begotten Son, a birthplace amid the bleeding herds of a Judean stable.

No candles shed their soft radiance about his crude cradle. Only one lone star, flaming with unusual light and brilliance, arose to shed its beams above the place where the young child lay. No merry voices sang of sleigh bells and of snow, but an angel chorus sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” No one brought a gift to Mary nor exchanged gifts with the shepherds, but “wise men from the East” knelt before Jesus and “opening their treasures, they offered unto him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Gold was the usual gift made to a king, of festivities nor feasts, but of distinct sense: of peace and of love, and these are the gifts which we bring to-day, amid the thrills our minds as we abide with unusual light and brilliance, of sleigh bells and of Christmas. It is, unexpectedly, what Marv talked about in his cradle. Myrrh was the usual gift made to a king, looking toward an execution, but Gold was the usual gift made to a king, looking toward a birthplace. amid the circumstances. Our own heart is, may be money designated for special worthy causes, or boxes of fruit and food for the needy. They may be placed on or near the communion table or at some focal point. The pastor or leader may read appropriate psalms and Scripture as each gift is presented. This service may be used with a great many adaptations.

This story may be used to introduce the service: “The people who lived in the kingdom of Cathay loved their king very much. He was a peace-loving king and ruled his people with kindness and wisdom. Every year on the king’s birthday the people brought gifts all wrapped in white, and in a great white room of the palace they were presented to the king. It mattered not whether the gift cost little or much, just so it was wrapped in clean white paper. These gifts were tokens of gratitude and esteem for the king. Because we love our King, Jesus Christ on this day which honors his birth we bring our gifts to others for him. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me,” Jesus said.

Christmas is truly a home festival. The following materials are suggested for use in
services of worship for the home: "A Christmas Worship Service for the Family," a four-page folder, may be ordered from the Board of Christian Education, Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pa. The price is two cents each or one cent each for twelve or more. Sabbath schools might make it a project to provide these for each home, especially those homes where there is need for some added emphasis on family worship. After Christmas, Candles," provides a plan for family worship for four weeks. It includes carols, Bible readings, meditations, stories, and prayers. It may be ordered from "The Half Moon Press," Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

The Alfred Church has found that an afternoon worship service on Christmas day is a great help. The hour has been 4:00 p.m. The service is brief and worshipful. Families are urged to attend as a family and bring guests.

Sabbath schools will find helpful worship suggestions in the November "International Journal of Religious Education," and youth groups will find help in this same journal. "Church Management" for November and December both have helpful suggestions for candlelight services and helps for use in Sabbath school or church worship services. Anyone who desires more definite help in the plans for Christmas please write me and give the type of service for which you are to plan. Below are some Christmas verses.

A candle is a lovely thing To light for happy things A slim white candle, straight and tall To make the darkness their aye Grace Goll Cromwell.

Only a child—his Christmas gift was a parcel of fire. But a light was set in the dust of years And the rays have shined afar And ever in faith when eyes of men Shrink the night till they are. Their steps are turned to the Way again And they find in the Light their Light Author unknown.

Christmas is a time of singing and Of bright candles And brightly dressed Christmas trees. Christmas is a time of laughter and fun.

but most of all Christmas is a time of remembering; Of remembering Jesus men. And how he worked along with God. A time of remembering of how we too Can work together To make others happy. Christmas is not for just one day. It is every day. For every day there is work to do And someone to make happy. E. P.

Though Christ a thousand times In Bethlehem be born If he's not born in thee Thy soul is all forlorn. Jacopone Da Todi.

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birthdays of all men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love All over the earth. Let But one come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be marry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children. The Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen. Robert Louis Stevenson.

The Christmas Spirit of 1944
By Lois Sutton
(A student in the University)

Amidst the great sorrow and strife of the present turmoil, another Christmas has gently advanced upon them the time. Once again the Christmas season is here, spreading its simple message of truth and love over all the earth. Is there anyone who is there to stop and listen with true sincerity to its simple beauty? Does the spirit of Christmas still prevail in the hearts of men in this tumultuous year of 1944? Let us look out across the earth to our neighbors over the seas. In past years Christmas has been a great occasion for them. It meant happiness and hope to everyone from the poorest peasant to the richest nobleman; but this year, the people, both rich and poor, are turned to the threshold of homelessness and starving. What can Christmas mean to those suffering, half-alive millions who are stricken by the war? How can they associate Christmas with the good things in life of we do? As Christmas approaches, perhaps, if they

