Grace
$1.00

were table displays of very interesting souvenirs from other lands. The program included the presentation of a Mexican family scene by the DeLand family, folk songs in Spanish and German, a Chinese song and one in French, and a boys' quartet singing a Dutch round, which was dramatized in Dutch costume. The program closed with an impressive film entitled 'People Without Fear.'

The Friday Vesper on Nov. 20, with a Thanksgiving theme, was in charge of Mrs. Ernest Thorngate, who read appropriate Scripture and other material. The music by the boys' quartet was much enjoyed and included both vocal and instrumental numbers. — E. M., Publicity.

INDEPENDENCE, N. Y. — The Independence Church sponsored a Vacation Bible School for the children from the surrounding community. Three of the older girls of the church assisted in the teaching and with the music.

Nine from our church attended Camp Harley. The upstairs classroom has been remodeled making it much more attractive to those attending Sabbath school.

We have enjoyed having the members of the Andover Church meet with us since the discontinuing of services there.

We were very fortunate to be able to have Rev. Loyal F. Hurley conduct a Preaching Mission in our church from Friday night to Sunday night, Nov. 13-15. The meetings were well attended. He gave messages challenging and inspirational to each one of us — and I believe the church will grow spiritually as a result of his efforts. — Grace C. Spicer, Press Corps.

Obituaries

Prentice. — Donald Toop, of Peekskill, N. Y., son of Dr. Harry W. Prentice of Cranford, N. J., and the late Alice Toop Prentice (former music instructor in Alfred University), was born in Yonkers, N. Y., Sept. 13, 1906, and died in the Peekskill Hospital June 20, 1953.

He was graduated from Alfred University in 1927. On May 13, 1933, he married Dorothy Painter of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Prentice served in World War II as a captain in the Signal Corps, being overseas three years. For the past twenty years he has been employed by the Bell Telephone Company of New York City and for some time in the capacity of business engineer. He had been granted a year's leave of absence from the Bell Company and had worked with the National Heart Fund.

Don was a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of New York City.

Funeral services were held at the Beecher Funeral Home in Pleasantville, N. Y., June 22, with burial in Mount Kensico Cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, his father, and a sister, Eleanor Prentice Anderson of Cranford, N. J.

Clarke. — Judson Dwight, son of Sherrill Joseph and Harriet Saunders Clarke, was born Sept. 21, 1867, on the family farm near Milton, W. Va., and passed away at his Milton home on Sabbath, June 20, 1953.

Being graduated from Milton College in 1891, Dwight Clarke was granted a Mitchell Scholarship in agriculture at the University of Wisconsin where he became an assistant to the late Dr. Stephen Babcock. He followed agriculture as a career throughout his active life.

On Oct. 12, 1904, Mr. Clarke was married to Beatrice Lawther, then head of the music department of Salem College, Salem, W. Va.

One son, Walton Dwight, was born to their marriage.

Baptized by Rev. E. M. Dunn, at ten years of age, Mr. Clarke was for 75 years a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. At one time he served as treasurer of the Young People's Board of the denomination. He was an active, participating member of his beloved church.

Surviving him are his wife, Beatrice; his son, Walton; one sister, Cora Clarke; and two granddaughters. Farewell services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. Elmo F. Randolph, with burial in the Milton Cemetery.

— E. F. R.

Bond. — Rebecca, daughter of Eli and Mary Baten Bond, was born Jan. 22, 1865, and died Nov. 25, 1953, at Lost Creek, W. Va.

“Aunt Becky” was a member of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church for 65 years. She is survived by 8 nieces and nephews, 17 great-nieces and nephews, and 21 great-great-nieces and nephews. Farewell services were conducted at the home of her nephew, John Curry, Sr., November 27, by her pastor, Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel. Burial was in the Frame Church Cemetery.

