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MERRY CHRISTMAS

DOES CHRISTMAS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

-- Dr. Sayres

(this article is a reprint from the Christmas issue of the "Seminarian" in the year 1949)

The ancient story of the Wise Men's visit to Bethlehem concludes with the statement that "they returned to their own country another way." No other meaning is intended than that, instead of going home by way of Jerusalem as they had come, they chose another route and by-passed the city where Herod was awaiting a report from them. But if we drew from those words another meaning, it would probably be in keeping with the truth. Whether we regard Wise Men as historic personages or figures in a pious legend, they doubtless went home in a different mood, as well as by a different road. They were different men as a result of seeing and worshipping the newborn King. They had come hoping; they departed knowing. They had come seeking; they departed having found. Their journey made a big difference in their lives. They would never be quite the same men again.

That poses for us the question, "Does Christmas make a difference?" When December 25 comes round and, with the aid of candles and carols and the annual re-reading of the nativity stories, we make our visit in pious imagination to the cradle-manger of Bethlehem, do we depart from the festal season another way? Do we emerge from the observance in a different spirit? Does it work any change in us?

Certainly it should make a difference. If we actually get to the heart of Christmas, if we get beneath the good things to eat and the gifts we exchange with our friends and loved ones, to the real meaning and the spirit of Him whose birth is commemorated, we can hardly come away unchanged. The real Christmas gets at us from within, when we remember that it has its origin in God's coming into the world in the person of a little Child. Christmas is a birthday. It celebrates the birth of divine love into a selfish and cruel world to make it a better and happier world.

We may come up to that real Christmas by the road of self-interest, thinking of ourselves and trying to get all we can for ourselves. But if we get close enough to the manger of Bethlehem and catch the spirit that emanates from it, we can hardly come away by that road. We ought to come away from it thinking of others, trying to help others, sharing whatever we have with others. Christmas should make us different.

It should make us think differently. The Star of Bethlehem sheds such a light on the things and people about us that we cannot think of them in quite the same way. Some things will look less attractive, while the value of others will appreciate. Persons whom we have despised and shunned may acquire new worth in our sight.

If we think differently as a result of our exposure to Christmas, we will certainly act differently. Christmas ought to move us to more kindly and gentle treatment of others -- those with whom we live on intimate terms and those whom we call strangers. It should be harder than before to elbow others out of the way, or to stand by and let the weak and timid be bullied by the strong and arrogant. Those days just after we have heard the strains of peace and goodwill sounding across the centuries from Bethlehem's hills ought to find us stepping briskly up to every opportunity to lend a helping hand or give something to a needy cause.

(CONTINUED on page 3)



BETHLEHEM, JUDEA: December 25, 1 AD (INS)

Late last evening large groups of Jews from all over this section of Judea in Palestine stopped in Bethlehem. Members of the Imperial Legion were on hand to help handle the crowds. Inns were packed to capacity long before nine o'clock. Most of the arrivals were Jews who came to Bethlehem for the census-taking and tax-paying procedures instituted by the Army of Occupation several weeks ago, under orders from the Imperial Command in Rome. With one slight exception the preparations for today's taxation here in Bethlehem were carried off without a hitch, thanks to the fine cooperation of the Legionnaires on duty.

The exception is hardly news-worthy; but here it is anyway. Sometime before midnight last evening a group of rowdy shepherds from the nearby hillsides descended upon the sleeping village. Before anyone got out of hand, however, these hill-folk apparently found what they were seeking. Someone directed them to a stable behind one of the inns here in Bethlehem in which a woman from Nazareth had given birth to a son. This reporter was not able to obtain the names of any of the Jews involved in this little disturbance. No doubt the shepherds were friends of the new father and mother who knew that the baby was to arrive sometime that night.

Reports will follow from this writer as the important census and taxing work begins. Your Judean correspondent, Marcus Gladius...

THE STAFF OF THE SEMINARIAN, in printing this imaginary "newsitem" from the ancient "Rome Times," wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and God's Power and Spirit as you proclaim the "Good News" missed by so many centuries ago -- and today.