pause just a moment to look up amidst the devastating explosions and blindly flares to gaze into the same starlit sky that hovers over us, they will find a strange peace and contentment. The starry heavens will take them back to a century or two ago when over the peaceful countryside a sudden light shone upon the shepherds and angels of God's love, praising him, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." If they search for the star that guided the wise men to the tiny babe sleeping in a manger, they shall find comfort and joy. As their souls are uplifted in hope, they will feel our prayers and thoughts, and they will see our outstretched arms and tears as our hearts open out to the Christ child. Is it not true that hear God's voice pleading with them to wait a little longer and pray with faith and hope? Surely they will understand the promise he sends them through the Christmas message that peace shall soon return to the earth. And what of our own husbands, brothers, and fathers in the service, some of whom are away for the first time on this Christmas? Has the Christmas spirit ceased to mean anything to them? Perhaps as they rest after a hard day's battle their thoughts will take them back home. They will see snowflakes gently flickering down upon crowded streets of busy people bustling about to do their last minute Christmas shopping. They will see joy and happiness in the faces of their loved ones as they gather together to decorate a beautiful tree. They will see the enchanted, excited expressions on the faces of little children as they gather around their parents to hear once again "The Night Before Christmas." As our boys over there gather together to sing Christmas carols, perhaps they are taken back to the time when they went caroling from house to house on a frosty Christmas eve, or to the candlelight services in their own church. You can read together the ageless Christmas story they must surely realize that as Jesus was the Saviour of men, so are they the saviours of the world. The spirit with which they shall do their Christmas traditions may live, is the true Christmas spirit. For they are sacrificing themselves as Jesus did that some day there shall truly be "peace on earth, good will toward men." Alfred, N. Y.

Children's Page

To our Children and Their Grandchildren
The editor of the Sabbath Recorder and his son, Jeanette Disbrow, Gypsum, N. D., wish you a Merry Christmas. We know you will say yes, too, then while you rejoice around your well-lighted Christmas tree and remember how Jesus was born in a manger. We trust you will go to your parents and tell them of your blessings with children around the world less fortunate and happy than you.

Our Letter Exchanged

Dear Mrs. Greene:

I am fine. I am visiting Aunt Gladys and Grandma in Gypsum, Colo. Mother and I have been here for four weeks.

I have been going to school here. We are going home next week.

I hope my home is in Manhattan, Kan. I have a sister Mary and a brother Raymond. I have a big brown dog. His name is Nubbins.

Your little friend,

Gypsum, Colo. Gladys Brackett.

Dear Gladys:

As I have three nice letters this week, I'll have to wait until next week to finish my continued story. I mention now you can be guessing who "That Inquisitive Old Chap" is. I'm pretty sure we have all heard of him.

I had a little kitten once that I called Nubbins because he never grew very big, while his brother and sister grew so much larger. Now you are wondering why you call your big dog Nubbins. You'll have to tell me in your next letter.
Dear Mrs. Greene:

How are you? I hope you are fine.

Is it snowing where you are? It snowed down here a little Sabbath morning.

In Junior we have charts, and every week we name something on them. In October on a Tuesday night the juniors went to Dare-town to the C. E. Rally and had a nice time. And the juniors won the prize. We went to Daretown in a station wagon.

In school we have been having some harder work of late and had before. I have been getting good marks in school.

I played the violin in church once, and sometimes I play in Junior.

I hope you will have a nice Christmas. Both of my brothers are in the navy, and they won't be home for Christmas. This afternoon I have to go to church and practice the Christmas program. Well I guess I will say good-by now.

Your Christian friend,

Sonny Ayars.

Bridgeton, N. J.

Dear Sonny:

We are having plenty of snow around here, and about every day it snows some more so that it gets deeper and deeper. Most of the roads, however, are pretty good. We call them "one track" roads; and it isn't much fun to turn out when we meet another car, as we found on a trip to and from Alfred this afternoon.

We, too, are practicing a Christmas program in the church. I am to be Santa Claus. Can you imagine that?

Your sincere friend,

Mispa S. Greene.

My dear friend Mrs. Greene:

I have been intending all summer to write to you.

We are having a beautiful fall. I always thought that woods were so pretty at that time of year.

I believe I will tell you a true story, but first may I ask if you know how to make tatting trimming? My husband can, but I cannot; I never could make the knot slip. When my mother was a young lady a young lady called on her. She thought she would show her friend the tatting she had just finished. She looked around, but she couldn't see it. She remembered laying it on the window sill all only a minute before. But after the trees shed their leaves she saw the beautiful trimming hanging from a bird's nest.

I am wondering how our young friends would like to live where the flies could not be shut out in the daytime nor the mosquitoes at evening; but I can remember when in the evening my brother would take a chip pan to start a little smudge to keep the mosquitoes away. He would want to sit out on the lawn. In the house Mother would have a hot fire to do all her baking in the one room, for those were frontier days they were living then, some different from the way we live now. Not many books and papers then, and I guess most grandfathers and mothers are glad it is different.

My brother had the good fortune to have two pairs of ice skates given him during his boyhood days, and how he would hurry around Sunday to get his chores done and wood sawed up so he could go to the slough to skate. Oh, and he cut and pieced blocks for a bed quilt.

Well I must ring off before my letter gets too long.

Mrs. R. U. Daggett.

Dodge Center, Minn.

ARRANGEMENT

A child, desirous of presenting his father with a present, goes into the garden and gathers a lapful of flowers and weeds, all mixed together. His mother selects, arranges, and binds that flowerscript, scripturific, scripturificable. So Christ makes over our poor services acceptable to God as a sweet-smelling savour—Amosemb.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

FOR DECEMBER 30, 1944

The Basis of Courage for the Future


Golden Text—1 Corinthians 15: 58.

