

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

What is the Christmas spirit? It is a lot of things, big and small, and hard as it is to believe, Santa Claus is a part of the small. The Christmas spirit doesn't visit you when you're "knee-deep in your own pleasure;" you've got to be "heart-deep in kindness." Christmas must come from within.

Giving is truly a part of Christmas, but we should remember "to give of ourselves with our gifts;" in much the same way God gave to us, with "history's most joyous event," the miracle birth of His Son and the great things that came from it. Christ came to give strength in weakness, courage in sorrow, resistance to temptation, and, above all, forgiveness for our sins, life beyond death, and heaven after earth's anguish. His Son is our Savior.

How can we get the Christmas spirit? We must seek and find the real joys and faith of Christmas against the noise of commerce—against the glitter that hides the deep, true, and spiritual meaning of Christmas. If we thumb through a magazine at Christmas time, we are most likely to find that advertisements seldom, if ever, mention the true meaning of Christmas. We should take time out at Christmas to remember those who are in need of the essentials for daily comfort, both near and far. We can spread the Christmas spirit by helping the needy. Let's take a look at our world — "Communism says: 'What's yours is mine and I'll take it.' Materialism says: 'What's mine is my own and I'll keep it.' Christianity says: 'What's mine is yours and I'll share it.'" If there's anything to calm this troubled world it is Christian faith and courage. Christmas is the time to renew such a faith.

The Christmas spirit changes people in much the way that "evergreen arches and string of lights shut out the wintry harshness of Main Street, U.S.A. It takes out the grey coldness and brings in something fine and fragrant like evergreen." It stirs the best part of human nature.

If Christ had not come there would be no church or Christmas; there would be an absence of mercy, grace, and love; the Bible would end with the Old Testament without the glorious promises of the New Testament. Except for Christ there would be no joy that endures when Christmas candles no longer glow.

What can we at Louisburg do to spread the Christmas spirit? For one thing we can take part in Christmas caroling. Caroling has a meaning and beauty that touches the heart and brings back glad Christmases. It is a familiar custom that draws hearts together and makes them one. "Stand with others and throw all your being into those great Christmas carols with your heart riding on its melody; then the Christmas spirit is all around you like a gentle snowfall, while your thoughts soar high above the glitter of Christmas."

It has been said that "Songs of faith are stronger than songs of hate." On that night the angels sang with beauty and brilliance as never before. They were stirred and thrilled by God's gift—His Son.

As you read this there will remain about two weeks for preparation of our heart for Christmas. In that month we can do much to preserve and heighten, during this new Christmastide, the glory of the Savior's birth.

"There is a certain closeness and warmth at a Christmas midnight service that you won't find anywhere else. You feel the Christmas spirit in the silence of the night, the lights of the church throwing golden patterns across the snow, frosty breath, cheeks rosy with cold, eyes bright with inner glow — so many things are a part of the Christmas Spirit."

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King."

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS

Christmas means *giving*. The thoughts of men are turned to gifts for others.

Christmas means *joy*. There is a spirit and happiness that can be seen and felt.

Christmas means a *sense of well-being*. Faith and confidence are stronger.

Christmas means *delight* to little children. It is their great season of the year.

Christmas means *brightness in life*. The sparkle of lights enlightens our hum-drum existence.

Christmas means *love*. The deepest of human emotions is strangely stirred.

Christmas means *home*. The tree and family dinner remind us that blood is thick.

Christmas means the *extra* in life. Bonuses and special favors are the order of that day.

Christmas means *friendship*. Our thoughts are thoughts of peace and brotherhood.

Christmas means *singing*. The carols are among the most cherished of the songs we sing.

Christmas means *surprise*. The pleasant feeling of opening gifts speaks of many unsought blessings.

Christmas means a *nearness to God*. "The word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Christmas means most of all, *Jesus Christ*. There is no Christmas without the Savior. All of the blessings and meanings of Christmas ultimately are dependent upon Him.

Christmas means *God's Gift*. We can make it complete by giving ourselves to him Who loved us.

THINGS TO DO TODAY

—by Kin Snyder—
(age 6 months)

(This is a secret document discovered under the mattress in the crib in the faculty-student apartments, Louisburg College, Louisburg, North Carolina, during the momentary absence of the author who lives there with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Snyder.)

7:30 a.m. Tear 50-cent magazine apart.

8:00 a.m. Rip daily sports page from paper so Stubble-Face, my old man, won't know where he's at for today's games. Big laugh.

8:45 a.m. Knock own head real hard on play-pen sides. Scare the wits out of Stubble-Face. Another big laugh for me. (Big morning ahead!)

9:00 a.m. Take nice nap. Be sure to bury face in the bed and pretend I'm not getting any air at all. Stubble-Face real comical when I do this number. Think I'm suffocating. What a guy! Doesn't know what a man my age is all about and gets scared stiff.

