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The

Elim Evangel

Voice of the Elim Churches in the British Isles

Fundamental, Pentecostal, Evangelical

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SIXPENCE

DECEMBER 25TH, 1955.



Picturesque Switzerland in the Snow.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER

Witnessing to the fulness of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ



THE SPELL OF CHRISTMAS

by

PASTOR E. C. W. BOULTON

CHRISTMAS! What a magic word that is to so many, especially to the children. With what joyous anticipation they await the dawn of that day which for them brings so much of the thrill of surprise and the rapture of wonder. Everywhere, as we approach Christmas, there are the signs of a great festival of human gladness—the shops ablaze with light, the streets thronged with eager, hurrying crowds, most of them bent on some errand of good-will; holly and mistletoe bedeck the homes, and colourful displays of attractive gifts fill the stores. And over all one senses a spirit of good-natured gaiety and healthy friendliness. Yet Christmas is a time when we may find Christ or lose Him amid the alluring attractions of this festive season. If we make Him the Centre and Focus of our pleasures and joys, then Christmas will indeed prove a precious and blessed occasion that will add something of enduring value to our Christian life.

In many ways there is no season of the year comparable to Christmas. Historically and spiritually this is the case. It is rich in all that is noblest, highest, precious and most desirable. There is both miracle and mystery in this word—Christmas. Far more than an opportunity for pleasant social intercourse. It is the festival of the Great Birth, of God's bestowal of Himself. The gates of the divine kingdom of grace and love and peace are being thrown wide open to mankind. The heart-hunger of the Eternal Lover finding expression in this Bethlehem scene with its sublime significance. Looking upon that lowly Babe no heart need be bankrupt of hope.

It is the season of **remembrance**, when "memory holds the door," and we gather the fair and fragrant blooms of long-standing friendship, when we turn the pages of the past, and catch once more the inspiration of other days. How inextricably the years are linked together, forming a chain of hallowed thoughts, stretching down the vista of the centuries to that first Christmas morn when the Christ-Child was born, and the world unconsciously crossed one of its greatest spiritual frontiers. With that Birth the dawn of a new conception and unveiling of God became possible. Creation stood upon the threshold of its great deliverance.

What a mighty river of blessing rose in that obscure Manger Birth, the redemptive sequel of which, on Calvary's lonely Cross, was to reach the whole world, sending its cleansing, healing influence from East to West, from North to South, opening the prison doors of the slaves of paganism and priestcraft, snapping the fetters of those who sat

in darkness and the shadow of death. A Gospel of uttermost love to those in uttermost need.

At this happy season millions of men and women will pay homage to the One whose human life opened amid such humble surroundings. Here God lit His Star of Promise which was destined to send its transforming rays right down the centuries. He who came to be the fulfilment of the Divine Thought, born in the bosom of the Eternal Mind ages before the foundation of the world. He who belongs to all ages, yet is the ageless, timeless One, in whom the eternal past and future meet and merge, the Alpha and Omega, the Divine Ocean into which all the rivers of prophecy and history are ultimately drawn.

Yet there are so many who see no meaning in that Bethlehem Birth. Its commonplace setting hides its intrinsic glory from them. We are told that on one occasion Dr. Jowett was gazing admiringly at the deep blackness of a raven's wings. "Ah," said one who was standing by, "but you should see them when the sun shines on them!" To understand Bethlehem aright one must see it with the glory-light of God shining upon it: see it in its prophetic and redemptive perspective, and then it becomes aglow with a wondrous beauty and spiritual significance. The First-Born Son, coming forth from the bosom of the Father, the Divine Progenitor of that race of redeemed men and women, out of every tribe and nation of the world.

Oh, that this age of ours might feel the impact of that Divine Birth and Death as it has never felt it before! 'Tis true that He was born outside, that He died outside, but He will not always remain outside of a world that He came to redeem. There will come a time when the nations shall realize His worth, and turn their faces homeward, crying, "I will arise and go to my Father." When this groaning and travailing creation shall come to reconciliation and rest at the feet of God.

It is the miracle of the Incarnation which makes possible and actual the miracle of the new birth in man. Because He came to the Manger and went to the Cross, He can now come to all men in the transforming power of His sovereign grace. Inasmuch as He took upon Him the form of a babe, and became the Man of Calvary, so now He may make of your life and mine, the shrine of His presence, the temple of His indwelling beauty. Whilst there remains in the calendar of time this great Anniversary, wonder shall not die out in the heart of man, nor a time come when the

spell of Christmas shall cease to hold the hearts of mankind.

This Christmas season is the time of home-coming, of re-union, of the renewal of the precious ties of friendship and comradeship. The time when the spirit of brotherhood and good-will is abroad among men of all classes. When the barriers of ill-will are surmounted and people find their hearts growing warm with desire to share their joy with others who may be less happily placed than themselves. When the wine of gladness is freely spilt upon the altar of a generous and genial hospitality. And surely a season when praise and thanksgiving should flow from every Christian heart and lip. This Christmastide will doubtless witness many a family regathering—the coming together of those who have been separated for years, and now once more meet under the same roof, to share the fellowship which this joyous Anniversary offers.

That Manger-Birth surely is the symbol and earnest of peace: peace 'twixt God and man; peace 'twixt man and man, and 'twixt nation and nation. Peace! Is that not the prize for which this generation is striving?—yet whilst praying for peace it prepares for war! Never was there a time in the world's history when the existence of civilization was more dependent upon peace than now, or more threatened with destruction than at present. But the temple of concord can only be built upon the foundation of love, and this may only be found in a right relationship with God. A world possessed by the spirit which gave the Lord Jesus Christ to the Manger and the Cross, will have learned the secret of peace. Men are struggling to secure a lasting peace, and here it is all the while. He **hath** made peace by the blood of His Cross. He is the Great Peace-Offering.

*Hark! the herald angels
sing
Glory to the new-born
King,
Peace on earth, and mercy
mild,
God and sinners reconciled.*



The One in whom and through whom all other lives must be linked together—the One in whom all ideological discords may be harmonized. To the materially minded it sounds absurd to advance the Manger and the Cross as the basis of peace. They are regarded as the emblems of futility and failure. They do not possess the power to keep at bay the wolves of war. Yet that scene of Nativity is full of precious promise and instinct with challenge to a world that is threatened with self-destruction. The Divine Hand is outstretched to save this age from itself.

May the spirit of a noble expectancy possess our hearts at this time, and may our lives be immersed in the blessedness of a beautiful hope which finds its genesis and its goal in God.

Blessed "Joy of loving hearts," often have I missed Thee because I sought Thee in the palace rather than in the manger. I lost Thee in the crowd, but found Thee in the closet of communion. I failed to find Thee because I looked for Thee among the mighty, when I had to learn that Thou dwellest in the company of the lowly ones of earth. Teach me to know that Thou art the companion of the poor in spirit, and the fellow of those whose lives bear the insignia of the Cross.



Blessing at Lascelles

★

During the past years God has been graciously pouring out blessing upon the Elim Guest House and upon those who have come for holiday or recuperation after illness. Some have found the joy of salvation and others have been filled with the Spirit. There has been a lovely sense of God's Presence, mingled with the joy of fellowship and fun. Those who have helped in the practical side have received blessing in ministering to the saints and sharing fellowship with them. The personal attention of happy Christian workers in a Guest House helps to make a holiday all that it should be to the child of God.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

BEING NOTES AND NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN THE ELIM FAMILY



Christmas is the season when we think of friends far and near, and especially those in the family circle. So we of the Elim Family think again in retrospect of the happy fellowship through the months, in Conference, in Presbyteries, in Conventions, in personal contacts. May this be a season of hallowed memories.

First we thank God for the recovery of Pastor John Woodhead who is back in service again. Also for the slow but steady return to health of Pastor E. J. Jarvis after his serious operation. Any others who may be sick or feeling the strain of their duties, we think of them and pray for their recovery.

We have sustained losses among the circle of friends during this year. Our friends Mrs. W. F. South and C. Palmer have gone on before, and recently Joseph Payne has been called home. This Christmas will see empty places. Our love and sympathy goes out to those who have loved and lost.

The return from U.S.A. and Canada of Pastors P. S. Brewster and Alex. Tee, of Pastor and Mrs. S. Gorman, and of Pastor and Mrs. John Woodhead and Dorothy, brought satisfaction to know they had enjoyed their tours and had been made a rich blessing in the churches they visited.

Anniversaries have come thick and fast this year. Among those celebrating their 25th came Saunders Street (Belfast), Graham St. (Birmingham), and Smethwick. Personal celebrations by Pastor and Mrs. L. Quest for their Silver Wedding and a happy family gathering. Many other anniversaries, too, have been recorded this year.



Muffled for the road or—indoors quickly! Yes, its Elim Woodlands

* * * * *

In the New Year we plan to include a series of articles from the pen of Mrs. A. V. Gorton entitled "Homilies from the Home."

* * * * *



Yes, its Elim Woodlands!
Winter fire in the familiar hearth.

So—to one and all—in new appointments, new spheres of labour, new experiences, or facing new problems we wish you all God's best.

With mounting responsibilities, growing families, widening influences, increasing limitations, advancing age, or brightening prospects, whatever be your lot, we wish for you too all the richness of Christian experience and deepening consciousness of God in your own lives and the lives of those to whom you minister.



Elim Woodlands Again! Sitting in the comfortable lounge.

THINGS TEMPORAL and THINGS ETERNAL



Printing Bibles in Russia. It is reported that the Soviet government printing house in Moscow has begun printing 25,000 copies of the Bible. An official of the American Bible Society said he was gratified by the report, and expressed the hope that this might be the first step toward providing the millions of Scriptures that are needed to adequately supply Russia with copies of God's Word. Many millions of people in Russia would like to buy a Bible but none are within their reach.

A Witness in Israel. A group of teenagers in Israel called the Israeli Christian Youth Group has initiated an unusual witness for Christ. The young people are sponsoring a series of advertisements in local newspapers, inviting Jewish readers who might be interested in their Christian work to write them. As many as 240 replies have been received from a single advertisement. The ads. state that a copy of the New Testament will be sent.

Mormon Temple. In Berne, Switzerland, the first Mormon temple on the European continent was dedicated by the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Two weeks earlier the President presided at ground-breaking ceremonies at Newchapel in Sussex, for the first Mormon temple to be built there.

Jews in Moscow. In Moscow a seminary in which young rabbis would be trained is being planned. The project is being pushed by Rabbi Solomon M. Schlifer, head of the Jewish community. The rabbi estimated that there are three million Jews in the Soviet Union served by more than 100 congregations. In Moscow alone there are between 300,000 and 500,000 Jews.

Church Growth. Membership of the Assemblies of God in U.S.A. has shown a 65 per cent increase during the past ten years. Rev. J. Roswell Flower, General Secretary, reported at a recent biennial business session of the denomination held in Oklahoma City.

The church had a membership of 241,782 ten years ago as against 400,047 now. It has 8,650 ordained ministers, 7,320 churches throughout the U.S. and some 5,000 outside the U.S. under the supervision of the Foreign Missions Department. The church ranks fifth in the number of missionaries with 745 persons serving in 69 countries of the world.

Columbia. Since 1948 the number of missionaries in Colombia has been cut exactly in half—from 300 to 150.

Turkey. Reports from Turkey indicate a resurgence of Mohammedanism. In the past three years more than a thousand new mosques have been erected and yet there is not room enough to accommodate all the worshippers.

Billy Graham and Toronto. Converts in the Billy Graham crusade at Toronto, Canada, numbered into the thousands. In the first 14 meetings the evangelist addressed 176,200 persons and 2,775 people made "decisions for Christ."

Graham told a breakfast meeting of 600 ministers that the average age of the Toronto converts was greater than in any other crusade. He said that the main age group for his converts has generally been 19 to 29, but in Toronto the biggest group was 30 to 39 years old.

He made a further observation that did not speak very well for the clergy. He observed that two-thirds of all those who made "decisions for Christ" in Toronto were already connected with a church in some way.