GOD STEPPED OUT

By Rev. Charles H. Bond

Text: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 11.

In Scripture we shall tell of a little boy who stood before the picture of his father and then turned to his mother and said wistfully, "I wish father would step out of the picture."

This little boy has expressed the deepest yearning of the human heart. We who have seen R. B. and have in more ways that it gets deeper and deeper. Most of year."

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town to register.” Luke 2: 1, 3, Goodspeed. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem. But God through his spokesman, Micah, had long before named the place: “And you, O Bethlehem...” For one shall come forth for me, who shall rule over Israel.” Micah 5: 2, Goodspeed. God stepped out making his personal appearance there in Bethlehem and announced his coming.

3. The Person Announced

“Christ the Lord.” A tiny baby was born bringing “good tidings of great joy...” of peace and good will.” It was a child on the doorstep of the world ready to step out and reveal to the world God’s greatness, and to divide time into the “before and after.”

The Christ was only a little boy; he was a world man in size and reach. He was announced “King of the Jews,” but he came not to them alone. They were God’s doorway. He came through the Jewish door to all the people of every race.

Christ could not be Lord of all unless he reached out and took in all. The one announced was to become the door—“I am the door of the sheep”—through which every man might enter into the kingdom. Is it any wonder that the “Shephers returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen?”

The Purpose

“A Saviour.” It was a dark, stormy night; and a little child, lost in the streets of a city was crying in distress. A policeman heard the child and stopped to see if he could help. He found that the child was lost, and learned enough from the story to locate the home. Then the directions were given in this manner: “Just go down this street half a mile, turn to your right and follow the river down a little way, and you’ll see then where you are.” The poor child, only half comprehending, chilled by the wind, and bewildered in the storm, was turning blindly about, when he spoke the words in a kind of tone, “Just come with me.”

The little hand was clasped in a stronger one, the corner of a warm cloak was thrown over the shoulders of the shivering child, and the way home was made with ease.

In this way parallels the story of the human race emasculated and found in the darkness, being told that this way and that was the way to God, and he started out in all directions—confused as to which road was the highway to righteousness. Then a voice said “Fear not... for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour.”

God did just point the way saying, “Go!” But he stepped out and said, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Don’t worry about the way to the throne of God, because “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him.”

5. The Person Addressed

“Unto you. Why has God stepped forth? “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Nothing could be more personal than “unto you.” The glaze is for you. “God so loved the world (you) that he gave.” Let us accept the gift, for “as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become children of God.”

You need not wait longer for the Father to step out into the world. Everything now depends upon you. You let him enter in is “this day.” “The place”—let every heart prepare him room. Take him into your heart and so live that your very actions and words will “announce” that Christ the Lord liveth in you. Then your life will have “purpose,” and that purpose will be to “show forth his salvation from day to day.”

Though Christ a thousand times be born,
If he’s not born in thee,
Thy soul is still forlorn.

It was a star that led the Wise Men to that little town of Bethlehem and to the Christ child. And as they looked upon the Saviour something happened to them—God stepped into their hearts, and they “went back another way.” Dr. Jones speaks the truth when he says, “No one can really see Christ and go back the same way.” Life becomes different from that hour.

As you pause before the manger at this Christmas season do not leave until you are ready to go back another way. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

God stepped out to walk with you.

Won’t you walk with him?

Little Genesis, N. Y.
CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

By Phillips Brooks

Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in fields of o'er ripe corn;
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white.

Christmas where children are hopeful and gay.
Christmas where old men are patient and gray.
Christmas where peace like a dove is in flight.
Broodi o'er brave men in the thick of the fight.

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
For the Christ child who comes is the Master of all;
No palace too great, no cottage too small.

BETHLEHEM INN

By Alice Annette Larkin

The inn at Bethlehem was full.
In splendor seldom seen they came:
Great men from distant Galilee;
And scribes who would enroll each name;
Shepherds, for whom the very stars
Were "live with God, and wise men understood
The message of that star and angel song;
They worshiped when no others would.

So pray we for the eyes to see,
The ears to hear, and minds to comprehend
Amew, that only love divine can bring
To men the peace that has no end.

—P. G. M.,
in World Council Courier.

WERE YOU THERE, LITTLE LAMB?

Were you there, little lamb, on that glorious night,
When Judas was bathed in ethereal light.

And the shepherds became "sore afraid" at the sight?

Were you there — little lamb — were you there?

Were you there when the heavenly host loudly sang,
"Peace on earth and good will toward men."

Till a joy never known gave to life a new throng?
Were you there on that night, little lamb?

Were you there when the shepherds followed the Star?

Mat, in Bethlehem, wise men who came from afar
To present their choice gifts — treasures nothing could equal.

Did you see that rare sight, little lamb?

Were you there when they knelt at the manger to pray,
To his dear baby hands were outstretched in the hay.

And the wise "Lamb of God" gave mankind Christmas day?

Were you there — little lamb — were you there?

—Jillie Kronk Lee, in Our Dumb Animals.