— R. E. Z.
The Sabbath Recorder
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A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration
Member of the Associated Press Press
REV. LEON M. MALTBY, Editor
Contributing Editors:
MISSIONS
Everett T. Harris, D.D.
WOMEN'S WORK
Mrs. A. Russell Maixen
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Neal D. Mills, M.A., B.D.
CHILDREN'S PAGE
(Mrs.) Multiph S. Greene

A BRIEF FOR CHRISTMAS
In last week's editorial we tried to point out that the preciousness of the birth narratives helps us to accept the whole Word of God as proclaims that only the most radical critics tamper with the accounts of the incarnation. We still believe we were right in that statement even though there comes to our desk this morning the December issue of "The Universalist Leader," the leading article of which denies that we have any accurate knowledge of the birth of Jesus. Strange enough, Rev. Theodore Webb, the writer, entitles his article, "A Brief for Christmas.

Mr. Webb contends that the stories of the birth of Jesus should be appreciated rather than believed. He says that those early "mythmakers" and "talebearers" were perhaps more astute than the theologians who described God with words. The writers of the early chapters of Matthew and Luke hit upon the wondrous idea of describing God as a babe in a manger. He designates as allegories the announcement by angels, the virginity of Mary, the star, the shepherds hearing the angels sing.

In our opinion, a lawyer, presenting a brief for Christmas under such terms, would lose his case. The court is not arbitrary. He implies that Universalists "who are intelligent, who are in the western, liberal tradition" should break away from those who have carried the burden of taking these stories seriously.

We do not believe that Christmas as a name or as a church celebration can be explained directly from verbal sources. We do believe that the nativity is worthy of celebration—such that a celebration can have great value in the great program of bringing people to a saving faith in Christ. Denied that the well-educated leaders of the Unitarian-Universalist group are necessarily clearer thinkers than those of other denominations who count as facts those things which Mr. Webb calls fiction.

If we were building a brief for Christmas we might well start with the unbelievable teachings Jews when they believed in the supernatural acts and heaven-directed words of Jesus. Those mighty words and words were the more unbelievable because they supposed that Jesus was the son of God. Surely God would be nearer and the problems of the road less irritating.

DECEMBER 21, 1953
CHRISTIAN CENTURY, Missions, United Evangelical Action, and other magazines have recently called attention to the deplorable situation of Protestants in Spain following the new agreement made between our nation and the Spanish dictator. The plight of Evangelicals was bad before; now it is well nigh intolerable.

The editor of Missions says the Pentagon forced the government on the basis of expediency diplomacy, which got the government on the basis of the new agreement made between Spain and the Vatican. This puts a strain on the relationship between Spain and the Vatican. This puts a strain on the relationship between Spain and the United States. The situation was made worse by the threat of a larger totalitarian country to Spain in the incomparable eighth chapter of Spain.

It is one thing to explain unbelief and quite another to accord it honor and esteem. We probably cannot do much about the suppression of religious liberty in Spain, but we can be aware of the facts and we can pray for our unfortunate thousands that their faith fail not.

RADIO TALKS ON THE BIBLE
The Mutual Broadcasting Company has invited Dr. Francis Carr Stifler, secretary for Public Relations of the American Bible Society, for the seventh successive season to speak on the Bible over the facilities of its coast to coast network. On Mutual's popular program entitled "Faith in Our Time," at 10:15 to 10:25 a.m., EST, Dr. Stifler will be heard on Mondays through January 25.

His themes will be:
Dec. 28 — The Year that You've Been Waiting For
Jan. 4 — The Ten Commandments
Jan. 11 — The Psalms
Jan. 18 — The Sermon on the Mount

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON
for January 2, 1954
God Revealed in Christ
Lesson Scripture John 1: 14-23, 29-36.

Radio Talks on the Bible

Prayer Thought
How can I find time to pray? Did you ever stop to realize how many thoughts for good or ill can surge through your mind while the light is red at the intersection? We have found much refreshment in weary traffic by closing the eyes during that brief moment when our line of traffic waited for the other fellow's right of way. How much better to grasp this interval for communion with God. Surely God would be nearer and the problems of the road less irritating.
CHRISTMAS
Robert G. Lee, D.D.

"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." (Luke 2: 15.)