Energy. An average thunderstorm releases 50 times the energy of the first atomic bomb.

Bridge on the Moon. Astronomers now report that they have discovered a huge bridge on the moon about 5,000 feet high, with an arch about two miles long. It is believed to have been caused by the crash of a meteor (a "shooting star") through a wall of rock.

Buddhism in U.S.A. Initial construction has begun on the first seminary in the U.S. for the training of Buddhist priests. It is located in New York City where more than 2,000 members of the Shin Buddhist sect are now living.

Protestants in Prison. Thirty-two Protestant pastors and church workers are still in East German prisons or in camps in the Soviet Union, according to a report from the Evangelical Church in Berlin. Most of them are clergymen sentenced in the Soviet Zone of German during the anti-church campaign of three years ago. At the peak of this campaign, which was relaxed in June, 1953, more than fifty evangelical clergymen were imprisoned by the Communist regime.

The Church in China. A Pentecostal missionary in Hong Kong, J. Rutherford Spence, writes in "Pentecost" as follows: "Just out from Shanghai have come two C.I.M. missionaries who decided to stay on when the Communists came in. They got a job with a large English shipping firm. The good news is that the Church in China is carrying on and is writing a wonderful page of Church history. Special meetings are being held, souls are being saved, and the Chinese Christians are being deepened in Christ."

Spurgeon, on being invited to preach to 10,000 people, said: "I have no ambition to preach to 10,000 people, but to do the will of God"—and he declined.

Do You Know?

THAT the population of the world is claimed to be increasing at the rate of 44 million each year, and that the church is not meeting this growing challenge

THAT there are 400 million more unevangelized souls in the world today than a generation ago?

THAT during the last generation alone, a tragic 750 million souls went into eternity who were never touched by the Gospel of Christ?

THAT the heart of South America is said to be the greatest stretch of unevangelized territory in the world?

THAT of India's 700,000 villages, only a very small percentage have ever had the Gospel witness even once?

THAT Arabia, with a population of 7,000,000 has less than 50 openly confessed Christians?

THAT of 2,974 major languages presently spoken in the world, 1,789 have not a single portion of God's Word?

THAT there are over 1,000 tribes today without a Gospel witness?

Priests Pray for Reformation. A Christian worker in northern Italy has stated that approximately 7,000 Italian priests are secretly preparing for a day of reformation in the Roman Catholic Church. One leader of these young priests is quoted by "Prophetic Word" as saying: "The Roman Catholic Church has to return to Christ or perish. Another said: "If we want to save religion we have to return to the Bible and the Christianity of the first three centuries."

Converts to Judaism. At least 2,000 non-Jews are being converted to Judaism each year in the United States, and the number is gradually increasing, according to the current issue of Jewish Social Studies. The report says that 80 per cent of the converts are females, and that only about 5 per cent of the 2,000 converts became Jews without involvement of marriage.

80,000 Koreans at Seoul for Gospel Rally. A mammoth outdoor meeting of all the Protestant churches in Seoul, Korea, was held in September. It was estimated that 80,000 people were present. The outdoor rally climaxed the annual Pastors' Conference at which more than 3,000 Korean pastors of various Protestant denominations were registered. Bob Pierce was the rally speaker.

Greetings from the President Pastor H. W. Greenway



ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS stories told by the Lord Jesus Christ has this bright phrase for its conclusion: "It was meet that we should be merry, and be glad, for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found." It is, of course, the story of the Prodigal Son: it is a story that finishes on a note of merriment surrounding the lost son who was saved. Jesus was no prophet of gloom: He dispensed gladness wherever He pursued His healing and enlightening way.



The Christmas season is loved by all—except the soured and the stupified. Old folk love to have their hilarious children around them even though it results in a tired aftermath; young folk delight in the glow and spirit of kindness which this season brings; mothers and fathers, aunties and uncles, nephews and nieces, all share in the activity of present buying, the spirit of giving. There is a warm aura round Christmastide that makes it one of the most delightful festivals of the Christian year—it is the time of merriment, and rightly so, for surely that is consistent with the spirit of the Master. If a father could be merry over a saved son, we have every right to be merry over the Son who came to save.

We therefore reiterate the well-used greeting, A MERRY CHRISTMAS to all readers of our magazine and to all members of the Elim family. May God add to your enjoyments His own abundant blessing.

There is every cause for happiness at the remembrance of Christ's birth for He brought a new spirit of optimism amongst His disciples, so much so, that one who found salvation on the Damascus road could write: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Jesus Christ founded more philanthropies than any of His contemporaries, predecessors or successors; He inspired men to labour for the alleviation of suffering and the education of the illiterate. Christianity triumphs by its very achievements and by its undying life. "The peril of building up an organization around a single person," wrote Bruce Barton, "is that when he dies or withdraws the organization falls to pieces. . . . The good they did, as Mark Antony said, is 'oft interred with their bones.'" This can never be said of the Christian Church,

for it has as its founder and leader the Alpha and Omega. The ecstasy of the Christian is not therefore a fleeting emotion, it is as permanent in its nature as the One who stepped from the infinitudes of eternity on to the platform of time and shared with us our common humanity.

If 40 is really the number of divine testing, as some Bible students assert, then we have had sufficient time in Elim to prove the worth of our distinctive witness, and it is appropriate for us during this reflective season to look around and assess the value of our organization. We must not be boastful in our summing up, nor must we be pessimistic, for while pride is the sin of angels, abjection is the sin of worms. A worm's-eye view may be acceptable to those who pride themselves in their doormat humility, but these folk often suffer the fate of worms and doormats—they are either trodden on as worthless or people wipe their feet on them in contempt. A bird's-eye view may be more in keeping with our desire for a panoramic scene of what God hath done amongst us.

Perhaps one of the greatest causes for rejoicing is the appearance of new faces in our ranks: new members have been added to Elim through the efforts of our evangelists and personal workers. How we praised the Lord on hearing of the splendid results at Kidderminster and Worcester and Holyhead. Jesus Himself said: "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." There is joy on earth and there is joy in heaven when a soul-saving evangelism is in full swing; it is not to be wondered at therefore, that the Pentecostal Movement is characterized by an abounding happiness. As long as Elim continues a spearhead of evangelistic enterprise we shall be able at Christmastide to enjoy a Merry Christmas, and our songs of exultation will mingle with the melodies of the heavenly hosts in a glad Hosanna to the Lamb.

There is also cause to praise God for the pentecostal flame that burns in the hearts of our people. During the itineraries of Pastor J. Dyke, when he toured the churches as our President, literally hundreds of believers received the baptism in the Holy Spirit under his ministry: 1955 has indeed been a year of visitation in this respect. And when

a fire begins, who can say where it will end? Pentecostal rapture can be the most delightful beatitude of the spiritual life. May the experience glow with ever brighter rays within our Movement in the days which lie ahead. What a happy Christmas this will be if those who are still seeking the mighty endowment from above are filled at this season of the year. We cannot compartmentalize our experiences into the Christian seasons: every day is Christmas to the child of God; every day is Eastertide; any time can be Pentecost.

Let us feast therefore upon the good things provided by our God at the table prepared by our Saviour Himself.

Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh

By T. C. Parrott

“They presented unto Him gifts, gold, and frankincense and myrrh” (Matt. ii. 11).

WISE MEN GAVE THESE GIFTS to Jesus, and how great was their wisdom in the choice of gifts they gave. What a contrast in the gifts. What a depth of meaning and blessing to you when you know what the gifts mean.

GOLD given to Jesus. A symbol of riches. Yes! “Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich” (II. Cor. viii. 9) Gold given to Jesus. A symbol of purity. “As gold tried in the fire” (I. Peter i. 7). He was pure and sinless.

FRANKINCENSE given to Jesus. A fragrant sweet smelling gum, one of the ingredients used as an incense and perfume in the Tabernacle where man met with God (Exod. xxx. 34). A symbol of prayer and praise and fragrance.

MYRRH. They gave Jesus myrrh at His birth. They brought myrrh to the tomb, a symbol of death. When on the Cross, they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh, a symbol of suffering.

What a contrast in these gifts. Riches and sweetness

and suffering and death—Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh.

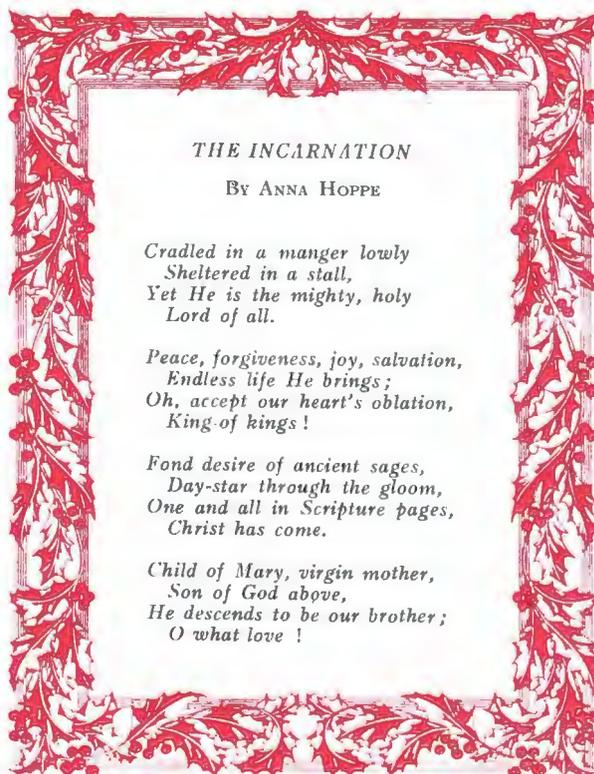
You know, beloved, the servant is not greater than his Lord, and to us He gives these gifts. The riches of His grace and salvation; the ministry of prayer and praise, and the myrrh experiences to make us unto praise and honour in His sight. An artist cannot paint a picture unless he uses light and shadow, whether it be a portrait or a landscape. So to bring out the best in us, God brings to us both sunshine and shadow. Frankincense and myrrh. You will find the sweetest Christians are often those who have suffered the most.

Frankincense is a sweet smelling perfume. Perfume! Most ladies love perfume, and some men too. Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, used it as an enticement when she met Anthony Mark, a Roman General, and even the sails of her barge were perfumed.

There is a secret in making a good perfume. The makers need a good medium or property to make the smell last, therefore they use a musky smelling substance from the musk deer. They use evil smelling Ambergris from the whale. Those in an expert's hands produce a perfect lasting perfume.

So in God's dealings with us, the frankincense is mingled with myrrh, that we may be an incense of praise in His presence.

In the Song of Solomon iv. 6 we read: “Until the day break and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountains of myrrh, and to the hills of frankincense.” And until all shadows flee and we see Him whom our soul loveth, although the myrrh experiences may seem as mountains, let us spend time on the hill of frankincense in the presence of our Lord in prayer and praise, and we shall be a sweet smelling savour—an incense pleasing to our God.



THE INCARNATION

BY ANNA HOPPE

*Cradled in a manger lowly
Sheltered in a stall,
Yet He is the mighty, holy
Lord of all.*

*Peace, forgiveness, joy, salvation,
Endless life He brings;
Oh, accept our heart's oblation,
King of kings!*

*Fond desire of ancient sages,
Day-star through the gloom,
One and all in Scripture pages,
Christ has come.*

*Child of Mary, virgin mother,
Son of God above,
He descends to be our brother;
O what love!*

“Unto you
that fear my Name
shall
the Sun of Righteousness
arise with
healing in His wings”

(Mal. iv. 2).



OVERSEAS MISSIONS

A Page of News conducted by Pastor G. H. Thomas (Missionary Secretary)

... PRAY YE ... GIVE YE ... GO YE ...

greetings sent to loved ones and friends. It is the festive season and a time of merry-making. None will rejoice more than those who have received for themselves the greatest of all gifts—our Lord Jesus Christ. For God so loved that He gave. It was love in the heart of God that made Him give His only begotten Son, that weak and sinful men and women might know the joy of sins forgiven and a new life that is eternal.