Jerry	Hal	Bob
Philly	Ann	Tom
Clarie	Larry	Carl

ONE YEAR MORE

The popular song, "Give Me Five Minutes More," assumes that in certain circumstances an extra five minutes would be worth a great deal. Many a minister on the firing-line has felt that "one more year" of training for his work would have been worth a great deal to him, especially if it had been training-on-the-job.

Students of medicine are required to take a year of internship.

In the seminaries an increasing number of students are spending a clinical year in active service -- usually between the Middle and Senior years. Such internships have been fairly common among our students at Eden. The few students of our Seminary who have taken such extra training have found it exceedingly profitable. Don Grander, who is at St. Lucas Church in Evansville, Indiana, writes enthusiastically, asking for someone to replace him there next year.

It is not too soon for Juniors to do some advance thinking about the 1956-57 year. Invariably we have had more openings in churches for student interns than we have had volunteers who were looking for "one more year" of preparation. Think it over, and, if you are interested, speak to one of the Faculty's Committee on Outside Work -- Meek, Sayres, Gable, Bartholomew.

the Committee

ALL THE WORLD must go to Bethlehem though some but shut the door to Christ when they come. All the earth must go to Bethlehem even if some go but to slay the world's hope. All the world must go to Bethlehem, and some will find the world's wisdom there. All the earth must go to Bethlehem, for there is earth's great hope.

-- J.F. Mulholland

Does Christmas make a difference?

(continued from page 1)

Indeed Christmas should actually make us look different. It did that to grumpy old Scrooge, of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," even though it had to get at him in his sleep when his guard was down. He looked so different after that exposure to the Christmas spirit that the folk who knew him best hardly recognized him. Even if we do not need a face-lifting as badly as did Scrooge, Christmas may give us a "new look" in the best sense of the term, if we give it a chance. The light of faith and hope and love ought to shine from our eyes, once we let Christmas do to us what it can.

Will Christmas (in 1954) make any difference in you?



SEMINARY WOMEN CAROL THIS EVENING

Tonight (December 13th) at 6:45 pm members of the Association of Seminary Women will meet in the Lounge and leave together for Rossemere Sanatorium. At the sanatorium the ladies will sing a series of traditional carols. Following this special feature of the December meeting, the A.S.W. will re-convene in the Lounge around 8:00 pm for a Christmas decoration-making and refreshment-munching session.

Having completed a very interesting series of lectures and study sessions with Dr. Gable on several aspects of Church School teaching, the A.S.W. is now preparing for another series in the new year. This second annual series will be led by Dr. Dunn and will present to the Seminariettes information concerning the history of our Evangelical and Reformed denomination. All Seminary women are invited and urged to attend tonight's caroling program and the coming lecture-series in 1955.

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Stonesifer
Meditation by Dr. Englert

Who is MAGY the MAGICIAN?
Come to the Banquet
and see him in
Person!

Good food!

Come, and have
Fun!

Caroling!

CHRISTMAS BANQUET
THURS. Dec. 6th
6:00 PM
Refectory...

Forget your work!

Bring your better
half!

REMEMBER! Give gifts to those who would like to. A box will be provided for

Don't forget your 25¢ gift! Gifts will be given out by SANTA and his HELPER!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

Our Annual Christmas Communion Service will be conducted Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm in Santos Chapel. Dr. Meck will serve as liturgist at this service. The Christmas Lord's Supper message will be delivered this year by Dr. Gable.

At this service a special offering will be taken. The offering received will constitute a gift from the Seminary Family to Phoebe Home for the Aged in Allentown, Pa.

"Come, all ye Faithful"



Seminary Sports activities will be silent throughout the remainder of 1954. However, the Athletic Commission of the Society has extensive plans for starting the New Year off with a bang!

In January our sports program will resemble the Olympic Games. Faculty and students will limber up their pitching arms for the DART BASEBALL SEASON. As reported by the athletic director, "The dart ball skirmishes will be held on Wednesday evenings, Jan. 12, 19, and 26 at 7:30. Three games will be played each time, with the women students playing for the faculty this year."

Hopeful PING-PONG aspirants will get into the sports act by beginning their ladder-tournament on Jan. 3rd. At this stage of the game it looks as if Clarie Settlemyre, Bill Harner, and newcomer, Larry Fisher, will dominate the top rungs of the mythical ladder in a big field of stubborn opposition.