These shepherds - poor, honest, industrious - were not leaders of armies, nor politicians, nor advocates of political theories, nor bankers counting piles of money - rather, just throwers of stones to keep the wolves away, watchers of their flocks. To these who were dutifully diligent in their common tasks, the good news was first announced. To the shepherds the angel of the Lord said, "Fear not... for unto you is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11.) To these same shepherds a multitude from the heavenly choir sang, "Glory be to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2: 14.)

The information God gave, the shepherds wisely put into action immediately. Not the delay of a week, nor a day, nor an hour, nor a minute. The next day they arrived at the stable and beheld Jesus, the Son of God! Christ's virgin birth, defiant of all distances, discouraged by no vast expanse, downcast by no far distance, is a twofold testimony: the one thing most importantly needful. Because He knew no sin.

Having glory with God before the world began, loved by the Father before the foundation of the world, Jesus Christ was holy, undefiled, separate from sinners. By the power of the highest, went down into the mysterious land of motherhood, she came back holding in her arms the eternal Son of God, Christ's virgin birth, on which rests the credibility of the Scriptures and the sinlessness of Jesus, is the Alpha of our Christian faith. Accept that, and all else rightly follows.

What was the grand design of the Saviour's birth? The redemption, by His death, of fallen, guilty, helpless man. That was why He came. "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law" (Galatians 4: 4-5). He was named Jesus, because He came to 'save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1: 21). There is something sublime and delightful in the nailing to public notice the name SAVIOUR. As the shepherds and the wise men on the first Christmas Day made haste to the Saviour, will you make haste to the cross and see there the Christ who died for you?

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation of our sins" (1 John 4: 10).

"Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6: 2).

This is the story of Christmas: "God so loved the world, that he GAVE his only begotten Son, that whatsoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3: 16).

If you could write a book and wondering if she could find a publisher, Mrs. Henrichsen had four publishers asking to publish a book by her. Something of that story is told by Osgata Ehret Potter, herself a preacher's daughter, in the Alfred Sun. We quote:

"Mrs. Henrichsen is a warm, vital personality who finds every human being, every phase of life, interesting. Looking for comfort and occupation after the death of her husband ten years ago, she began to concentrate on church work. In the decade since, she has completed her theology work, and gradually acquired pastoral charge of seven Methodist churches in rural Maine. Her 84-mile circuit every week includes about 600 families in the areas where her churches are the only ones in each little community.

"She now has her own book, and, subsequently, its illustrated coverage in Life magazine originated, she explained, "About two years ago I wrote a simple little article for the church magazine, "They Might Believe," and it was published in a quarterly religious magazine.

"The magazine of Time magazine saw it and wrote a column about it. I was excited when as well known a magazine as that mentioned my work, so you can imagine my feelings when that resulted in four publishing offers. I asked Mrs. Henrichsen if she could find a publisher, Mrs. Henrichsen said to God in the highest, that he GAVE his only begotten Son, because He came to "have sinners." (John 3: 16.)

"The biggest thrill about this has been the reaction of the book and the Life magazine article. The many letters coming my way now all show how the country is really hungry for a simple, human religious faith and how the trend is now to get closer to God." Her topics at Alfred were grouped under the subject, "As Disciples Sent" as follows:

(1) "That They Might Know," (2) "That They Might See," (3) "That They Might Believe," (4) "That They Might Live."

SUGAR PINE CLINIC
ASHAWAY, R. I.

Rev. C. Rex Burdick of the Marboro Church, was speaker and consultant at the Ashaway "Spiritual Life Clinic" this month. The campaign was designed to help people to a deeper Christian experience.

The "Clinic" began on Home-Coming Day, November 28, and continued through Sabbath morning, December 5, with meetings each evening, and on Sunday, December 6, when Rev. Burdick brought eight soul-searching sermons, challenging his hearers to a closer walk with God and to a more earnest consecration to the cause of Christ.

The worship services each night were built around masterpieces of religious art, interpolated by the pastor. The theme was developed by the use of appropriate Scripture passages, poetry, and story, and music by congregation, soloists, and instrumentalists.

The prayer program undergirding the campaign included, besides prayer-lists, a daily prayer meets, with the church bell ringing at 1 o'clock each afternoon, and a prayer room at the church open for use before and after the services.

At the closing service on Sabbath morning a rededication service followed the sermon. Those attending found the slogan, "Turn up your life!" becoming a reality in their personal experience. - Correspondent.

When the heart is converted the purse will be inverted. - Selected.
CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR
Youth and leaders of youth from many parts of North America attended the dedication service of the new Christian Endeavor headquarters at 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 6. The new structure was named the Daniel A. Poling Building in honor of the World's Christian Endeavor Union president.

More than 400 people attended the service of worship held in the Broad Street Christian Church, Columbus, when Dr. Daniel A. Poling gave the main address. Dr. Ernest R. Bryan, president of the International Society, presided.

Following the meeting in the church, the group marched in procession two squares east to the new, modern two-story building, the "capital" of Christian Endeavor, where Rev. Robert C. Ross, associate president of International Society, led the assembly in a litany of dedication, followed by the prayer of dedication given by Dr. Poling in his message.

The dedication of the building is the simple but historic denominational example of the Church within the Church herself. Columbus, Ohio, was chosen by the commission for its rich heritage and the leadership of Bishop Clarence M. Rogers on the Committee of Christian Endeavor. The committee was instructed to name a successor to the Christian Endeavor Union of America, which has been a part of the Church of Christ for the past 17 years.

The commission met in the Church of Christ on the night of Dec. 5. The Bishop presided and expressed the desire of the Church to assume the leadership of the Christian Endeavor Union.

The action of the commission was followed by the dedication of the new building. The dedication was held with a tone of reverence and the spirit of dedication.

IN THE REINDEER COUNTRY
E. J. P. Hansen

We are glad to send tidings from both in letters and the Sunday School Recorder. We are ourselves in peace and labouring for the Gospel, for which sake I was on a long journey through the most northern part of Norway near the Russian border, to visit faithful assemblies there. For 6 days and nights I sailed along the coast of Norway rounding the top of Norway, and after landing I took a sledge-automobil a long distance into the inland, which is very desolate and only populated with ever travelling shepherds of reindeer, and there are only very few towns in this large country. The natives called Samer are isolated from the population of the rest of Scandinavia and have their own habits and living.

With me I had 6 large packs of clothes from the assemblies in Oslo and Copenhagen, and arriving to the assemblies it took me several days to distribute all the clothes, and there was exceedingly rejoicing in the Lord. I preached in the country on several occasions and after having spent many days with the holy, benevolent and grateful brethren, I was treated to a love-feast, and we spent glorious hours together and having feet-washing together.

On my journey home our ship was met by a furious hurricane, and I became sick and suffering. It was extremely cold and dark up there and already at midnight it was as night here. I stopped for some days at Oslo and brought greetings from the high north to the assembly, and after having spent some time with them I departed and returned to Copenhagen.

The brethren and sisters in our assembly greet you all in the Lord. Peace and the love of God be with you. Amen.

[The above paragraphs are from a letter dated Dec. 2 by Rev. E. J. P. Hansen, the young pastor of the newly recognized chloroidean church in Denver, who can readily catch the spirit of his ministry though he writes in a language that is foreign to him. Ed.]

Ministerial Training Committee
At the Battle Creek Conference, Commission was instructed to name a successor to Clarence M. Rogers on the Committee to Study the Training of Ministers. Mr. Rogers, at that time, expressed his desire to be relieved in view of the added responsibilities he was undertaking as First Vice-President of the Christian Commission and member of the Commission.

Since Conference, Mr. Rogers has been prevailed upon to change his mind and has agreed to continue serving on this committee. It is understood that the committee is functioning by correspondence in advance of a full meeting some time between now and the next Conference at Milton. It is expected that the committee will make some definite recommendations for consideration at the Milton Conference.

A. B. C.
journal covering the accomplishments and happenings of his pastorate here.

Elois Burdick had charge of the memorial service for our beloved deceased member which was touching and beautiful. The hymns, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" and "Beyond the Sunset," were sung by Betty Davis, Myrna Davis, and Helena Knox.