It is love too in the hearts of our missionaries that has led them to leave all they held dear in order to tell people in other lands of the Saviour who came on that first Christmas morn that He might redeem them and deliver them from the bondage of ignorance, superstition and demon worship.

During 1955 our missionaries have laboured on the mission fields of India, Africa, China, South America and Europe and theirs has been the joy of seeing precious souls in these countries won to Christ. Much more could be done if the funds were available, and to meet this need for World Missions a target of £20,000 for 1956 has been set up. With this increased income the work at home and on the mission fields can be further extended.

TANGANYIKA

Pastor and Mrs. A. D. Bull.

Following their furlough in the homeland, Pastor and Mrs. Bull are now back in Tanganyika and find life very full as they again take up the work on their station and the surrounding district. They write :

"It is now six months since we left home to return to our first love—Africa. It is hard to realize that so much time has passed since we were home meeting old friends and making new ones, but we are conscious that you are praying for us and we are deeply grateful for every one of you.

"The welcome back that we appreciated most was that on the second Sunday when fifteen youngsters came forward to accept Christ. After I had spoken the Evangelist made the appeal and this number came forward. We thought it was a mistake on their part, but no, they wanted Jesus as their Saviour. One of them confessed his sins, including that of having cursed his father and mother.

"The old heathen Chief here is very favourable towards us and has obstructed the Catholics in their attempt to hinder our work. He commented aloud on the sermon right through while I was preaching, but it was all in our favour. He appeared to be impressed as we presented Christ and the Gospel.

"The number of deaths around us recently has impressed us afresh with the need for haste in our work. One of our neighbours has just died and was buried to the accompaniment of the awful wailing of the relatives that is customary at such times. Then three murders have recently been committed in this area, two right on our outstation. One of these murderers came from Portuguese East Africa, which being dominated by Catholicism, allows no Protestant mission within its borders. This man in a fit of jealousy hacked off his wife's head. Like almost all his people who come here to work, he is a complete pagan. In a recent service for these people four of their number expressed a desire to learn more about our Lord Jesus.

"Some of you will remember hearing about our prison work. At a recent service there were about 200 prisoners who almost mobbed us in their desire to hear the Words of Life. Later in the Indian section I spoke to many and they told me they were followers of Buddha or Mohammed, while others were Sikhs or Hindus, and one said he was a Roman Catholic and a follower of Christ. I asked him, "Did Christ lead you into prison?" He answered, "No," and a little later he made the decision to be a real follower of Him we love.

"Heather is now in school, 300 miles away. It was with mixed feelings that we saw her go. She has had malaria since returning to this country, but the school where she attends is on a higher altitude and a healthier climate than this feverish area in which we work. We are thankful that she seems happy there ; she comes home twice a year.

"We are planning to reach out to the heathen on every hand and are determined to do all in our power, but depend much on your prayers. Please pray especially for the following :

1. That God will raise up African Evangelists with a love for souls.
2. For blessing on the preaching of the Word to the Moslems.
3. For revival in Tanganyika.
4. That the missionary income at home shall increase and allow the appointment of another missionary for this field.

Then a word of praise that my wife has been able to take over the increasing burden of medical work, despite the fact





Pastor G. H. Thomas who contributes the regular Overseas Missions Page

that medical advice was against her returning to this land.

May the Lord bless you all and give you a desire for souls.

P.S.—Have just visited the prison again and nineteen in the 'Hard Labour' section decided for Christ."

TRANSVAAL

Pastor W. H. Francis (Pretoria).

Pastor Francis has recently visited a number of the Elim Stations and Outstations on the Transvaal and has

been encouraged to find the Christians pressing on with the Lord and others deciding for Christ. We quote from his letter: "Back to Pilgrim's Rest in time for the main service at the Browns Hill Church, for further teaching and Communion at 2.30. Then again at 8 p.m.. I gave teaching particularly to help the African workers. In each of these meetings the presence of the Lord was much in evidence and a spirit of love prevailed and the ministry of the Word was greatly appreciated.

"The following day was a public holiday and a party of us went to minister at the Graskop Location where numbers of families live. After I had given the main message I invited all those who desired to surrender to Christ to raise their hands, and scores responded. They were of all ages. To make it more definite I again invited those who raised their hands to come forward publicly for prayer and guidance in the great step of conversion and about forty to fifty crowded around us. The Evangelist and I spoke to them all and when I led them in the 'sinners prayer' they seemed very sincere and unusually earnest. We then put them in touch with the local workers and gave them the times of the services held there and trust that God will keep them and cause them to bear fruit.

"I feel that the hand of the Lord was upon this visit, and to me personally it was very gratifying to see and realize that after more than twenty years there are still many of the Christians and workers there going on with God since I laid the foundation of the work in that place."

WELCOME TO OUR MISSIONARIES

It was a joy to welcome home on November 10th, our honorary missionaries to Kenya, Mr. and Mrs. T. Johnston with their three bonny children. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have been very busy indeed during their second term of service in Nairobi and district and have enjoyed much blessing on their work. They are taking a well earned rest in Mr. Johnston's native town of Lurgan, N. Ireland, and will later visit as many churches as possible during their short leave.

On the following day, November 11th, Miss Cynthia Partridge, Elim missionary to the Belgian Congo disem-

barked at Southampton and was kindly met by Pastor C. Brooks, our minister in charge of the Elim Church, Southampton. We extend a warm welcome to Miss Partridge, home for her furlough following her first term on the mission field. Miss Partridge will later visit our churches.

ELIM BROADCASTS

B. B. C.

The evening Sunday service, on January 22nd, comes from the Elim Church, Salford, and will be broadcast over the B.B.C., North Region wavelength. The minister, Pastor John Woodhead, will be the speaker. The President, Pastor H. W. Greenway, is also expected to take part, and the singing will be directed by Pastor Douglas Gray. A section of the London Crusader Choir will visit Manchester for the week-end and assist in the broadcast.

I. B. R. A.

The listening public in this country continues to grow and interest is becoming keen. From Wales, the Midlands, London, East Anglia, and parts of Southern England, readers tell us of good hearing and pleasant listening.

Remember the Elim broadcasts are each Sunday from 9.30 to 10 p.m. over 30.71 and 41.85 metres SHORT WAVE. Many people are finding the latter wavelength at present the better for reception.

Christmas Day (Sunday) Programme from 9.30 to 10 p.m.

Christmas music and song by the Clapham Crusader Choir, London Crusader Choir, and Instrumentalists, with Jean Keddie (Elim Sunday School scholar).

The President (Pastor H. W. Greenway) will speak.

Ronald F. Cooper at the organ.

Ethel Pay, piano accompanist.

Introduced and produced by Pastor Douglas B. Gray.

From the Elim Church, Clapham, London.

Programmes for January, 1956 :

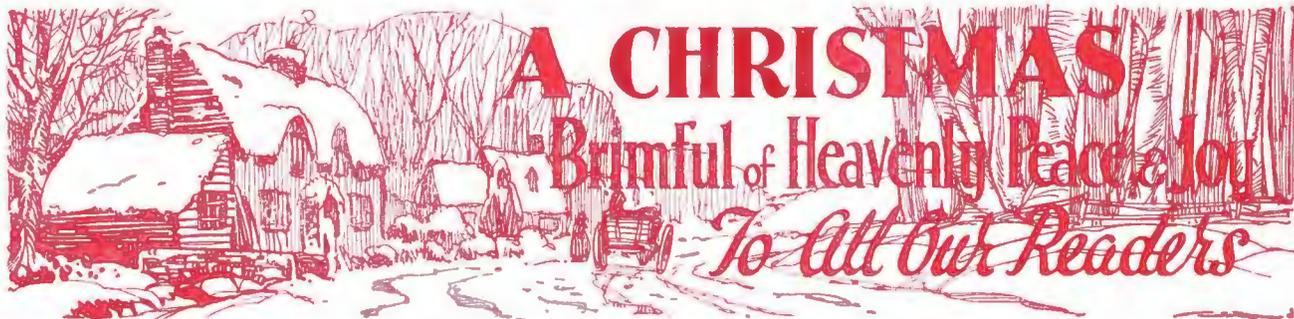
9.30 to 9.45 p.m. Programmes of music and song by Elim singers and musicians from London, Cardiff, Belfast, etc.

9.45 to 10.0 p.m. Elim service from the Croydon Church. Speaker is Pastor John Woodhead.

Soloists: Joyce P. Belsey and Joan Henson.

Pastor Douglas Gray, programme producer, would appreciate reports from listeners concerning reception in your particular area.





Christmas Lives—because Christ Lives

ONCE again, rolling down the centuries since that first Christmas, comes the sound of the music of the Old, Old Story of God's matchless love. Yes! Christmas with all its happiness and generosity lives again in Christian hearts because the Christ of Christmas, Babe though He became, is alive and seated on the Throne.

Only to those who really know Him, and by a miraculous spiritual birth have been born into His Kingdom, can Christmas be what it really is—the recapturing of that spirit of love and sacrifice that is seen in the greatest gift, God's gift of His Son as our Saviour.

Open hearts and open arms will gather the children around us for this Festival of the Babe, for Christmas essentially belongs to the children, and though we be old and stricken in years, or robust and romping around with the youngsters in their fun and frolic, it is only those who have the spirit of the child that can begin to understand the mystery of the Incarnation.

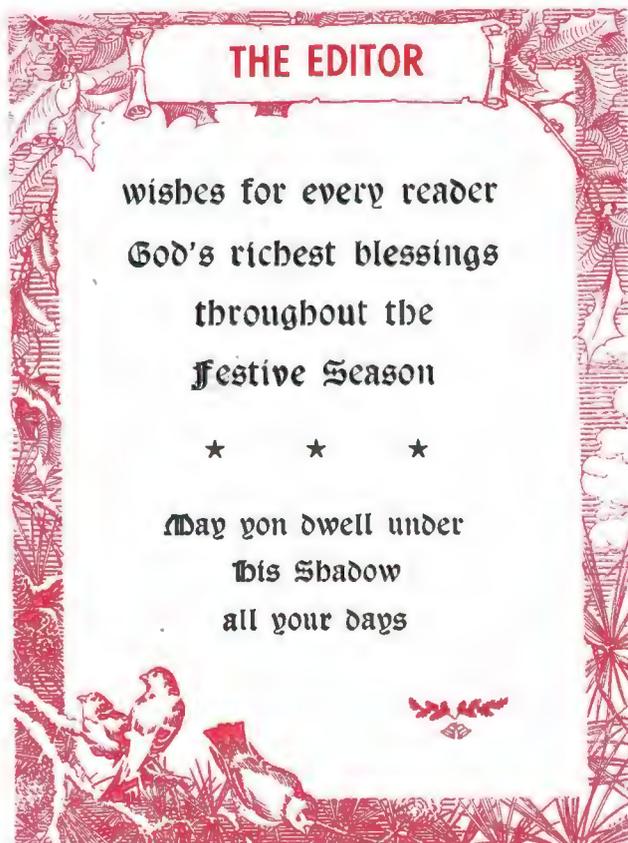
Over the wide world Christians of every clime and country, of every tribe and tongue, will gather in the House of God with reverential awe to worship the Christ that was, and is, and is to be, the Everliving One. Under the blazing suns of Africa or over the frozen lands of the North those whose hearts have been awakened to the wonder of God's love will draw near, as did the Magi of old, to worship Him that was born to be King.

Over the plains of Bethlehem came the strains of the song "On earth, peace, and goodwill." So to those whose hearts have been

touched by His love, the peace of God will come flooding in again as we worship at His footstool. Scientists may frighten us with their terrors and tell us that after two thousand years of the Story of Christmas we must face such a holocaust as the world has never yet seen, and be prepared to accept the fact that civilization will finally destroy itself by its own devilish cleverness. But somehow, in spite of it all, there comes stealing upon our spirits, flooding in over our fears, the assurance of the angels that "On earth, peace" will yet be, and that God has something better for this terrestrial sphere than to be blown into smithereens by an atomic blast and to drift as radio-active dust among the stars.

