

The Christ of Christmas

By Dr. Oswald J. Smith.

Nearly two thousand years ago there was born in Bethlehem of Judea, a Babe whose life was destined to affect countless millions. That Babe was Jesus Christ.

The time was ripe for His birth. Roman roads had been built throughout the civilized world in preparation for the feet of His future messengers. The Greek language had become almost universal in readiness for the proclamation of His Gospel.

The world knew not of His birth. Work went on as usual. There was no tremendous upheaval announcing a new order. Kings and potentates continued to rule as before. Nothing outwardly heralded His advent into the world.

Only Heaven appeared to be interested. In fact, God had to arrange a welcome Himself, and so legions of angels circled the skies and heralded His birth. Wise men from the East, studying the stars, and observing an unusual phenomenon in the heavens, came with their gifts from afar. Shepherds bowed in adoration and worship.

Rulers learned of His birth and became fearful and afraid. Anger filled their hearts. Murder was conceived and executed. Fearful of losing their power, they sought His death by every possible means.

Every diabolical plan that satanic ingenuity could devise was used to destroy Him. Demons trembled. Satan became enraged. All hell was allied against Him. But God was watching, and He lived in spite of all.

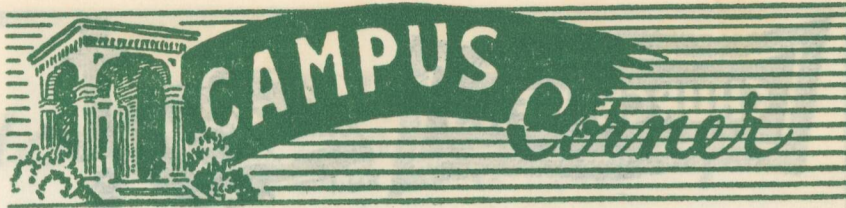
He did not come to a palace with marble halls and carpeted stairs. No luxurious bed chamber was prepared for His birth. Neither nurses nor doctors were in attendance. Cathedral bells failed to toll; bands were silent; no royal choruses burst forth in song. Only the music of Heaven was heard. For He came to a stable, and He was laid in a manger. His mother had only the straw for a bed, and animals were her companions. There was no room in the inn.

Little did Ceasar know that this Babe, through His teachings, would one day destroy his mighty empire, bring to naught the majesty and power of Rome, and overthrow all earthly governments, or that the day would come when His birth, His life, and His death would have a greater influence on humanity than the birth and death of any other man. For He was destined to be recognized by countless millions as the greatest of all the prophets, the mightiest of all the mighty, the Saviour of the world, God incarnate.

And now for nearly two thousand years His birth has been commemorated, for He is worshipped by countless millions. More than nineteen hundred Christmas days have come and gone since that never-to-be-forgotten night when "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." And today, after the passing of more than nineteen hundred years, He is worshipped by countless millions, both dead and living, and untold multitudes are looking forward to the time when He will reappear "without sin unto salvation."

Joyous
Christmas Greetings
from
Bethany Bible College

The King's Highway



BETHANY BUDGET REPORT

A word of commendation is due the churches which responded to the Budget thermometer in the November 15th issue of the Highway. Up to that time only six churches had paid anything on their Bethany Budget for this church year. Since November 15th, we have had contributions from 19 churches which had not previously contributed on their Bethany Budget. Besides this, some of the churches which had already made payments on their Budget helped to bring us encouragement in our time of crisis.

The response on the part of the churches was most gratifying. We thank you for your help. In spite of the fact that 25 churches have paid on their Bethany budget, 54% of the churches have not paid anything to date. Even though a total of \$1,600 was received in November, to date we have only received \$2,600 on budgets for the year. The Church year is past the half-way mark which means we should have received over \$4,000. We urge our people to face their obligation fairly.

To those who are endeavouring to meet the budget obligation we express our sincere appreciation. To those having their hand to the plow and who are not looking forward, we ask you to read Luke 9:62.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO BETHANY

The Bethany Christmas Offering Clock is now hanging on the bulletin board at Bethany. The staff and students alike are anxiously watching it gain time. As personal Christmas gifts are sent in to Bethany, the clock is set to indicate the total amount received. The staff and students have set the clock in motion by their Christmas offerings. It is our hope that Y. P. Societies, Sunday Schools, Churches, and many individuals, will remember Bethany this year at Christmas time. A personal gift to Bethany would mean much to her at this time.

Last year a total of \$600 was sent to Bethany labelled, "MY CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR BETHANY". This year we have set the objective at \$1,000. Can we make it? Sure we can make it. With a little planning and generous giving we could exceed this amount. Let us try to reach the objective at least.

If you haven't already included Bethany in your gifts this Christmas, do so now and help prepare young lives for the service which the Christ of Christmas has called them to. Remember, the spirit of Christmas is giving. God gave the Supreme Gift—His all. Let us give to Him a token of our love and appreciation for His Gift to us.

Remember the Bethany Christmas Clock is recording the gifts as they come in. A full report will be given on the results after Christmas. Help us to make the results a surprise to yourself.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

'For giving is living' the angel said,
'Go give to the needy sweet charity's bread.'
'And must I keep giving and giving again?'
My selfish and querulous answer ran.
'Oh, no' said the angel, piercing me through;
'Just give till the Master stops giving to you'.