To fill out the heavy athletic program, once again opportunity for BOWLING will be open, with six teams lined up: Faculty and 330 College, First Floor, Second Floor, Third Floor and Pine St., Out-of-dorms, and a "make-up" team. If you are an interested Kegler, consult details on the Bulletin Board in Richards Hall. Hurry and sign up for any or all of these sports activities!

Final organization of the Seminary BASKETBALL squads has been announced by the Athletic Commission. Consult the Bulletin Board for the listings of the two teams. The basketball season begins officially next Monday, as the squads begin play in the F. & M. Intra-mural League. Extra games are also scheduled in January with teams from other Seminaries. The sports staff adds its holiday greetings and best wishes of success to the various teams and their loyal fans.

-- Hal and Bob

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CHRISTMAS

or

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

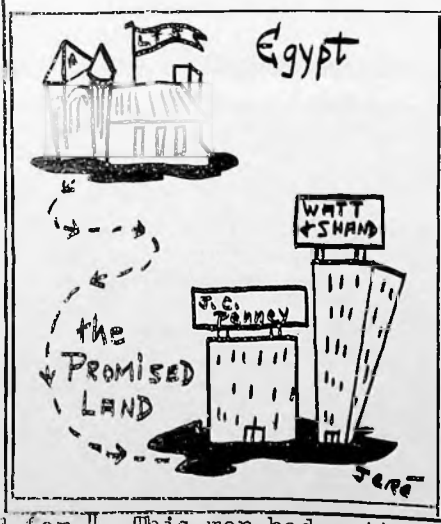
By Norma Vincenta Beale (Settlemyre)

A man came to me the other day, discouraged, insecure, and under pressure from the tensions of the Christmas season.. He said to me, "Dr. Beale, how can I get my friends and relatives to give me what I want for Christmas?" I gave him this simple formula to say every morning before getting up and every evening before going to bed: "Ask and it shall be given to you." I encouraged him to ask positively! I suggested that he should enclose a list with his Christmas cards. (You will note that my cards have special brackets for convenience in this matter. Just enclose a \$100 bill with your next letter to me, and I'll be glad to send you a box.).

I said to him, "Make it more pleasant and convenient for them to give than not to give. If you need a new toothbrush, borrow theirs for awhile. Live confidently -- tell Aunt Bessie that Aunt Jane is giving you a new diamond wristwatch. Then, tell Aunt Jane how nice Aunt Bessie thinks it is that she's giving you a new diamond watch, and so she has ordered a diamond ring to match it!"

The man left my office, promising to give it a try. Several weeks later he returned. "Dr. Beale," he said, "I've just had the most successful Christmas of my life! Your method is so simple, yet I received everything I asked for." This man had gotten the most out of Christmas.

The EXODUS: Seminarians seek their "SYNOD AID"



(CONTINUED: page 5)

A TIME AND PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Those members of the Seminary Family who wish to contribute to the benevolent work of the Seminary but are unable to attend the services where offerings are taken may place their contributions in the box in the rear of the chapel. Your interest and support of this aspect of our Seminary life will be much appreciated.

-- the Society Commission
on Finances

STAFF ASSISTANTS GET IN ON THINGS FOR '55

The three Junior assistant editors selected in October to complete the staff of the "Seminarian" met with the present editor of our school paper last Wednesday. At this session Ann Schoup, Larry Fisher, and Bob Godfrey got the "low-down" on things-highly-journalistic. They were introduced to the "Seminarian's" dirty office, devilish multi-graph machine, and confused system of publication.

Plans for the full use of the talents and interests of the new staff members were outlined. Present procedures and policies were discussed, and a look to the future was considered. The trio of assistants, it is hoped, will form the nucleus of next year's "Seminarian." Beginning with this issue, the Junior threesome will take part in the different phases of the paper's work, in preparation for their taking over the actual publication sometime after Easter in the Spring Term -- 1955.

...the Host out of Christmas (continued from page 4)

All of you can have the same kind of success, if you, too, follow my formula for 31 consecutive days. All the difficulty in life arises from negative thinking!

For instance, Santa Claus himself has not taken advantage of his opportunities. He has been forced to go to work at J.C. Penney's in Lancaster, Pa., in order to provide for his guppies. He is a warped, one-sided personality; all he does is give without making plans for self-development. He has been a miserable failure in the world.