Only a miracle can change the heart of the individual and give it the heart of a child. Only a miracle can change the threat of annihilation to a promise of peace. Only God can bring to pass what all humanity longs for—peace. Only the Babe of Bethlehem can banish the baneful influence of man's folly. Only in Him can our hopes be centred. He who holds all power in His pierced hands alone can do this—and He will because He has said He will.

"On earth, peace." It begins in the Spirit of the Kingly Babe, and when that Spirit indwells the human heart and makes it as the heart of a child, it will—when the Babe returns as King to reign—spread throughout the entire world the spirit of the Christ of Christmas story.



THE BUNDLE OF MYRRH

By PASIOR W. H. WINGATE

"A bundle of myrrh is my well beloved unto me" (Cant. i. 13).

THE CHURCH likens Christ unto a Bundle of Myrrh. (1) **FOR ITS PRECIOUSNESS.** It is always spoken of in Scripture as a rich, rare, costly drug or substance. Jacob sent some down into Egypt as being one of the choice products of the land. But no myrrh could really compare with Him! All the valuables of the world could not buy another Saviour. When God gave His only Son, He gave **ALL HE HAD!**

(2) **FOR ITS BITTERNESS.** The Latin, Greek and Hebrew equivalent for "myrrh" is "bitter," or "to be bitter." The life of Jesus, our "Bundle of Myrrh" was one of long suffering from the Manger to the Cross, and although He is sweet to our taste, He bought our sweetness with His bitterness. It was indeed a prophetic gift the wise men brought to Jesus at His birth, when they presented Him with the myrrh! The servant is not greater than his Lord and as an instance of this see Acts v. 40, where the apostles were beaten and told not to speak again in the name of Jesus. But they, rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer for His Name's sake, ceased not to preach and teach Jesus Christ.

There is a saying among preachers that "If you don't strike oil in twenty minutes, stop boring!" But how can one do justice to Jesus Christ in twenty minutes. We shall require the whole of eternity!

Reverting to the bitter sufferings of Christ for a moment, think of His agonies in the garden, His sorrows on the Cross, and the spittings, buffetings, scourgings, and revilings of His enemies. His head was crowned with thorns. His hands and feet pierced with nails. He was forsaken by His Father and by His Friends, and though His sufferings were so bitter to Him, yet how sweet and precious is a crucified Christ to believers, for it "Pleased the Lord to bruise Him," and for the joy set before Him He endured the Cross. The bitter cup that He drank is the foundation of their joy and hope. To the Christian too it is the same: No Cross—No Crown! The Passover Lamb was eaten with bitter herbs, showing that He that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But, thank God, this Tree of Life, this Bundle of Myrrh, sweetens the bitter waters of Marah, and we are enabled to endure as "seeing Him who is invisible."

(3) **THIS MYRRH COULD BE** either (a) the gummy resinous exudation which oozes from cracks in the tree, or (b) the low thorny ragged looking tree itself. Look at the first one and see how it portrays the Saviour. The liquid myrrh exudes of its own accord. No force is required. Jesus Christ came of His own accord, for when the Voice of the Lord was heard saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us" then He said: "Here am I, send me!" (Isa. vi. 8).

Again, as the low ragged looking thorny scrub. A graphic description is contained in Isaiah liii. 2-3: "A root out of a dry ground . . . no form nor comeliness . . . no beauty that we should desire Him . . . despised and rejected, a man of sorrows . . . we esteemed Him not." But the true Israelite indeed looks around for an emblem to illustrate Him, and his eyes alight on this despised little thorny bush. Once to the believer "A root out of a dry ground." At one time, in common with others, he saw no beauty in Him to desire Him, but now Jesus is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star and the Altogether Lovely! Peter says: "Unto you therefore which believe He is precious." Isaiah says: "Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation. He that believeth shall not make haste."

This shrub was imported into Egypt. The True Vine, or Bundle of Myrrh was imported into this world, this Egypt, this wilderness. What a cold, comfortless, place to come to after the warmth of heaven and the Father's bosom! Precious Jesus! Precious in His life! Precious in His death! Precious in His Resurrection! Precious in His Ascension! And Precious in His Intercession! Hallelujah!

(4) **MYRRH HAS A PRESERVING QUALITY.** John tells us that Nicodemus brought nearly a hundredweight of myrrh and aloes, and wound linen round the body of Jesus, with the spices. But it was God who preserved Him. The myrrh was only em-

blematical, for had not God promised "Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption." God the Father kept Him, and by the same power the Church is kept! We have a wonderful Keeper.

(5) **MYRRH IS FOR PURIFYING.** It cleanses and makes pure. In Esther ii. 12 we read that Esther and other virgins were bidden to prepare themselves before being introduced to King Ahasuerus. "Six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with OTHER THINGS for the purifying of the women." She needed beauty treatment! Women have always been the same! They will have their "little aids." Millions of pounds are spent annually on trying to keep that "Schoolgirl complexion!" Oriental women used myrrh constantly for the perfecting of their charms. It imparted an outward beauty to them through artificial aid. In other words, it wasn't natural! Our beauty is imputed and imparted to us by our Bundle of Myrrh!

(6) **MYRRH IS FOR PERFUMING.** It is of a fragrant nature, and is used for perfuming garments that they might have a pleasant aroma. Notice how the Church describes the Fragrance of our Lord in this Song: "Who is this . . . perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant."

So our Saviour carries about with Him a fragrance with which He perfumes His people and communicates sweet graces to the Church. Sinners are unsavoury until this myrrh has dropped on them. "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish" (II. Cor. ii. 15). Thank God for the angel with the golden censer, with much incense!

(7) **MYRRH IS ALSO A DISINFECTANT!** The Orientals believed, when fever was about, that a little bag of myrrh worn round the neck would keep the fever at bay. We do not know if this was a real remedy in every case, but we do know that if you carry Christ, our Bundle, into the factories and workshops, you won't catch the world's disease. Christ in the heart will disinfect all the profane language and loose talk.

A brother we knew carried this Bundle of Myrrh into the factory where six ungodly young men worked. Gradually, as he stood his ground and testified, much to their disgust, one by one gave in to the claims of Christ, until that section of the factory was a sanctified corner of the vineyard. I was privileged to see a photograph of the converted group with the brother who had the honour of leading them to the Lord standing with them.

(8) **PROFUSION.** A bundle denotes abundance. Like the manna, enough for everyone, not two or three grains, but a plentiful supply. Have you noticed the weight of the myrrh in the ingredients that composed holy ointment? (Ex. xxx. 23). Jesus Christ, our myrrh, is predominant. He has the pre-eminence. This abundance dwells in Him for His Church. "And of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace" (John i. 16). It is like the ointment on Aaron's beard, flowing down to all the members of His Body, the Church.

Finally, there is variety in a bundle, not one or two sticks but a bundle! What a marvellous variety there is to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ! He is Prophet, Priest, King, Husband, Friend, and Shepherd. Take Him in His life, death, resurrection and ascension. Take Him in virtue, His gentleness, courage, self-denial, love, faithfulness, truth and righteousness. Everywhere it is a bundle!

Myrrh is also a Healing Stimulant! Our Bundle of Myrrh, the Great Physician, heals the sick, too, and this is among His many virtues.

We are all the time coming to the end of things here—the end of the week, the end of the month, the end of the year. It is end, end, end all the time. But, thank God, He is going to satisfy us with long life, endless life, with no end to it!

—D. L. Moody.

RETROSPECT

"He hath done"



The Elim Conference appears on A.A. notices for the first time

THE YEAR 1955 will always stand out in the annals of the Elim Movement as a year of progress, of adventure, of expansion, and of new beginnings. Campaigns have been held in many new centres, as well as in towns where the work has benefited from such efforts. Building programmes, too, have been pressed forward and many churches this Christmastide will be worshipping in new buildings opened during the year. So—sit down by the cheerful fireside and let us turn quickly over the pages of the year and take a look in retrospect on some of the worth-while events.

The Year of Prayer has again been continued by the Elim family throughout the months, and will continue to the last fading hours of the year. 1956, too, will see the continuation of this inspiring feature—a year of prayer. The inauguration of the **Prayer and Praise Fellowship** has introduced a new spirit of co-operation into our ranks and, under the guidance of Pastor E. C. W. Boulton, has continued to prove a source of help and strength to all the prayer warriors.

The evangelistic surge began with a campaign at **Swindon**



Graham Street friends gathered outside the Vittoria Restaurant

by Paul Cantelon, where many were led to Christ. Pastors P. S. Brewster and

Alex. Tee, Pastor John and Mrs. Woodhead with their daughter Dorothy, and Pastor S. Gorman and Mrs. Gorman, began the year in the midst of their itineraries in **Canada and U.S.A.**, where successful campaigns have followed swiftly on each other.

Buildings come into front page news with the opening of **Bristol's** fine new City Temple, modern in its appearance, but not in the message proclaimed by its worthy minister, Pastor W. Ron. Jones. **Reading** comes into the news also with another campaign by Paul Cantelon. **Hadleigh** in Essex comes to the front with the opening of their new extension, planned to accommodate the expanding work among the young people. Youth work among the "Teddy Boys and Girls" in **Stafford** creates a stir and many are won for Christ in this magnificent effort.

Radio Monte Carlo continues to sound out its message over the air and the Elim broadcasts are becoming more and more widely known. **Anniversaries** come crowding in upon us and several churches celebrate their 25th this year. Cake cutting has become quite a ceremonial, and maybe will make your mouths water during this Festive Season.

Reports from our **missionaries abroad** were most encouraging. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston write of very much blessing on their work among the Kikuyu tribe in the Mau Mau area. Miss R. Simms returned to South Africa from her furlough, and received a fine "Send-off" at Elim Woodlands.

Presidential visits have taken Pastor John Dyke to all parts of the British Isles and a most profitable tour of Northern Ireland brought great blessing to the churches. Another Elim church is opened at **Wood Green** in North London. The acquisition of this building was regarded as a real miracle.

Youth Rallies and Conferences were well to the front and the Elim Youth Committee, watching and stimulating the interests of Youth, are always "on their toes" and keen to press forward this most important section of the Elim work. **Plymouth** sees the laying of the Foundation Stone of their new building, for which they have waited long. Cherished ambitions now come into prospect of early fulfilment.

Halifax enjoys a campaign by Paul Cantelon, and **Ulster Temple** one by Pastor Len Chappell, recently returned from U.S.A. **Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Bull** returned in April to their work in Tanganyika after a profitable furlough at home.

T ON 1955

things well”

Easter Monday in the **Royal Albert Hall** is again one of the Highlights of the Year. Powerful preaching. Great crowds. Open air opportunities in London's Forum—Trafalgar Square. It was a glorious time.

Coulsdon church, the first of the bunch, celebrates its **Golden Jubilee**. Opened in the days when bicycles were “velocipedes” and motor cars were “fearful objects” it has continued its energetic witness to this present time. Well done, Coulsdon! **Aldershot** sees a new Elim church opened, following a successful campaign. Reports flow in from Pastors Brewster, Gorman, and Woodhead, of healings, crowds, and many converts in **U.S.A. and Canada**.

Billy Graham's Campaign in Glasgow stirs the country, and both there and in **Wembley** Elim workers are to the fore in their enthusiastic support of the work. **Willard Cantelon** conducts a wonderful campaign in Kenya in the Mau Mau land, and his tent is crowded with those seeking God. Many converts are won for Christ. **Motherwell** sees a great surge forward under the energetic ministry of Pastor Tee, now back from America, while **Cardiff** rejoices in great blessing under Pastor Brewster's ministry on his return. **Pastor W. E. McAlister**, of Canada, visits Elim churches in this country with great blessing on his meetings.

Bath sees the opening of a famous building—the Percy Chapel—as a new centre for the Elim work in this West of England centre. **Kidderminster** is awakened by a pioneer campaign by Pastor Ken Matthew, and miracles of healing are reported and many hundreds of converts.

