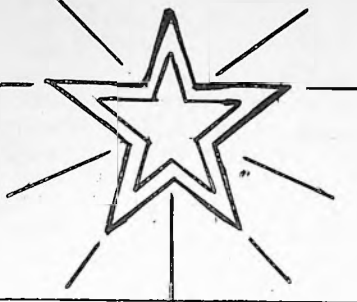


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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas to you! Time and again will we hear and express this greeting during the coming week. What a variety of ideas this popular greeting may convey. For some it may mean nothing more than jovial fellowship, appetizing food and drink, or the reception of coveted material possessions. But precious and desirable as some of these Christmas experiences may be they are by no means basic to the real meaning of a genuine Christmas greeting.

Perhaps we can best get to the heart of a true Christmas greeting by examining the first Christmas greeting ever uttered. It is expressed in that beautiful story written by Luke where shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night were suddenly surrounded by heavenly glory; then heard an angelic message; and finally a multitude of the heavenly host proclaimed to them this greeting: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men of good will. Here is the secret of a truly "Merry Christmas." It is peace among men of good will.

Let us then take to heart the fact that there can be no merry Christmas where men do not have good will; and where all persons have a good will toward one another there is always a merry Christmas.

Perhaps this good will is best mirrored in a good Christian home. The father and mother in such a home have, through a long life of working and suffering together, now learned to love each other and always manifest nothing but good will toward each other. But at Christmas the children have come home, and perhaps the grandchildren. And now the good will of father and mother is not extended to each other as much as to the children. And how their hearts go out in good will toward their children! For them it is a merry Christmas because of their expression of good will. And no less so for the rest of the family. The child-

ren's expression of good will to the parents and to each other contributes equally to the joy of Christmas in the home. Most of us, I feel sure, are bound to experience some of this Christmas joy in our homes on Christmas Day.

Fine as this Christmas spirit may be in some of these narrow circles, it by no means exhausts what is implied in that first Christmas greeting. In fact the purpose of Christmas is to ever widen the circle of good will, yea, so widen it so as to include all in the community, the nation and even the world at large. Christmas does not circumscribe good will with any limits of race, nation, or religion. The first Christmas greeting was extended to all men of good will on the whole earth.

The need for widening this circle of good will is pressing and the opportunities are at hand. And upon no one does this responsibility rest more heavily than upon the Christian. After all good will means God's will. And God's will has been revealed nowhere as fully as in and through the person of Jesus whose followers we profess to be. One needs to know but little of the life and work of Jesus to see that the dominant purpose of his life was to do the will of God. He knew God's will to be good will to men. And so we, his disciples, must teach and above all practice the same good will.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of the practice of good will comes from the command of Jesus to exercise it towards our enemies as well as our friends. To do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us is his recommendation to his followers. Dare we then refuse to exercise good will during this Christmas season toward our national enemies, economic adversaries, social and cultural antagonists? Until this good will is practiced in all these areas, peace on earth is but a delusion.

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But this good will is not something that is handed to us on a silver platter, not accomplished in an instant of time. It must be built into character. It takes time and patience to nurture it and bring it into fruit-bearing condition. The most fertile field for the sowing of the seed is childhood and youth. Shall we not endeavor to see to it that our children are given every opportunity to learn and practice this Christian good will, so that in coming years relationships in life that now seem so distressing and hopeless may become wholesome and even sublime. If they learn aright a new day will be sure to come through their influence and power.

In the meantime all of us have some small sphere of influence where we may with some effect extend this good will and so make life just a little more sweet and more Christlike, and so make Christmas mean something definite in the way of bringing peace on earth. Yes, let us keep on saying by word and deed, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU.

Dr. G. S. Frantz

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A Merry Christmas 1950??? As the dean told us after Monday's Chapel, we wish you as happy a Christmas as possible in these times.

We take fore granted that as those preparing for the Christian ministry we should be able to look higher than those things of this world. Yet they concern us deeply, as a matter of fact, whenever the question of what is right is a question, we should be concerned. Perhaps this is why we feel so strongly anout present world political conditions.

Whether we like to admit it or not we are about to observe the first wartime Christmas since 1944. One news column put it in such words as this: "we are not yet at war, nominally." Be that as it may, the President's message of Friday night left little to the imagination. It is a national emergency, yet we are not at war. We are in name neither fish nor fowl. Yes, we could all go on with a long list of recriminations, but to little avail. The fact stares us in the face that for us, and more so for several thousands of our male citizens on the other side of the globe, Christmas 1950 will not be as merry as it might be.

Why is all this so? We are inclined to wonder sometimes whether we are as right as we profess to believe. Right here is where the question of what is right presents itself. And it isn't that we are trying to shirk eit-

her. We've endured rough times before. It's just that in our frenzied hatred of all that is communist we may be losing a little of our perspective. So at the risk of being called an enemy sympathizer, I'd like to mention the human angle involved.

It is obvious that in the present crisis there is a clash of ideologies, both of government and of economics. In this connection we all would stand for that in which we believe. But besides this there is a human element. Aside from the foreign policy question as to whether or not it is politic for us to be in Korea, there is the complete failure of any of us to put ourselves into the mind, if you will, of the present Chinese government. It really shouldn't be so hard for us to do.

Laying aside now all the differences, let us think of a new government fighting to establish itself, somewhat as the United States struggled in the years 1783-87. This government hasn't been able to gain the recognition of the other powers, either individually or in their corporate body. There is outright animosity, which, although explicable is still irritating. Then on a nearby peninsula there is a revolt and invasion. The foreign coalition imports troops to subdue it. As the peninsula is overrun, the invading forces come ever nearer to the edge of the new government's territory. Aggression? No, but what do you suppose is going on in the mind of the ordinary Chinese citizen all this time. It behooves us to look into our history books and recall the American attitude of mind in relation to the goings on in Florida before our final acquisition of that peninsula in 1817-19. We will remember that this was one of the seeds of the "hands off" Monroe Doctrine four years later.

Of course this relates very little to the motives and the merits of the two ideologies at blows in this struggle. It wasn't intended to do this. There is no doubt that we should and shall support our government as best we can now that we are committed to a certain policy. But perhaps we can understand certain Chinese moves and their motives as if we were Chinese. Perhaps too there are those here who are isolationist enough to think that as U.S. or U.N. we have been mistaken. Perhaps also we might have those who are individualist enough to think that when our brethren in the Far East feel strongly enough that the government under which they live is not the one for them, they will revolt for their inalienable rights, as we were forced to do. When that time comes we shall stand ready to assist them in their struggle for what they feel is right.

We shall all support our government, else there is no government. But do we have any doubts about our own righteousness?

Dick Glatfelter

AS I SEE IT . . .

Instead of thinking so much about "what the world is coming to", may you come under the spell of the Christmas message: "see what has come to the world."

These lines came to my attention on a page of a monthly newspaper published by one of our pastors. They set me thinking. We join in with others at the Yuletide Season, singing about the coming of the Christ Child. Throughout the year we take it for granted that he was born for some reason. Just what has Christ brought to our world? - I asked myself.

Speaking generally, we can say that as a result of his life and teachings we have a Christian humanism or humanitarianism. But what are the specific things that go to make up the heritage left us by Jesus Christ.

First of all, he left us a new religion, a religion for the common man. One does not need to be a pious or wealthy Pharisee to be a good Christian. He left us a living, growing religion, one that could utilize the best things in the world about it, keep on growing, and yet not lose its distinctive character. And his religion was a religion of love.

Second, he left us a priceless heritage in art, music, and architecture. Without Christ, would there be a Leonardo's "Last Supper", a Handel's "Messiah", or the inspiring majesty of the Gothic cathedral?

Third, we can count a great deal of our contemporary concern with social welfare a Christmas gift from Christ to us. Our interest in hospitals, institutions of charity, medical missionaries, community centres, and the media of justice are all a part of our Christian heritage.

Finally, education also looks to the lowly child of Nazareth with gratitude. The most obvious tangible thing here would be church-related schools. But there are also the distinctively Christian emphases in all education, which can be traced to no other source.

These, then, are some of the basic tenets of a true Christian humanitarianism. These things in contemporary society can be traced back to the life that began in a lowly manger.

Our very calendar dates from the birth of the Baby Jesus. Such has been the effect of his life upon subsequent human history. As we have done here, we can set down before us just what Christ has brought to the world. But the process is not completed. The years beyond 1950 A.D. will add more rich blessings for Mankind that have come because of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

Dave Mark

THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

The Seminary Christmas party we held in the Refectory on December 14, lived up to all of our expectations. It was one that everybody will remember for a good long time to come.

The dining hall was attractively decorated with traditional Christmas trimmings. A big tree at the west end completed things.

The blessing was given by Dr. Kosman. After it, everyone sat down to a delicious turkey dinner by candlelight.

After dinner a fine program was presented, with Dick Wentz as able M.C. Opening the program was a quartet from Millersville State Teachers' College, called The Crystal Four. Everyone enjoyed the numbers they presented. The special favorite seemed to be Dry Bones.

Dr. Frantz brought greetings from the faculty and gave us all something to think about as to the real reason for Christmas and just what it means to us during this critical time in the history of the world.

The highlight of the evening came with the presentation of a play written by _____ and presented by The Faculty Players. I would like to commend Dr. Harner for his brilliant portrayal of the prophet, and the rest of the faculty for their excellent supporting roles. Which one of us can ever forget these brilliant lines: "Do thou sir, cause me to understand even more?"

After this play, two numbers were rendered by the mixed chorus, under "come late" direction of Mr. McConnell.

The debate on the question: "Is there a real Santa Claus?" proved to be very enlightening. Of course, Banks Shepherd's argument that there is no Santa Claus was knocked into a cocked hat, because at the moment the debate ended, "Billy Jo Claus" stormed the party from the South Pole. So, Banks, there is a Santa Claus! Santa had presents for everyone - and a few to spare. They ranged and varied from Dr. Meck's big mechanical pencil to Jim Rubright's "Good-for-baby" doll and Peggy Schlichter's barbers' scissors to cut Harvey's long tresses.

The program concluded with Keith Sink's reading from the book of Isaiah and the singing of "Sleep, little Jesus boy" by Jack Busler. After the benediction, the party became another thing of the past, but an experience always to be remembered by those who attended the Christmas Party of 1950 at L. T. S.

Ruthie

SPORTS CORNER

The Seminary Angels had their wings clipped again on December 6. The boys from Lambda Chi administered the defeat to the representatives from Richards Hall to the tune of 43-40.

The defeats suffered so far this season have all been by very close margins. The Seminarians have played an excellent brand of ball in all the encounters, but they have been starting late and therefore have a big handicap to overcome. The lack of reserve power also poses a problem for the team. There have been but seven or eight players at each of the games. The scoring for the Seminary in the Lambda Chi game was as follows:

Rader	- 12
Gockley	- 10
Longenecker	- 13
Trout	- 4
Palmer	- 1
Lutz	- 0

The angels finally hit the win column when they received a game forfeited to them by the Kappa Sigs.

Then, in return, the Angels were forced to forfeit on December 14 with the Sigma Pi's because of the Christmas party.

The battle will continue after the Christmas recess. As the team seems to improve with each encounter, the boys should make an admirable showing as the season progresses.

As the ping-pong tournament draws to a close, we find that Morrin is now in first place. He unseated Trout, who at present, is second. Bucher is third and Titus is listed in the fourth slot. There have been numerous upsets all along the way. Who will be victorious remains a mystery until the last match. But one thing is certain...you's have to travel a long way to see better ping-pong than has been displayed in these singles matches.

The doubles competition has also furnished excellent contests. The standings show the Palmer-Gyorke duo at the top, with Morrin and Trout in second. Wen and Sigler ride third. All these matches have produced an excellent brand of ping-pong.

Looking ahead to the post-Christmas days, we see that bowling and dart-baseball are on tap. The bowling season opens on Tuesday, January 9, and continues every Tuesday thereafter. The Seminary once again has the use of the alleys out at Overlook Country Club. Four teams are anticipated, and the competition should be keen if last year can be any indication of the boys' ability.

Dart baseball is scheduled to open on January 8. Games are scheduled for Monday and Wednesday evenings, with each team playing but once a week. A new and smaller dart board has been installed, and undoubtedly the high batting averages and scores of last year will drop.

Dick Masters

HUMOR ESQUIRE

Those shouts of joy, stamps of disgust, ironic congratulations, and never-ending sounds of ping-pong, ping-pong have been coming from the basement. A ping-pong tournament is in progress, and any time you listen, you can hear the sounds described above. Since last year, when I wrote a column on ping-pong I have had several requests to write another. That is, there are several requests counting my own two; so here goes.

As you know, Bucky Trout has been in first place for a long time, so I decided to challenge him. How I won two out of the first four games I do not know, unless it was because I kept score. It could have been over-confidence on Bucky's part. Can't blame him; after all, I wouldn't take my three-year-old sister very seriously in a game of ping-pong! So why should he take me seriously? The last game went like this...Bucky serving...

The ball comes to me, wobbling...I hit it back....Blam! His point. The next serve..."Nice shot", I say. Frankly, I never say it...He eases up; I get two points...Next serve I return. He's surprised...my point - my lead 3-2. I'm serving. I give him a fast serve; he puts it into the net...I give him another fast one; he puts it into the net...Another fast one....whoops, missed the table....A change up, just across the net; he doesn't even try for it..."Nice shot", I tell myself. A medium serve down the middle...it comes back; a return to his left...it comes back; but this time it's set up; I take aim, swing with all my might, and bend over and pick up the ball. I missed it! His serve, my lead, 6-4. On his serve he cut the lead to 8-7, and on my serve he tied it up 10-all. He gets a kitten smile on his face. You can see him thinking, "Just cat and mouse him, Buck." Buck's serve...Gives me one deep to my back hand...I chop it back and set it up; I race back....he draws back and drops it easily over the net....Very nonchalantly I race back to the table, fall against it, extend my arms, and drop it over the net...He can't reach it; my point. He gets two, and I get two - my lead, 13-12. On my serve I get three out of the

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HUMOR ESQUIRE

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five - my lead, 16-14. He serves one into the net. My lead, 17-14. "Come on Mel, only four more points!"..I've been very cool up until now, but here is where I put on steam. I play brilliant ping-pong, and he ties it up 17-all. He gets that "cat and mouse" grin on his face again. I need the next point...He serves, we exchange volleys, I have a set-up, I smash it hard and true, it goes sailing back to the candy machine. I polish my finger nails while he retrieves the ball...He says, "Nice Shot, Mel", and I know that he doesn't mean it. My serve; I fox him and give him one down the right hand side; it starts down to the floor, and I starighten my tie; nut lo; it comes back..."Nice shot, Buck; I'm not on today." He grins, but I couldn't tell what he was thinking...I serve two, and he merely reaches out and catches them. My lead, 20-18. I need one point for the game and match...I give him my best serve...he smashes it! 20-19. I give him my best change-up, but it comes back; I return it to his left.. it comes back. We volley ten-twelve times...I sweat - he grins. He gets a low one across. I hit it, and it goes back onto the net; we both throw away the paddles and start blowing. I huff and puff; it starts to fall on my side. I blow harder, and it plops over the net. MY GAME! Calmly I jump over the net and congratulate him. Then I see why he lost the point...His hair got in his eyes, and he lost sight of the ball. Tough, Buck; play me sometime when you have a crew-cut.

Mel Palmer

KENNY'S KAPERS!!!



Him: Hiya, beautiful!!

Her: I don't know you from Adam.

Him: You should, I've got clothes on?

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We wish you all a



Merry Christmas

The Staff