10:40 a.m. Wake up. Crying practice, 5 minutes.

11:00 a.m. Real crying. Otherwise no orange-juice, the dirty misers, both of them! (I'm only kidding, because Smooth-Face, my old lady, is sure a good egg and, as I said, Stubble-Face means well, dumb as the poor old crock is.)

11:05 a.m. See how many bubbles I can blow in it through that little bit of hole in the rubber nipple. I was lousy at it yesterday, hardly any bubbles. Try and do better today.

11:30 a.m. Oh boy! Bath! Today's the day I get that soap to put in my eye. Smooth-Face been pretty clever blocking me at it up to now. Today try to nail soap while she reaches for towel. Or maybe during big splashes, knock some water in her eye, then get soap. Careful don't hurt Smooth-Face, though, in water-kicks.

12 Noon. In play-pen, hit self on head with only hard toys. Make good warm-up for lunch.

12:30 p.m. Lunch. Don't forget to squawk on mashed apricots. Day in and day out, mashed-up apricots! Be sure to put up big squawk.

1:00 p.m. Nice nap. Take it easy. Gets lot of air asleep. No sense doing face-in-bed routine as Stubble-Face not around. He's gone to work. Least, he told Smooth-Face work. What was he doing with that football ticket in his pocket? No fun trying to rib Smooth-Face. She

(Continued on Page 3)

LITTLE STAR

As I run to my window and look out afar—
The only thing visible is one single star.

A star that glitters and seems so near
One star high in the heavens that cries with fear.

Don't cry little star, you aren't all alone—
For God will find you and lead you home.

Lib Stallings

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

I. Thou shalt not leave "Christ" out of Christmas, making it "Xmas." To most minds "X" stands not for Christ but for the algebraic unknown.

II. Thou shalt not value thy gifts by their cost, for many shall signify love that is more blessed and beautiful than silver and gold.

III. Thou shalt give thyself with thy gifts. Thy love, thy personality, and thy service shall increase the value of thy gifts an hundredfold and he that receiveth it shall treasure it forever.

IV. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus take the place of Christ, lest Christmas become a fairy tale rather than a sublime reality in the spiritual realm.

V. Thou shalt not burden thy servant. The shop girl, the mail carrier, and the merchant shall have thy consideration.

VI. Thou shalt not neglect thy church. Its Christmas services are planned to help spiritualize the Christmas season for thee, thy family, and thy friends.

VII. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Let thy bountiful blessings be shared with the many who will go hungry and cold unless thou art generous at Christmas.

VIII. Thou shalt be as a little child. Christmas is the day of the Christ Child; not until thou hast become in spirit as a little child art thou ready to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

IX. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Verily most of us spend much time and money getting gifts ready but few seconds in preparing our souls.

X. Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Let thy Christmas list have Christ at the top and thy heart as thy gift. In so doing thou art as the Wise Men of Old and verily thou shalt find thyself born again on Christmas Day.

Author Unknown

CAN WE DECIDE?

All of us at L. C. are supposed to be mature men and women making our decisions as to that sort of evening entertainment we prefer. But as I observed at the music concert, Friday night, November 30, many of the students stayed away from a fine musical performance given by William Kirkpatrick, tenor, and Bill Siddell, at the piano. Are we capable of making our decisions?

When students were asked why they missed the concert, many replied that they wanted to go but— But always seems to be in the way. I realize that there are many good reasons for missing the concert, but when our school arranges such a fine program for evening entertainment we should try to be present. We do not have many opportunities in Louisburg to hear such talented people perform; therefore, that is all the more reason we should attend. Also, this is just as important part of our education as books. Let's try to arrange our "night life" so that we can make the right decision to attend the next similar event.

M.H.C.

MY SONG TO YOU

- "Big Mama" to Dickie B. "A Brown-eyed Handsome Man"
- Swayn to Mary Helen "True Love"
- Sara to Grady "It Was Just One Of Those Things"
- Floyd to Joyce "My Blue Heaven"
- Juanita to Wynters "I Want to Learn to Speak Hawaiian"
- Royce to Lucia "Love, Love, Love!"
- Myrt to Bobby "I Miss You So"
- Bob B. to Bob K. "Of This, I'm Sure"
- Connie to Les "Why Don't You Believe Me?"
- Jesse to Gretchen "If I Give My Heart to You"
- Ann S. to Charles G. "You're All I Want For Christmas"
- Allen H. to All Women "Love Me Tender"
- Shirley to Bobby "I'll Never Stop Loving You"
- Milo to Libby "Feudin', Fussin', and Fightin'"
- Marty to Charlie B. "Whiskey, Women, and Loaded Dice"
- Jean B. to I. J. Wall "I'm Walking Behind You"
- Pepper to hubby "Because"

Sara Sholar

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