The **London Crusader Choir** press forward with their prison ministry and visits to various centres over the country. Their B.B.C. broadcasts are now a feature of their work. Ministerial Conferences of presbyteries proved stimulating to faith and helpful in fellowship. **Bristol** wins the Sunday School Shield in the examinations, and **all around the churches** news comes in of forward moves and successful efforts.

July sees a **Special Number of the EVANGEL** to report the Irish work, giving news and views of Irish ministers and reporters in the churches, all witnessing to the fire and fervour of Elim friends across the water.

May sees yet another pioneer campaign, this time at **Bridgwater**, when Pastor W. Ron. Jones of Bristol is the campaigner. This results in the opening of



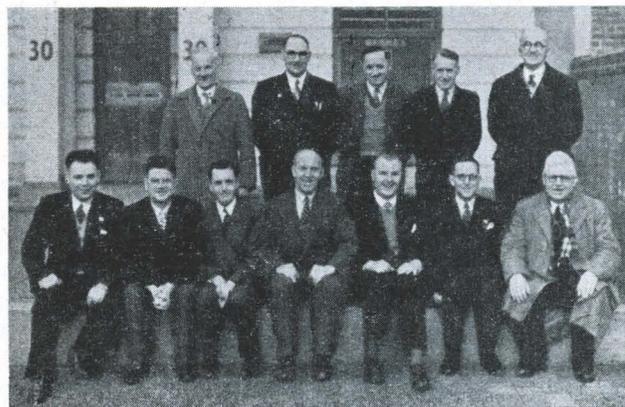
Ministers of the Irish Churches at Portrush

a new Elim church in this busy Somerset town. **Swindon** sees a new experiment when Pastor G. Canty of Gloucester launches an evangelistic campaign—his own personal financial responsibility. The campaign proves successful in conversions, healings, and in finances.

Clapham church sees the opening of their new church hall, the first part of the rebuilding after war damage. Of the cost of £32,000, all but £3,000 is being found by the War Damage Commission. In June the **World Pentecostal** Conference took many Elim ministers and members to Sweden where happy and profitable fellowship was enjoyed with the Pentecostal folk from all parts of the world.

July sees another Campaign, this time in **Liverpool** and conducted by Pastor Alex. Tee. Converts number 450 and another New Elim Church was opened to house the congregation. **Birmingham** puts on its annual Botanical Gardens Rally and attracts crowds to its inspiring meetings. August sees yet another **Elim B.B.C. Broadcast**, this time on the B.B.C. Home Service on Sunday evening from Croydon Elim Church, with the Vice-President, Pastor H. W. Greenway as the preacher.

(Continued on page 596)



Pastor John Dyke and the Deacons of Graham Street Church

THE GOOD TIDINGS

By Mrs. Evelyn E. Green

"And the angel said unto them. Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke ii. 10-11.



THIS ANNOUNCEMENT of the angel was, first of all, a most surprising declaration. For about four hundred years the voice of God had not been heard in Israel. With the passing of the last of the Israelitish prophets there had fallen upon Israel a silence complete and awful; unbroken until from out the darkened skies above Bethlehem the sudden, startling sound of the angel's voice was heard, speaking of "good tidings of GREAT JOY!" Think of that!

The last time Israel had heard the voice of God via the mouth of one of His servants, the Divine declaration had been—"Ye are cursed with a curse!" (Mal. iii. 9). On that occasion the message had been concerning Israel's sin and the great judgment that should ultimately come upon the wicked.

But, lo, here is the angel bringing tidings of GREAT JOY because of the arrival in the City of David of the Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Moreover, the angel's message was a most provocative one, and constituted a definite challenge to all hearers. The word "joy" was not the conclusion of the message, but it continued thus—"which shall be to ALL people." Which naturally implies a number of things.

1. **ALL NATIONS.** Now, despite frequent utterances by the prophets of the Lord to the effect that when the Redeemer should have come to Zion and Israel herself be by Him restored to divine favour, that Israel should in turn be Jehovah's witnesses unto the ungodly Gentile nations—despite this, Israel's attitude towards the very nations whose pernicious customs she disobediendly copied, was curious in the extreme. It is, perhaps, best exemplified by the case of the prophet Jonah. Here was a devout Jew, commissioned by God to go to the sinful people of Nineveh and deliver the warning that divine retribution would fall upon the people unless they repented of their iniquity. Jonah runs away in the opposite direction and seeks by the first means to hand—which was a ship going to Tarshish—and with all speed, to put as much distance as possible between himself and the Ninevites. Even his subsequent experiences, being tossed into the raging sea and thereafter being swal-

lowed by a great fish in whose interior he appears to have spent an extremely uncomfortable period of time, not even these seemed to change the attitude of this bigoted Jew, for when a little later the Lord spared the repentant Ninevites "it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry."

Earlier Jonah had said—"Salvation is of the LORD!" but from his subsequent behaviour you would have thought that salvation was the exclusive property of the Jews.

Coming over to the New Testament, it is amusing to hear the note of surprise lurking in Peter's voice as he tells the Jewish Christians in Judea that the Holy Ghost was bestowed even upon the Gentile believers at Cæsarea (Acts xi. 1-18).

Strangely enough, when the Gentiles of distant lands later became converted by the preaching of the crucified Christ, they gradually acquired a similar and wholly regrettable exclusiveness. The history of the Church's development down the centuries and unto this very day, has periodically been blotted with frightful deeds of cruelty by so-called followers of Christ, and to make matters worse perpetrated in His Name against His own people, the Jews. The Gentiles in their mistaken zeal and their blindness have said, and by their frigid indifference still say, "Your fathers slew Messiah, and you now have no part nor lot in Him."

Which sweeping judgment is one of the greatest blunders ever made by human kind. The Good Tidings of the Redeemer was and is "to ALL people." For the Gospel of Christ is "the power of God unto salvation—to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile." So, it is to ALL NATIONS.

Moreover, the angel's announcement implies—

2. **BOTH SEXES.** This may sound strange to the Western mind which in this twentieth century has become conditioned to the idea of female emancipation and the equality of the sexes. But the people to whom the angel delivered the message were members of an Oriental race. One idea current among some Eastern races at that time was that women were vastly inferior to men and, except for their biological value, ranked scarcely higher than an animal—say a horse or a camel. Another idea was that a woman did not possess a soul. Even in the Temple services in Israel the women were segregated in a court of their own behind the men's court and definitely in the background.

At the time of Christ's earthly ministry there existed a sect of ultra-religious Pharisees who in their verbal devotions thanked the Almighty that He had not made them a Gentile or a woman.

When therefore the various implications of the angelic message began to be realized they must have created something of a sensation.

3. ALL CLASSES. Class-consciousness is not a product of modern so-called civilization nor confined to the social realm only. It is as old as the hills and obtains in many departments of human life. In the religious realm the Pharisee proudly lifted his head to heaven and thanked God that he was not "as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers." The church-goer looks down his nose at the non-church-goer. The circumcised classifies the uncircumcised as "dogs." How hot and bothered certain folks became one day when Jesus went to dine with Zaccheus who was a tax-collector.

In the realm of culture there is sometimes the tendency on the part of the intellectual to view with faint contempt the artisan whose skilful wielding of his tools evolves purely a material product. On the other hand, the craftsman is apt to consider the intellectual as a feeble specimen of humanity, whose stock-in-trade seems to consist solely of long and incomprehensible words.

But the heavenly message is to ALL people, to each of the various CLASSES of people inhabiting this terrestrial globe. It is a UNIVERSAL message.

"Unto you is born this day in the City of David a

Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." A Saviour! But if questioned Israel for the main part would have declared that they desired no Saviour except in a military sense, an idea shared today by the human race world-wide.

But God, the Lord, implied Israel's and the world's dire need of a Saviour when He declared by the voice of the angel that a Saviour had come unto them, even Christ the Lord. Not merely the highest, noblest type of man, but Jehovah our salvation!

Hitherto, when the Almighty had addressed the human race He had done so through the instrumentality of one or more members of the human race. But now the Lord God employed an angel. A higher creature than fallen man announced the coming of the Highest.

If the message was so momentous that the Lord God sent it by special courier, how shall we escape condemnation if we neglect so great Saviour? or fail to publish the good tidings concerning Him? This is the duty of every soul who hears this royal proclamation—to receive Him of whom it speaks; and having so done to repeat the same good tidings of great joy, bearing in mind that this message is to ALL PEOPLE.

O Bethlehem

By HOWARD LESLIE LUNT

O Bethlehem! glad Bethlehem!

O city of the guiding star!

How many thousand pilgrim feet

Have hither come, from near and far,

To stand beside this sacred shrine,

Where Christ was born, the Child divine!

O Bethlehem! fair Bethlehem!

What charms thy ancient walls enfold,

Since first the wise men worshipped here

With gifts of myrrh and precious gold;

And shepherds heard the heavenly story,

And came to seek the Child of glory.

O Bethlehem! blessed Bethlehem!

O city set on Judah's hill!

To light the world with love and truth,

Through Him whose life and deeds fulfil

The prophet's vision of a King,

Whose reign on earth good will would bring.



Harmon



The "Why" of Christmas

By Pastor W. J. MAYBIN (Elim Church, Mountain Ash)

ONCE AGAIN the revolving wheels of time have brought us to the Christmas season with all its happy and hallowed associations. We are to commemorate once again the birth of Jesus and God expects us all to join in the festivities. Said a little girl in our Sunday School, when her Mum told her that Christmas was Jesus' birthday: "Mum, who will be going to His birthday party?" That was but the cogitations of a little child's mind, but how much is involved in that infant question. It is Jesus' birthday, and we want to celebrate in a fashion befitting the One whose birthday it is.

When touching upon the story of Christmas, the Incarnation of God's well-beloved Son, there are many aspects of it that would suggest themselves to us. For instance, the **MOMENT of the Incarnation**. Paul, in Galatians iv. 4, says: "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son . . ." The precise moment had arrived, the moment awaited by all the prophets and priests: the moment set in the annals of eternity, the moment upon which depended the salvation of the entire human race. It was the right moment politically and prophetically.

We could think also of the **MANNER of the Incarnation**. The Son of the Highest was born in a foul-smelling manger. Not in the comfortable room of an earthly palace, but in the rude grotto to the rear of an inn at Bethlehem. He became so poor that He might enrich the humble poor beyond all computation. Some day the world will understand.

Or we might consider the **MYSTERY of the Incarnation**. It was, and still is, the supreme mystery of the ages. The New Testament writers have much to say about this great mystery, and the classical passage is found in I. Timothy iii. 16, "Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh . . ." In our contemplation of Bethlehem we are drawing near to a "burning bush" and it behoves us to do so with the utmost reverence and humility. We bow in amazement as we consider the "infinite stoop" which, to quote another, "sinks all creature humiliation to nothing and renders it almost impossible for a creature to humble himself."

But I want us in these lines to think about the supreme **MOTIVE of the Incarnation**. Why God sent His Son! Why should Jesus exchange the comforts of the "ivory palaces" for the stable with its abject poverty? Why should

He turn His back upon the society of heaven for the shame of Golgotha's brow? We turn to the Bible for a satisfactory answer to this problem. Here is what John says: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins . . . And we have seen and testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (I. John iv. 9, 10, 14).

If we condense these words we shall discover that God sent His Son into this world—

FIRST, to give life—"That we might live through Him."

As we read the Gospel of John there is one little word that is sure to impress itself upon our minds, the word "except." This word lays down the rule—"a condition must be fulfilled before the end can be attained." For example, Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." The New Birth is a necessity if we would one day find a place in the kingdom of God. Again Jesus said, "No man can come to Me, except the Father draw him." This wooing or drawing of the divine Spirit is necessary if we are to find God in saving grace. Again, Jesus gave vent to another sublime truth—that death is necessary to life. He said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." Jesus not only expounded a principle for life in general, He was announcing in no uncertain terms the purpose of His mission to this world. Others were born to live, He was born to die. He was to die that we might live.

Now surely there is only one inference which we can draw from the words of John in his epistle, that is, man in sin is dead spiritually. True, we may be physically alive and strong, but spiritually dead. Said an Irishman to a crowd who were debating if a dog was dead after being hit by a passing bus; "Yes, it is dead, but it doesn't know it." How true of many around us today, dead to God and ignorant of the fact. How wonderful! The great design of the Incarnation was that it should be but a prelude to Calvary. Jesus was born historically in a manger, that He might be born again in the hearts of men.

"Born to raise the sons of earth.
Born to give them second birth."

What does God want this Christmas season? He wants a habitation for His Son in your heart. Perhaps your heart, like the manger may be lowly, it may be mean, vile and



obnoxious. Remember that His presence will completely change the whole structure of your life. The stable can become a shrine. **Second, God sent His Son into the world to give pardon.**

"God sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." During the first World War it was customary in certain American cities for those who had sent a son to the front to put a star in their window. One star meant that one son had been sent; two stars meant two sons. One evening a little boy was going down a busy street with his father, and with delight counted the stars in the windows. "See, father," he would say, "they have sent a son from that home, and two from this home." Suddenly they came to an opening between the high buildings, and the blue sky came into view with the evening star shining brightly. When he saw the star, the little lad cried, "Oh! look! God must have sent a Son too." True, He did send His Son, and He proclaimed the fact by a star (Matt. i. 2, 9).

The word "propitiation" is one of the great words of the Bible. It signifies that which there was in the Cross of Christ to satisfy or propitiate God. I know that this is a slant that is repudiated by those whose attitude to the Cross is modernistic. One writer puts it thus: "This word 'propitiation' arouses antagonism in some people, because they misunderstand it. They think Paul means that an angry God is made loving and well-disposed to us by the sacrifice of His Son—and so they reject Paul. But this is a distortion of Paul's meaning . . . In Romans iii. 25, as in I. John iv. 10, it is God who takes the initiative in providing the propitiation, and it is because of His infinite love that He does so. Nay, more, it is exactly in this that the most perfect manifestation of God's love is given to us." As Bishop Aulen points out in *Christus Victor* that the sacrifice was both planned and provided by God.

The Hebrew word rendered "make atonement" is rendered in the Septuagint as "make propitiation." It is the Godward side of Calvary, what Jesus gave to God to atone for sin. Reconciliation is the outcome of that atonement, hence "we are reconciled to God by the death of His Son." The New Testament knows nothing about God being reconciled towards us. But what place does the Incarnation play in all this? The Incarnation was the indispensable condition before there could be an atoning sacrifice. The second Person in the Trinity in His existent form as the divine Son of God had to become the Son of Man in order to undergo the ordeal of the Cross.

"Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From the poor manger to the bitter Cross."

FINALLY, God sent His Son to Give Salvation.

"The Father sent the Son to be the SAVIOUR of the world." We can borrow the words of the woman of Samaria, at this festive season: ". . . the Christ, . . . the Saviour of the world." What wonderful news! What a

wonderful messenger, the angelic herald!

"I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
To you and all the nations upon earth:
This day hath God fulfilled His promised
word.

This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

News for the world! News of Heaven's love! News of Heaven's peace! It is such wonderful news that all the world must hear.

But what did this mean for Jesus? It meant suffering and shame. The following story will suffice to illustrate the point. Princess Alice, the greatly beloved daughter of Queen Victoria, was married to the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt. She had nursed her husband and daughters, the youngest of which, just a babe, had died through the then greatly dreaded diphtheria, when her only son was sorely stricken. Though worn out by nursing she insisted upon taking full charge of her suffering boy. One day when the fever was at its height he stretched his hands out to her and said, "Kiss me, mother," and she, breaking through the restraints of prudence, pressed upon his parched lips a mother's love-kiss. That kiss cost her her life. God has stooped down to implant upon the cheek of a sinful world the kiss of His love, but it cost Him His Son. Calvary was the inevitable outcome of the cradle. From out of those ivory palaces Jesus came forth with a commandment from His Father, a commandment to lay down His life, and take it up again. It was no easy matter to tread that road. It led through the vale of misunderstanding and death, but it must be trodden. He loved to the uttermost! He loved to the end! Let us in our festivities see beyond the star, the stable, the shepherds, the singing angels, to the SAVIOUR. Will you recognize Him as yours?

"Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch, and Saviour of all."

It is ridiculous for any man to criticize the works of another, who has not distinguished himself by his own performance.—Addison.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Once again from tower and steeple the bells will be ringing out to remind us that it is Christmastide. As we listen to the glad sound let us remember anew the message they proclaim. Let us in imagination visit that scene in Bethlehem's Inn and see the Holy Babe in His mother's arms, the Shepherds, and the Wise Men, worshipping close by. The angels also singing glorious songs of praise to the Most High. Let us too worship the Babe of Bethlehem, and take right into our hearts that One who was to be called "Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. i. 21). Then for us it will be Christmas indeed.

—Will Hebdige.



FAMILY ALTAR

and ELIM PRAYER CIRCLE

A page for your daily meditations and prayer

Notes by Pastor Ronald Reid

SUNDAY, December 18th. Isaiah i. 18-31.

"Come now let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (v. 18).

Here is an appeal to reason. Contrary to the conceived notions of many that Christianity is solely emotional, Christianity is the most logical and reasonable thing that man can countenance. The forsaking of sin always means a feast of good things from the hand of the Lord. Simple submission under the kind hand of our great Creator is the reasonable conduct required of all. Then our sin can be dealt with and we begin to rejoice in the great fact of personal regeneration. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things pass away and all things become new. What more could be reasonable?

MONDAY, December 19th. Isaiah ii. 1-9.

"Neither shall they learn war any more" (v. 4).

In the midst of the darkness there shines a light. It shall come to pass! No more war! With the coming of the Kingdom of Christ there will come the cessation of wars. He shall reign in peace. He maketh wars to cease unto the ends of the earth. Psalm xli. 9. Wars are the outcome of enmity, jealousy, envy and covetousness in the human heart. When Jesus comes again we shall rejoice in everlasting peace.

All men shall dwell in His marvellous light,
Races long severed His love will unite,
Justice and truth from His sceptre shall spring,
Wrong will be ended when Jesus is King.

TUESDAY, December 20th. Isaiah ii. 10-22.

"Cease from man whose breath is in his nostrils" (v. 22).

The account given here of man's smallness and vanity, when the Lord of Glory appears, is sufficient to help us put into practice the injunction of our text. Do not depend on man. It is better to trust the Lord, than to put confidence in man. Psalm cxviii. 8. At all times we must wholly trust the Lord. Nothing can be more dangerous with serious repercussions upon our lives than to place absolute trust in man and fail to receive that for which we looked. Jesus never fails! All flesh shall perish together and man shall turn again to dust. Job xxxiv. 15. The Lord reigneth for ever!

WEDNESDAY, December 21st. Isaiah v. 1-10.

"What more could have been done in my vineyard, that I have not done in it?" (v. 4).

The house of Israel was God's choice vine (verse 7), and the best of attention had been bestowed upon it, yet the fruitage was contrary to the expectation of the Vinedresser. Every provision had been made, but without a suitable response. God has been merciful and kind. His hedge has been around us, but have we failed to produce that which He expects and provided for? He wants character, holy conduct and righteousness from us all. God could do no more for us. He sacrificed His only Son, He paid the price of our redemption in blood. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

Let us with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord for He is kind.

THURSDAY, December 22nd. Isaiah v. 11-25.

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil" (v. 20).

Here is a deliberate palliation of sin with God's pronounced judgment upon it. If there is a thing or action we love and know to be wrong, we attempt to call it good or harmless, in spite of the fact that we know its true nature. It is essential that we recognize what we see and act in accordance. This thing not only affects one's own life, but

takes its toll upon others as well. Sin is Sin and evil is evil. Sin and evil are detestable to God. Come out from among them and be ye separate.

FRIDAY, December 23rd. Isaiah vi. 1-3.

"Whom shall I send and who shall go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me!" (v. 8).

A job to be done! A message to deliver! Who shall go? Who will answer the Divine call. Isaiah saw the Lord and His glory and felt very much his own position—unclean and undone! Yet in response, he replied: Here am I, send me. If we are sent by Divine commission we have ought to fear. Isaiah was willing and consecrated to the ministry of God's message. What great things could be accomplished if more of God's people would hear the call, understand the message and in absolute and entire consecration say: Here am I, Lord, send me. Entire consecration embraces three things—being, doing, suffering.

Are we willing?

SATURDAY, December 24th. Isaiah vii. 1-16.

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel" (v. 14).

This illuminating prophecy was given 740 years before the birth of Christ. Here is God's sign of good will to Israel and to the house of David. We know that; He came unto His own and His own received Him not, but to as many as received Him gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to as many as call upon His name. We are about to celebrate His birth and Christian hearts everywhere are rejoicing in the glorious fact that in Christ we have God manifest in the flesh. Immanuel! God with us!

All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace,
Goodwill henceforth from Heaven to men,
Begin and never cease.

SUNDAY, December 25th. Matt. i. 18-25.

"Thou shalt call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins" (v. 21).

It was a tremendous moment for the woman of Samaria when the light dawned and she exclaimed: Messiah is come! The birth of Christ was the coming of Messiah, not only to an individual, but to a world bathed in darkness. The true Light now shineth! Christ is born of a Virgin, conceived of the Holy Ghost! Glorious Incarnation! Let us rejoice! Jesus the Saviour is born! Well may angelic hosts become jubilant and wise men from the east make earnest enquiry.

Oh come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
To Bethlehem hasten now with one accord;
Lo in a manger lies the King of Angels.
OH COME LET US ADORE HIM!

MONDAY December 26th. Isaiah viii. 11-22.

"To the Law and the Testimony, if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them" (v. 20).

God is here speaking to the prophet reminding him of the waywardness of the people. Even if it meant walking alone, he was not to fall in with the adverse ways of the people that were contrary to the Word of God. Contact and conversation that is contrary to His Word must be avoided. If there is any question or doubt, our appeal and decision must be in accordance with the Law and the Testimony. The way of the crowd is not the way of the Cross! The





way of the people may be popular, but the way of the prudent is the path of peace and purity.

TUESDAY, December 27th.

Isaiah ix. 1-14.
 "The people that walked in darkness hath seen a great light" (v. 2).

The birth of Christ was the first radiant flicker of a light "that lighteneth every man" and by the appearing of our Saviour, Jesus Christ who hath abolished death, hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. We who were no people are now the "peculiar people" of God. The light of the glorious Gospel hath shined into our hearts. And rejoicing we give HIM all the glory. The path of the just is as a shining light

that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

I looked to Jesus and I found
 In Him my star and sun
 And in that light of life I'll walk
 Till travelling days are done.

WEDNESDAY, December 28th. Isaiah ii. 1-10.

"He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears" (v. 3).

In these verses we have another glorious description of the Lord Jesus Christ and His wonderful earthly Kingdom which He shall establish and control. Unlike we humans, He does not depend on what meets the eye or enters the ear as the final evidence for His judgments. His judgments are righteous. God looketh not on outward appearance, but on the heart. Doctor Banks once told of an island in the North Sea called Keldive which had a very curious lake. On the surface it was quite fresh and supported fresh water creatures. Deep down it was salt and sponges and salt water fish were there. God knows what is underneath the surface of all our lives.

THURSDAY, December 29th. Isaiah xii. 1-6.

"Cry out and shout, thou inhabitants of Zion, for great is the Holy One in the midst of thee" (v. 6).

The Lord of Glory loves to be in the midst of His people. He delights to dwell with men. Well may we cry out and shout for joy! He is great. Great in His condescension, great in His compassion, great in His counsel and communion, and changeless in His charming character. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together. If we hold our peace the very stones will cry out!

Worship, honour, power and blessing
 Thou art worthy to receive;
 Loudest praises without ceasing
 Meet it is for us to give.

FRIDAY, December 30th. Isaiah xxv. 1-12.

"Thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge in the storm, a shadow in the heat when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall" (v. 4).

Retrospect of God's blessing is right. God delights to deliver His children.

There is an eye that never sleeps
 Beneath the wing of night;
 There is an ear that never shuts
 When sink the beams of light.

There is an arm that never tires
 When human strength gives way.
 There is a love that never fails
 When earthly loves decay.

That eye is fix'd on seraph throngs;
 That ear is filled with angels' songs;
 That arm upholds the worlds on high;
 That love is throned beyond the sky.

Let us delight in His mercy, declare His love and constantly dwell in His presence.

SATURDAY, December 31st. Isaiah xxvi. 1-13.

"Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because He trusteth in Him" (v. 3).

The promise of peace is precious. Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT peace: inward peace, outward peace, peace with God, lasting peace, peace under all circumstances. The promise is to those whose minds are stayed on HIM. We must gird up the loins of our minds, set our affections on things above. Whose minds are stayed

on Thee! As we trust so shall we taste the tranquillity of God's tremendous peace. This is rest in reality, calm in the midst of commotion and delight when circumstances would tend to deject.

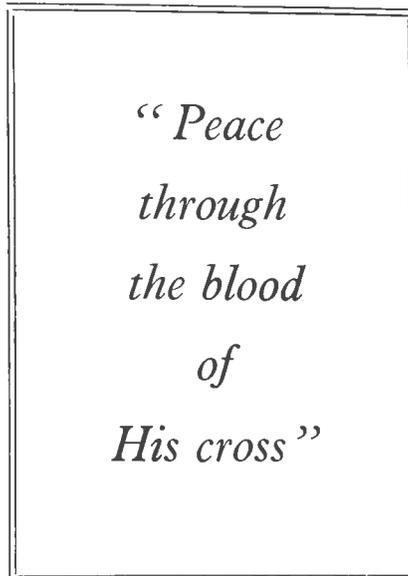
Many Ways to Bethlehem

BY WILLIAM LUFF

*Some come by revelation;
 They hear the angels sing.
 Some come by observation;
 A star their feet must bring.
 Some by illumination
 Are led to own the Lord;
 And some by inspiration,
 The reading of God's Word,
 But, be it star or angel, all
 Are led before the Christ to fall.*

*Oh! stay not, soul, enchanted,
 To hear the angels' song.
 Oh! stay not, lost in wonder,
 To watch the starry throng.
 Be not content to study
 The prophecies that tell
 Of Christ the coming Saviour,
 The Babe Immanuel;
 But, be it star or angel, thou
 Must in the Saviour's presence bow.*

*So, be it revelation—
 A song direct from heav'n,
 Or be it observation—
 A star expressly given,
 Or be it inspiration—
 The holy written Word,
 That leads to adoration
 Of the incarnate Lord:
 I care not what the means may be,
 If thou art led God's Christ to see.*



RETROSPECT ON 1955—Continued.

New Zealand comes into the news with a most encouraging report from Pastor Gilbert Dunk of the progress of the work there. **Worcester** becomes the centre for another pioneer campaign by Pastor Ken. Matthew and Party where God witnesses to the message with salvation and healing. Miracles are wrought, and hundreds decide for Christ. **India** brings encouraging news of the progress of the work on the Elim stations there. **Bombay** and **Bihar** report fine cases of conversion and remarkable healings.

I.B.R.A. Radio comes into the news, and from Tangier in North Africa, Elim Broadcasts on Sunday evenings are heard over the short wave direct beam transmission. **Pastor and Mrs. McKeown** from Ireland, set sail for Southern Rhodesia to take up missionary work for Elim there.

September will be remembered as the month of the **Elim Conference in Harrogate**. For the first time, apart from one occasion when the blitz on London during the war made it unsafe, the Annual Conference moved out of the Metropolis, and this lovely Spa in Yorkshire became the venue of the First Provincial Conference. The Royal Hall, placed at our disposal by the Mayor and Town Councillors of Harrogate, became the centre, for one week, of intensive and typical Elim activity. Conferences, Choirs, and Chairmen. Presidents, Preachers, and Photographers. Inductions, Introductions, and Institutions became the order of the day. Ordination and Organization were on every-

one's lips; while Resolutions and Resounding Rapturous Refrains filled minds and hearts in this Elim medley. Yes! It was a Conference of Conferences.

1955, too, became a year of remembrance, and in September a Special Number of the **EVANGEL** commemorated our **Fortieth Year as a Fellowship**. Forty years in evangelism. Forty years of progress. Forty years of testing—but also of triumph.

Missionary departures record that Miss Ruby Grimwade and Miss Betty Tate left for their respective fields in Belgian Congo and Tanganyika. **Youth Week** in October produced plans and programmes all over the country as

Youth and Youth Leaders concentrated on their tasks. **Salford** rejoiced in the return of Pastor John Woodhead, who launched a Crusade in his own town to reach yet more with the Gospel. Willard Cantelon conducted successful campaigns in **Germany** where crowds of converts were recorded.

Birmingham sees the opening of yet another Elim church building, this time at Old Hill, opened by the President, Pastor John Dyke. **Cardiff** has a visit of the Lord Mayor to a celebration in honour of three members of the City Temple who had reached the age of ninety. **Holyhead** becomes the scene of another pioneer campaign by Pastor W. Ron Jones and Party and the town was roused to recognize a visitation of God when many conversions were recorded and some miracles of healing took place. **Harvest Thanksgiving Services** occupied Sundays in many a church as folk remembered, with gratitude to God, His goodness.

Autumn leaves have fallen, and **winter frosts** make us gather around the fire at home, or gather in our cosy churches to worship and wonder with great wonderment as we contemplate once again this Christmastide the Wonder of the Incarnation, the Wonder of its Mystery, the Wonder of its Majesty, and to rejoice that we are Sons of God, born by the Spirit into His heavenly family, and that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with the Christ of Christmas.

GOD'S ILLUMINATION

The story is told of a lovely seventeen-year-old girl who was one of a group of holiday-makers who had sat about the open fireplace in the western mountains one evening last summer, enraptured with the stories of thrilling experiences told by an old ranger. Late at night the company retired, but this young girl could not sleep. She was excited with the stories of adventure in the great woodland country. Finally towards dawn she fell into a fitful sleep, but soon she awakened and with a wild scream cried, "Fire! Fire! Fire!" "Where?" shouted the old ranger, as he sprang to her side at an open window. "Out there, don't you see?" cried the frenzied voice. Sure enough, the whole sky was ablaze with light, darting up from behind the wooded horizon and the great peaks far above. Gently the old ranger placed his hand upon the terrified girl's arm and said: "Why, dear child, that's not fire; that's the dawn of a new day."

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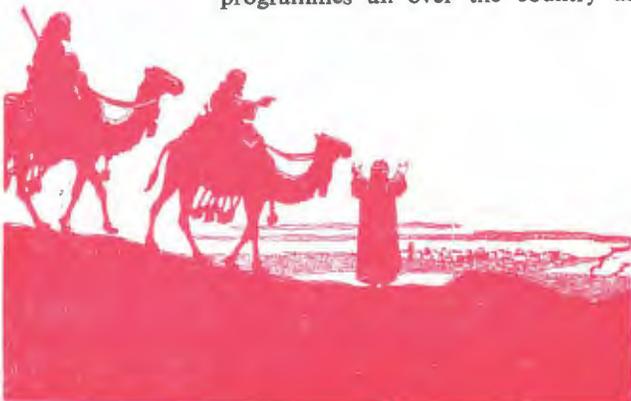
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Elim Youth Page

We are Crusading for Christ

"We Fight the good fight"

Conducted by Pastor J. JHYWEL DAVIES (National Youth Secretary)

My Christmas Reverie

—designed for a hurried glance, but a retained impression—

Here is Master Criddle, of our Bristol Sunday School, singing an unrehearsed solo during my visit to Bristol for the presentation of the National Challenge Shield. His song took me back to my days as a Sunday School scholar :

Root them out, get them gone,
All the little rabbits in the fields of corn,
Envy, jealousy, malice, and pride ;
They shall never in my heart abide.

As I write this I remember the youngest member of our Rugby Sunday School, as he was when this happened, informing his mother that he had just caught "Mr. Satan putting some bad seeds" in his mind. "But he didn't get them in," said young Paul, very stoutly. "I caught him just in time." "What were they?" enquired his perplexed mother. Leaning towards his mother, and dropping his voice to a whisper, with the air of confiding a secret, he said: "He was telling me to put my thumb in the jam dish, when you were out of the room. But," he added in great haste, "I didn't. I caught him just in time."

The previous day, a Sunday, the Primary class teacher had likened evil thoughts to evil seeds, and Satan as the sower.

Do you know . . . as I thought of young Paul and



"Did he say this is our holiday?"

Bristol's budding Caruso the words of our Master came to my mind: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. . . . Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones."

What did the Lord Jesus Christ mean by being converted? If we take the word out of its context we



can imagine that He referred to salvation, and I am not quarrelling. But within the context it is obvious that Christ was referring to the disciples' question, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Simplicity and humility (and I don't mean, a nit-wit or a door-mat) must be our companions.

"What is humility?" someone asks. Hold on there; this

On behalf of the members of the
Elim Youth Committee
I send you our sincere greetings
for Christmas and may God richly
bless you throughout the
coming year

is a reverie, and about as much as I can manage after Christmas dinner! However, I may be lured into this brief opinion: humility is revealed in our attitude to one another, and simplicity is revealed in our approach to God. Argue as long as you will, but you will be forced to return to these proving grounds.

This is a child's holiday . . . Christmas! A good opportunity to become as a little child . . . "Root them out, get them gone . . . envy, jealousy, malice, and pride . . ."



Billy Graham crusades at Wembley.

The problem of pain. Some people refuse to learn. Earlier this year I tried to help a young person who had suffered a painful loss in her life. But she would not learn, and she now thinks God is cruel to her.

Today I heard a brighter story. A prisoner walking alongside Pastor Douglas B. Gray after one of the thirty-four services he has conducted with the London Crusader Choir in our prisons this year, said, "I am indebted to Justice . . . for sending me to this place, sir." This was a new one, thought Pastor Gray. But the man, a graduate of a famous college, was serious. He went on to tell of the change that had taken place in his life since entering prison nearly three years ago. "I have been shown the purpose of life, and its meaning," were his words, "and I can thank you sir, and your choir. I shall leave prison a different man."

And here's another thrilling story. "We are still having crowded congregations—packed out last night. Nine decisions for Christ. One, a Teddy Boy, who handed over to me a dagger. He said, 'I shall not need this any more'." Extract of a letter from Pastor O. G. Miles, Leeds.

Every Saturday afternoon you see the boys, dotted along the roadside, thumbs pointing home. They are eager for their pals, parents, or may be the sweet young girl who lives down the street.

Have you ever spoken to one of these lads? My usual approach is to gently bring the conversation around to the subject of salvation. En route to Kidderminster I was

almost past a young airman before I recognized his cocked thumb. I hit the brake hard and brought the car to a shaky standstill; the airman was puffing away like Stevenson's "Rocket," when he fell on to the seat beside me. (It's the soft life they have in the R.A.F. these days, I thought to myself, not like my day!)

Instead of the "gentle approach" I decided on the "staccato technique" (don't ask me what that means). Here are the questions and answers:

"What church will you attend tomorrow?"—"None."

"To what church do you belong?"—"None."

"Where did you go to Sunday School?"—"Didn't go."

"Do you know that the Lord Jesus Christ died to save your soul?"—"No."

"Have you read the Bible?"—"No."

"Never?"—"No."

"What do you know about God?"—"Nothing."

"Have you heard of Billy Graham?"—"The bloke wot spouted in London—yus."