Expectations for the future were given by Kenneth Wear of the Junior Christian Endeavor and Helena Knox of the Young People's Society. Pastor Dickinson congratulated the church on its progress in the past 25 years, and expressed the hope for a doubled membership, 220, by 1978.

The celebration was concluded in the evening by a social hour of special music and games under the direction of Luther Hansen. — Susa Patterson, Correspondent.

Accessions

Westerly, R. I., Nov. 21, 1953

Regular Membership:
Baptism: Miss Martha J. Gavitt and John J. Calhoun
Letter: Jared A. H. Van Horn and Ronald Reed

Associate Membership:
Mrs. Dwight E. Wilson

Membership:
Mrs. Ruth F. Drew

Nortonville, Kan., Nov. 28, 1953

Testimony:
Lloyd H. August

Baptism:
William August
James Wells
Stanley Bond
Judy Wells
Georgia Mitchell
Robert Wells
Melvin Francis Stephan

Births

Richardson. — A son, Robert William, born to Mr. and Mrs. William Richardson, Jr., of Shiloh, N. J., on Oct. 8, 1953.

McAllister. — A son, Maynard Monroe, born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank McAllister (Eleanor Dickinson) of Shiloh, N. J., on Nov. 16, 1953.

McAllister. — A son, Stephen Robert, born to Mr. and Mrs. William E. McAllister (Jean Davis) of Somerville, N. J., on Dec. 11, 1953.

Dittmer. — A son, Richard Brian, born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dittmer of Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 4, 1953.

Bottoms. — A daughter, Suzan Glen, born to Mr. and Mrs. George Bottoms of Battle Creek, Mich., Nov. 27, 1953.

OUR SERVICEMEN

Nortonville Church
Pvt. Albert N. Smith, US 55373241
C. Btry., 7th F. A. Bn.
APO 1, c/o Postmaster,
New York, N. Y.

Obituaries

Spafford. — Bertha Bliss, was born April 21, 1875, in Milton Junction, Wis., and passed away June 20, 1953, after a few hours illness at St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford, Ill.

She was married on Aug. 3, 1892, to Ezra Ernest Spafford. She became a follower of Christ at an early age and was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. She is survived by one son and six daughters: Ralph of Moline, Ill., Dorcas Lee, Ruth Aurand, and Ellen Thompson of Rockford, Ill., Ruby Hodges of Winnebago, Ill., Isabel Austin of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Ilia Charles of Long Beach, Calif. There are thirty grandchildren and sixty-four great-grandchildren.

(Mrs. Spafford would be best identified to many Recorder readers as the aunt of Mrs. Walter Rogers. This delayed obituary was furnished by Mrs. Ruby Hodges, and forwarded by Mrs. Nelson Inglis. Ed.)

Skinner. — Archie Brooks, son of William and Adene Brooks Skinner, was born at Waterford, Conn., Aug. 15, 1908, and died at Uncas-on-Thames, Dec. 2, 1953.

Archie attended Chapman Technical High School in New London. He worked for the Connecticut Light and Power Company for over 20 years. Increasing ill health caused him to spend over three years in the tuberculosis sanitarium. He had hoped to be returned home in a few months when death came suddenly. Surviving are his mother and his sister, Doris, of Waterford and a brother, Philip, of New London.

The farewell service was conducted by Rev. Paul Burdick and burial was in Great Neck Cemetery.

Knight. — Minnie Alberta Ward, was born near Jackson Center, Ohio, on May 28, 1886, and passed away at her home in Topeka, Kan., Nov. 26, 1953.

She became a member of the Jackson Center Seventh Day Baptist Church when about 15 years of age, and at the time of her passing had been a member of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church for fifty years.

In 1888 she was married to Edmund C. Knight who preceded her in death in 1936. Survivors are one brother, Calvin C. Snay, Valley Falls, Kan.; two daughters: Olive Washburn and Velma Wood of Topeka, Kan.; two sons: Raymond A. of Topeka and Roy W. of Philadelphia, Pa., two granddaughters, and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held at the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church, Nov. 28, 1953, conducted by Rev. Duane L. Davis, and burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

P. S. B.