You have heard the old proverb, "Cadillacs don't grow on Christmas Trees." Now, what kind of thinking is that! Of course they can, if one only thinks positively. I've even heard of people who haven't received Synod Aid, simply because they have not asked properly. Be regular and constant in your asking -- send an application in every week. Such dynamic power will be released from these Synods that you'll be overwhelmed at the response!

Above all, send for my latest book, "How to Have Stronger Christmas Spirits." It can do much to heighten your joy at Christmas time. Now, may you all have a very positive Christmas!



THE FACULTY at its December meeting decided to try the proposed revision of the calendar for the school year, 1955-56. This means a later beginning and closing for our academic year. A copy of the plan will be found on the east bulletin board in the hall.

FRED IRVIN of the Junior Class has been appointed assistant manager for the next Year Book, to be issued in April as a part of the annual Catalogue Number of

the Seminary Bulletin.

CHRISTMAS RECESS begins Friday at 12:15 pm and ends Monday, January 3, at 10:00 am. Any change made in time or place of meetings of classes should be reported to the Dean and inserted in the official schedule on the west bulletin board in the main hall. Revised your own schedules accordingly.

FALL TERM GRADES will be distributed through the faculty counselors. Students will consult with their counselors on matters connected with their work.

(CONTINUED on page 6)

'Twas THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS'

By Ann Schoup

'Twas the week before Christmas when all through the dorm
Not a person was working, not even Joe Clem.
The books were all placed on the rack on the wall,
In hopes that the Profs wouldn't give an exam.
The Leonard's were nestled, all snug in their bed,
While visions of Lexington danced in their heads.
And Lois in her kerchief and Dan in his cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's chat,
When out in the hall there arose such a clatter,
They sprang from their chairs to see what was the matter;
Away to the door they ran like a flash,
Tore open the door and stuck out their heads.
The lights from above on the new-polished floor,
Gave a sparkle of brilliance to the forthcoming scene --
For, what to their wondering eyes should appear
But a miniature sleigh with eight happy sales-clerks,
With a little old Santa, so lively and quick,
They knew in a moment it must be Don Maul.
More noisy that "Boozie" these salesmen they came,
They whistled and shouted and called out their names,
I'm Jerry! I'm Lenny! I'm Deacon! I'm Curvey!
Hi Hal! Hi Bill! Hi Rabbit and Hoiney!
To the third floor storage and down to the basement,
It's "hurry, boys, hurry, before everyone leaves.
As one would expect of pre-theologs true,
When we meet with an order we haste to obey.
So, up to the third floor as salesmen we go,
With arms full of clothes and a salesbook besides."
And then in a moment they heard down the hall
The laughing and joking of "Philly" and "Hal."
As they drew in their heads and were closing the door,
They noticed a figure coming up from below.
She was dressed in a suit, on her head wore a hat.
You guessed it -- that's right -- it was Mary, not Mat.
A bundle of books she held under her arm,
And she looked like a student who was going to work.
"Where's Ellie?" she asked, as she brought out her books,
"She promised to study, and not to make merry."
But ascending the stairs with the speed of an arrow
Comes Clarie the Preacher with promise galore,
And close at her heels come the other three sprites,
There's Nancy and Jeanne and Ellie who came
To keep Mary Germ from doing her work.
(And they laughed when she told them Dave saved her a seat!)
A mutter from below and a sigh of disgust
Soon gave us to know we had something to dread.
An exam will be given to Juniors on Friday;
But we haste to explain, e're we turn to our books,
That in spite of all this we will still remain merry.
And, to show all the dear ones who make our life weary
That we bear them no malice for what they have done,
We pause for a moment and say to you all:
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

Dean Date (continued from page 5)

APPRECIATION and CONGRATULATION are due the student body upon the unprecedented number who have perfect attendance records for the first term:
Nine Seniors, Nine Middlers, Fifteen Juniors, and One M.R.E.

HAROLD SCHOUPE, elected manager of the Bookstore Cooperative to succeed Arpad de Kallos, is serving his apprenticeship under last year's manager, Vernon Stoop. We are glad that Arpad is "up and around" again; and we are grateful to Vernon for his help in the interim.

... AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR