



CHRISTMAS

By Karl Gorman

Once again we are fast approaching the happiest period in our calendar year. The tiny tots are excited and wait impatiently for Christmas Day to dawn. The older brothers and sisters, to say nothing of mothers and fathers, are carrying home mysterious parcels and putting them in some place beyond the reach of prying eyes and itching fingers.

We see and hear much about the little fat man with a red suit and white whiskers. Carol singing and Christmas greetings fill the air. But what about the Christ?

The very one whose birth we are supposed to be celebrating seems to be forgotten or lost amid the paper and preparations! He is left out of our plans and we fail to see Him because of the bright lights.

Did you have the Christmas spirit or the commercial spirit? Remember those immortal words of Scripture, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

There will be no Christmas for many people. Note the following facts reprinted from *The Saturday Evening Post* for December 26, 1953:

1. More people live in huts of mud and straw than in any other kind of shelter.
2. More people travel by walking, or on backs of animals than in any other fashion.
3. More people have a life expectancy of half our years (66) than of any other higher figure.
4. More mothers watch half their children die than see all their offspring reach maturity.
5. More people live (and die) without medical aid than enjoy even rudimentary hospital care.
6. More people eat what they themselves can grow, and starve when there is no harvest, than obtain their food in any other fashion.
7. More people do not know what it means to vote than have ever voted.

Those are sobering facts! We need to remember them at Christmas. They concern the "other sheep" for whom Christ was born and died.

Merry Christmas to all!

296 YEARS AGO!

On May 11, 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony passed the following law:

"Whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting, or any other way, as a festival, shall be fined five shillings."

TIMELY ADVICE

Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.—Proverbs 17:1.

YOUTH AND RECREATION

By Rev. H. R. Ingersoll

NOTE:

With the following article by Bro. Ingersoll, we bring to a close a series of six articles written by the former editors of the Y.P. Page. These articles have dealt in an excellent manner with various phases of youth and youth work. Suggestions, invaluable to successful Christian living, have been made in each article.

I want to thank you brethren personally for your willingness to co-operate in this endeavor. Your carefully prepared manuscripts and your promptness in sending them in have been appreciated.

—Editor

Recreation has a vital place in the life of any individual. It seems that man is so physically and mentally constituted that the old adage is true which says, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

If we give ourselves to our physical and mental tasks with the concentration that we should, then moments of recreation will be important in providing release from strains, that if constantly maintained would render our work less sufficient and effective. We'll do better work and accomplish more with periods of recreation in our lives. Industry recognizes this today. Jesus advised a coming apart to rest awhile. After a change of physical activity and mental concern, we'll find ourselves ready to return to our work with a new will and zeal.

Doubtless, the most important need in considering recreation is not to establish the fact of its value, but to ascertain its place in Christian youth. We notice that in the lives of the very young recreation holds a large place. As the years of a person's life slip away, the place of recreation becomes less noticeable with so many new interests filtering into our lives. It is because of this adjusting scale of life that some older folk have a tendency to take rather extreme positions on the place of recreation. They would like to apply their more mature way of life to the youth. This can never be done, nor should it be attempted even in the lives of Christian youth. There is a natural, legitimate place for recreation in the life of a Christian young person. However, while there is a place for recreation, we must have it in its right place. Caution needs to be exercised that we seek first the kingdom of God. The enemy of our souls would have us give the wrong place to that which is natural and legitimate until it interferes with faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ. Our mind and body do have their recreational needs, but we must discipline ourselves to keep them rightly adjusted to our spiritual responsibility of keeping ourselves in the love of God.

The form of recreation we enjoy will vary somewhat with the individual interest and also with the stage of life in which we find ourselves. Hence, the swimming pool, the ball field and the basketball court are of interest have reached the 'leisurely walk' or the 'garden path' stage. However, as a watch must be set that recreations be kept in the proper place, so our indulgence in the form of recreation which is most enjoyable to us must be in accordance with the best interest of our spiritual life. So, it must be recognized that there will be occasions when associations and atmospheres not conducive to our Christian

FINAL CONTEST RESULTS

Top salesman—John McElhinney.
Top society—Yarmouth.
Societies participating—11.
Total money received—\$418.

TABULATED RESULTS

| | New Subs | Renewals | Total Points* |
|-------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Yarmouth | 21 | 10 | 260 |
| Seal Cove | 3 | 20 | 130 |
| Fredericton | 6 | 13 | 125 |
| Saint John | 5 | 10 | 100 |
| Halifax | 4 | 10 | 90 |
| Truro | 4 | 10 | 90 |
| Millville | 3 | 9 | 75 |
| Perth | 4 | 6 | 70 |
| Meductic | 6 | 1 | 65 |
| Beals | — | 12 | 40 |
| Sussex | 4 | — | 40 |
| | 60 | 101 | |

* New Subs equal 10 pts.

Renewals equal 5 pts.

One glance at the cash received from this effort will show that it has been worthwhile. The credit all goes to the individual salesman who did the hard work of selling. The addition of sixty new subscriptions to *The Highway* list is no small gain!

Which gives me reason and courage to suggest that a similar contest be carried on next year. With full co-operation from all societies we could easily reach a goal of \$1,000 for *The Highway*. That would be a real boost!

Suggestions have already been made that another contest with all societies participating would be a good thing. Amen!

Thanks go to pastors and society presidents who "pushed" the campaign and made such fine results possible.

L. K. M.

IT COULD BE TRUE

Last night John Elzy, watchman at the Grand Eagle Department Store, while making his rounds of the bargain basement, found the body of a man lying under a counter. He was thin to the point of emaciation, apparently in his middle thirties, and was shabbily dressed. His pockets were empty and there were no marks of identification upon his person. Store officials believe that he was trampled in the Christmas rush and crawled under the counter for shelter. But they are unable to account for what appear to be nail wounds in his hands. The police are investigating.

—The Saturday Review

vocation will make it imperative that we heed the admonition, "Come out from among them and be ye separate."

The song writer said, "Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go." Seek out only those recreational associations where you can invite Jesus and He can accompany you. There are enough such to provide enjoyable and valuable recreation.

Vessels never give so great a sound as when they are empty.—Bishop John Newell.