



# News and Notes for Young People

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## — Editorial —

### CHRISTMAS AND A CROSS

For many people, Christmas is a cross. Actually the cross should make Christmas. Christmas seems to be separated from Easter only by time. The meaning of the two seasons is fully expressed in the underlying purpose of the crib and the cross.

Even before the crib was warmed by the infant Jesus, the significance of His birth was heralded by angels across the Judean hillsides, "His name shall be called Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

This announcement brought joy to the world which cumulated through a third of a century in the cross, which speaks of the sacrifice for sin.

No tree was ever decorated with more beauty than that of the cross of Christ. It was a beauty of love expressed in a gift. This was no small gift. It was God's Christmas gift to man. It was a gift of Love.

This love was no ordinary love. It was love that suffered long and was kind. It was love that made no parade. This love Gift was given to man because God wanted to give His love to us. It was love that cost something. This cost is important. However, the significance of the gift is more important. God gave because He loved us. He gave in order to reach us and win our love. He gave because, as the Gift of Love once said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

While this is true, let all men remember that he who gives most also receives most. Giving until it becomes a cross, and continuing to give in love, is characteristic of the pattern set by God, who gave the Christ of Christmas. It was this kind of giving which brought joy to the world.

### TO BETHLEHEM

Every Christian should visit Bethlehem this year in spirit. While you are there, turn every avenue of your soul Godward. Allow the spirit of Christmas to get a hold upon you. At Bethlehem you will see the star shining in the eastern sky. There you will hear the cattle lowing and see the Magi present their gifts to the Christchild. There you will see the shepherds bow in lowly reverence and worship. You will hear the angels sing their, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

While you are visiting Bethlehem, with your mind's eye, let your soul reveal in the richness of the Grace of God who loved us and gave Himself to us and for us. This is Christmas.

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### DISTRICT YOUTH RALLY REPORT

A District Youth Rally was held at Port Maitland, November 14-15, with Rev. M. W. Bagley as guest speaker. Youth rallies are always times of spiritual refreshing for our young people.

While there was not a large attendance at the Rally, we can say that it was a good and profitable time of fellowship for those attending.

We were especially favoured in having Rev. M. W.

The King's Highway

Bagley as guest speaker. Mr. Bagley's preaching was directed to the minds of youth and was of the highest order. Our young people received much help from his faithful ministry.

No rally would be complete without God's presence. We feel grateful that God met with his people again. It is because of His presence that we say the rally was a wonderful time of blessing. Young people received a spiritual uplift; and were encouraged to continue witnessing for Christ.

### OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Beautiful and blessed are many of our Christmas carols. The story behind these carols sometimes makes them more real to us. The following stories may help us to have a greater appreciation for these carols.

#### SILENT NIGHT

The author of this carol was Josef Mohr, assistant pastor of the church of St. Nicholas in the little village of Oberndorf. In that village it was a yearly custom for a band of strolling players to put on a play illustrating the Christmas story.

In the village of Oberndorf, a ship owner, in the year 1818, arranged to have a play at his home. As a compliment he invited Mr. Mohr as a special guest. This honour touched the young minister so much that he insisted on going home directly after the play.

That night Mr. Mohr climbed a small mountain overlooking the village and allowed God to speak to him in the stillness of the night. He returned home and wrote this hymn which has become a favourite around the world.

The next morning December 24th., Mr. Mohr took his carol to his school teacher and asked him to set it to music. This task was completed and Mr. Mohr sung the Hymn in his church Christmas night, in the year 1818.

This little church was washed away in a flood in 1889; but the hymn remains with us today. This hymn has been sung by millions throughout the world.

#### O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

The facts about this anonymous Latin hymn were obscure for many years. In 1946, by chance, an English Vicar discovered a small manuscript of musical selections which revealed the author to be John Francis Wade, an Englishman who moved to Douai in France, where he wrote the hymn in 1744. He set the music which is still used today. The popularity of this Christmas Hymn is revealed in the fact that it is sung by men of all English-speaking countries during the Christmas season. It is an appeal to adore and worship the Christchild.

#### JOY TO THE WORLD

This beautiful hymn was written by Isaac Watts in 1719. It is a paraphrased account of Psalm 98 and somewhat of an imitation of Genesis 3:17-18 and Romans 5:20.

Psalm 98 is a song of rejoicing because of God's goodness. It is a sort of a doxology. Dr. Watts gives this psalm a fresh interpretation. He turns it into a song of praise for the salvation of God's people. This salvation

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