This is Christian England! I was glad I had a V.T.C. Billy Graham tract; this was his only contact with Christianity. I am glad I saw the lad, that I passed by in my little car, that my brakes held, **that I could tell him about his Saviour.**

Enthusiasm. My last paragraph in this Christmastide musing. This is what we need in greater measure for 1956

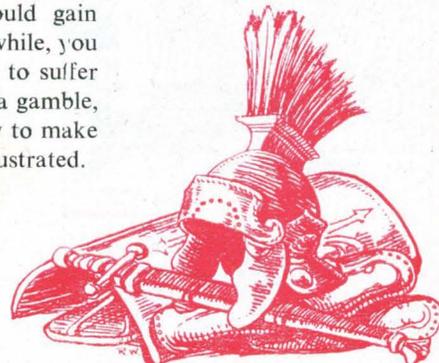
. . . **enthusiasm.** It is derived from the Greek word *entheos*, which literally means, having a god—*theos*, within—*en*. Inspired! The very highest form of inspiration is in the service of God, and not a god.

At Kidderminster a boy of twelve years found Christ as Saviour one Sunday evening, and the next Sunday morning he walked five miles to the communion service.

At Selly Oak the Junior Crusader leader invited the Junior Crusaders to collect Christmas cards for our missionaries. They did—over 20,000!

Did I say enthusiasm?

When I was young enough to be courageous, I answered my chum's *dare* by plunging into an ice-covered pond at seven o'clock on a winter morning. My mental perception for my studies that day staggered my tutors. What I had achieved through boyish ignorance, we need to learn to-day. If you would gain something worthwhile, you must be prepared to suffer for it. Life is not a gamble, and those who try to make it so are soon frustrated.



PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD



COMING EVENTS

PRESIDENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

Pastor H. W. Greenway, the President, will visit the following churches:

Dec. 17, 18, Kidderminster. 23-29, Belfast. 31-Jan. 2, Motherwell. 3, Newtownards. 4, Lurgan. 5, Ballymena.

BRITISH PENTECOSTAL CONVENTION (Sponsored by the British Pentecostal Fellowship). July 21-27, 1956. Bowness-on-Windermere. Speakers will include: Pastor L. W. Green (Elim), and Elisha Thompson, Kenley Bible School (A.O.G.). Bible Readings, Healing Meetings, Youth Rally, Convention Services in the Convention Tent on the shores of the lovely Lake Windermere. Christian Fellowship in the arranged House Parties. **BOOK WITHOUT DELAY.** For accommodation write Secretary, 26, Leyburn Avenue, Lightcliffe, Halifax, Yorks. Enclose S.A.E. for reply. For Caravans and Youth Camp, write Pastor D. Ward, 209, Wilton St., Kelvinside, Glasgow, N.W.

CANNING TOWN. Dec. 17-20. Elim Church, Bethell Avenue. Special visit of Pastor Harry Fisher, late of Tibetan Border Mission. Sat. 7. Sun. 11 and 6.30. Mon., Tues. 7.30.

EALING. Dec. 17-22. Elim Church, Northfield Avenue. Campaign conducted by Pastor S. Gorman, commencing Sat. at 7, with the Film "38th Parallel." Sun. 11 and 6.30. Mon.-Thur. 7.30.

KIDDERMINSTER. Dec. 17, 18. Elim Church, Worcester Street, Sat. 7.30. Sun. 11. 2.45 and 6.30. Visit of the President, Pastor H. W. Greenway.

KINGSTANDING. Dec. 18. Elim Church, Warren Road, at 6.30. Carol Service with Mixed Choir and Male Voice Party taking part. Dec. 21. Young People's Carol Service.

OLD HILL, Staffs. Dec. 17. Elim Church, Bearmore Road. Sat. 7.30. Special speaker: Pastor J. T. Bradley. Convener: Pastor K. Smith.

RUGBY. Dec. 17, 18. Elim Church, Windsor Street. Visit of Pastor Raymond Proctor. Sat. 7.30. Grand Carol Service. Sun. 11 and 6.30.

SALFORD. Jan. 22. Elim Church, Nursery Street, Pendleton, Lanes. 7.45 p.m., B.B.C. North Regional Broadcast Service. Speaker: Pastor John Woodhead

WARRINGTON. Dec. 25-27. Victoria Hall, Knutsford Road. Christmas Convention. Sun 9 and 6. Boxing Day 3 and 6.45. Tues 7.30. Speaker: Pastor S. Beresford. Convener: Pastor W. J. Allen.

YARDLEY, Birmingham. Dec. 25. Elim Church, Broadstone Road. Christmas Carol Service, 6.30.

NEW YEAR CONVENTIONS

DUNDEE. Dec. 31-Jan. 4. Elim Tabernacle, Dudhope Crescent Road. Annual Convention. Speakers expected: Pastors A. J. K. Magee and Archie Nicholson. Convener: Pastor W. H. Urch.

GLASGOW. Dec. 31-Jan. 3. Elim Church, Butterbiggins Road. New Year Convention. Sat. 7.30. Sun. 11 and 6.30. Mon. 7. Tues. 7.30. Speaker: Pastor John Woodhead.

PLYMOUTH. Dec. 31-Jan. 5. Grand opening of the New Elim Church, Notts Street. Plymouth, Dec. 31 at 3 o'clock by the Rt. Hon. Isaac Foot, P.C., and Mr. David Foot Nash. Great Thanksgiving Service at 6.30. Guest preacher: Pastor J. J. Morgan. Sun., New Year's Day, 11 and 6.30. Mon., Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 7.30. Convener: Pastor J. Craig Kennedy.

GREENOCK. Dec. 31-Jan. 4. Elim Church, Belville Street. Annual New Year Convention. Sat. 7 and 11 (Watch Night Service). Sun. 11 and 6.30. Mon. 3 and 7. Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 7.30. Visiting speakers: Pastors T. H. Stevenson, J. H. McInnes and J. Osman. Convener: Pastor W. J. Hilliard.

SCUNTHORPE. Dec. 31-Jan. 3. Elim Church, Ferry Road. New Year Convention. Special Speaker: Pastor W. G. Hathaway (Editor, "Elim Evangel"). Sat 3.30 and 7. Sun. 11 and 6. Mon. and Tues. 7. Convener: Pastor A. J. Chuter.

MISSIONARY ITINERARIES

Pastor J. MacInnes, Elim missionary on furlough from British Guiana, will visit the following churches:

Dec. 17, St. Helens. 18, Liverpool.

Pastor A. Nicolson, Elim missionary on furlough from Senegal, will visit the following churches:

Dec. 17-18, Loughborough.

Pastor C. Stockdale, Elim missionary on furlough from India, will visit the following churches as follows:

Dec. 13. Bowers Gifford (3 p.m.).

Elim Year of Continuous Prayer, 1955.

"POWER FOR THE HOUR"

Dec. 17th, Midnight to Dec. 24th, Midnight.

Rathfriland, Portadown, Kingston-on-Thames, Monaghan, Millisle, Megaberry, Coleraine, Cullybackey, Gilford, Belfast (Alexander Park Avenue), Birmingham (Small Heath), Treharris, Treherbert, Burnley, Finchley, Waltham Abbey, Banbridge, Camborne, Sowerby Bridge, Aberdeen.

Dec. 24th, Midnight to Dec. 31st, Midnight.

Aberdeen, Kirkintilloch, Clapham, Larne, Brecon, Guildford, Wood Green, Crewe, Petersfield, Romsey, Belfast (Beersbridge Road), St. Helier, Selby.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONVENTION

Dec. 25th to 28th

ULSTER TEMPLE, RAVENHILL ROAD, BELFAST

Speakers:

Pastor H. W. GREENWAY (President)
Pastor T. JOHNSTON (Kenya)

Christmas Day	.. .. .	11.30 and 7.
Monday ..	.. .. .	11.30, 3, and 7.
Tuesday ..	.. .. .	3 (Missionary Rally, and Baptismal Service) and 7.
Wednesday ..	.. .. .	8
Thursday ..	.. .. .	8

Refreshments provided Mon. and Tues.

Come and enjoy a Pentecostal Feast

Read the

ELIM MISSIONARY EVANGEL

for News and Views of our Missionaries

* * * * *

Remember them

in

your prayers continually



Classified Advertisements

All advertisements should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, Elim Publishing Co., Ltd., Clapham Crescent, London, S.W.4. and should arrive WEDNESDAY mornings for issue a week the following Saturday.

30 words (minimum) 5s. per insertion and 2d. for every additional word. Box number 6d. per insertion extra; also allow for 6 words to be added to your advertisement. Series discounts: 5 per cent for 6 insertions, 10 per cent for 13 insertions. Classified advertisements MUST be prepaid.

Advertisers under "Board-Residence, etc." must send with the advertisement the name of an Elim minister to whom we can write for reference. These advertisements should reach us a few days early to give us time to take up the reference. The insertion of an advertisement in this column does not imply any guarantee from us.

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CHRISTMAS by the sea at "Croylands" is always thoroughly enjoyable. Fully planned programme; fellowship and festivities for young and old in lovely Devonshire house. Booking now. "Croylands," Isca Road, Exmouth. C.304

Eastbourne.—The Elim Guest House is open all the year round; one minute from sea, with views of both sea and Downs; spiritual fellowship and home comforts; hot water and gas fires in bedrooms; special off-seasons rates. A limited number of winter residents can be received. Illustrated brochure from: Miss Phillips, Lascelles Private Hotel, Lascelles Terrace, Eastbourne. 'Phone 633.

Ilfracombe, Devon.—Restful holidays; happy Christian fellowship; almost level with sea-front; near shops, and places of worship; highly recommended. Please write for illustrated brochure to Mr. and Mrs. Puddicombe, "Maranatha", Torrs Park. C.307

Kent.—Permanent board-residence offered; suitable for elderly or retired persons; every comfort; very quiet and select; near sea;

lovely garden and surroundings. Mrs. Ince, Amber House, White-ness, nr. Kingsgate. C.313.

SITUATION WANTED

Middle-aged lady desires post as companion-help to one lady or couple; simple cooking, no heavy work; Christian fellowship appreciated. Miss D. Burton, 5, Queens Gardens, Eastbourne. C.315.

DEDICATION

Freeman.—On November 20th, at Elim Church, Chesham, by Pastor T. T. Hodge; Christine Nicola, daughter of Mr. John Freeman (Deacon) and sister of Peter. C.311

MARRIAGES

Haylock : Hill.—On November 12th, at Elim Church, Gloucester, by Pastor George Canty; Arthur Frank Haylock to Eileen Margaret Hill.

Maslin : Ball.—On November 12th, at Elim Church, Gloucester, by Pastor George Canty; Frederick James Maslin to Kathleen May Ball.

Sharp : Williams.—On December 3rd, at Elim Church, Gloucester, by Pastor George Canty; Terence Peter Sharp to Margaret Rose Williams.

WITH CHRIST

Payne.—On November 27th, Mrs. Harriet Payne, aged 84, member of the Coronation Temple, Swindon, passed peacefully into the presence of the Lord. Funeral conducted by Pastor L. N. Knipe.

Schutt.—On November 18th, Emma Louise Schutt, aged 95, beloved member of Elim Church, Caterham. Funeral conducted by Pastor R. A. Gordon.

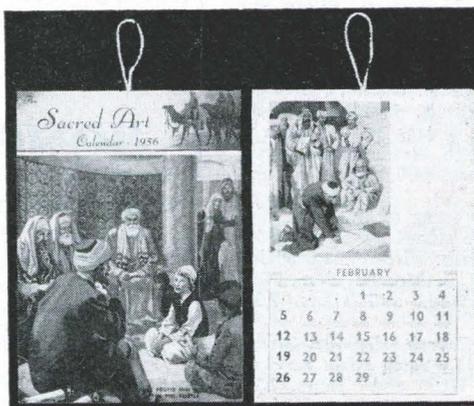
Stone.—On October 27th, Fanny Stone, aged 63, beloved member of Elim Church, Caterham. Funeral conducted by Pastor R. A. Gordon.

Wort.—On October 24th, William Henry Michael Wort, aged 65. Funeral at Oak Hall, Caterham, conducted by Pastor R. A. Gordon.

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