

Christmas Blessings



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The Birthday of Christ As It Really Occurred

How many of the stories concerning the birth of Christ are true? That is the question Dutch Bible scholar, H. W. van der Vaart Smit, answers in his book, BORN IN BETHLEHEM; CHRISTMAS AS IT REALLY WAS. Mr. van der Vaart Smit does not try to falsify any of the Christmas tradition, but he hopes that by finding the facts behind the stories he can help people see the truth and beauty of the tradition. He feels that the fables and legends are misconceptions which lead to disbelief on Christ's birth.

Today Joseph is depicted as an old and then sometimes a young man who was a humble, poor carpenter. Actually Joseph was a fifty to fifty-five year old widower, who was a respected middle-class citizen of Nazareth.

Mary was a life-long friend of Joseph's, and Joseph sympathized with her vow to remain a virgin throughout her life. This vow brought Mary town ostracism and gossip, and because Joseph wanted to protect his friend they became betrothed. Also Mary felt she could tend to Joseph in his old age, since all the children by his previous marriage had left home. After the angel came to Mary, she left for a visit with her cousin Elizabeth. When she returned a month later, Joseph was put into an awkward position, but before he could put her away without gossip, the angel spoke to him and changed his mind.

A month later Joseph and Mary made the trip to Bethlehem because he had possessions in that district, which the Roman assessors would be checking. Joseph wanted to talk personally to the assessors so they would not cheat him. Not all Jewish people had to go, and the trip was not a mass migration.

Today we see Joseph and Mary heartlessly turned away from all the Bethlehem lodgings, and finally Joseph leading his wife into a stable full of animals. Actually Joseph was highly respected in Bethlehem because he was of the House of David, and the room he found for Mary was nicer than most of the inns. The room he found was a grotto built in a cave, which was the abandoned home of the shepherds of Bethlehem. The summer heat had forced the shepherds to the mountains for grass.

Much is said about the three kings who visited the Christ child. Their names are known and one is said to have been a Negro. Mr. van der Vaart Smit claims that the magi were not kings, but were priest-astrologers from Babylon. This fact excludes the Negro from the magi because Negroes were slaves in Babylon at that time. Also the number of magi can not be set at three just because of the three gifts they brought. A caravan probably made the trip because of the importance of finding a king. Furthermore, the magi did not reach Bethlehem on the night of Christ's birth, but arrived a month later.

Mr. van der Vaart Smit's book is a research of what really happened on that first Christmas nearly two thousand years ago. It was not written for scholars, but for any person who wants to take it for its worth. The aim of BORN IN BETHLEHEM is to show that the Christmas tradition is human, but has divine qualities.

Juniors Sell Candy As Fund-Raising Project

The present candy sale being instigated here on campus is the initial effort of the Class of '65 to finance the construction of two sets of entranceways to be placed at both the north and south entrances to the campus bearing the name of the college. The project was chosen during the spring of last year, and its attributed significance is the function of symbolizing the frontier-like quality of the endeavor of the 1961 freshmen class.

The goal is to sell a sufficient amount of Mrs. Leland's Golden Butter-bits and Christmas Candy mix (at a dollar per) to make a clear profit of \$500 by January 25. At the present rate of turn-over, little trouble is anticipated in meeting this goal. The present high-salesman is, not a junior, but Smiley Chavis; an indispensable person whose

official title is on the L.A. Building staff.

Professor Thomas Johnson was admitted to Scotland Memorial Hospital Saturday with severe chest pains. He will remain there for the next few days for rest and observation. We convey our wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ned Browning, SA Veep, Halts Demonstration Against Food



Hector McLean, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, talks to Carol Brooks, Ed Howard, and Joyce Clanton after they presented the student petition concerning food and service in the cafeteria.

Trustees Receive Food Service Petition

An unsuccessful attempt at a food demonstration last Wednesday resulted in a petition of grievances being presented to the Board of Trustees.

Presented by Carol Brooks, Student Association president, Joyce Clanton, Student Association secretary, and Ed Howard, chairman of the Food Committee of the Senate, the petition contained approximately 600 signatures.

SA Defeats ACC In College Bowl

Last Tuesday night, December 10, the second round of the two round College Bowl match with Atlantic Christian College resulted in the defeat of A. C. C. by a score of 345 - 105. This made the final score, St. Andrews 575, and Atlantic Christian 140.

At the same time last Tuesday night, the other games between the members of the College Bowl were having their games which will determine who we are going to play next. After all of the required games are played, the finalists are going to compete at the N. S. S. G. A. Spring Convention.

Questions are made up by professors for each team in the College Bowl. All games are on the same night so the questions are the same.

The contest is based on the quick recall of the answers, not on the total amount of knowledge of the students.

Hector McLean, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, accepted the petition. He assured the students that action would be taken. In accordance, President Ansley Moore is organizing an investigating committee.

The text of the petition reads: "We, the undersigned students of St. Andrews Presbyterian College, respectfully request that the Board of Trustees conduct and immediate and thorough inquiry into the exceedingly poor quality, quantity, and sanitation of the food served in the student cafeteria. Thanking you for your interest and concern in rectifying an almost intolerable situation, we remain:"

Begun around 7 p.m. Wednesday, the petition contained nearly 400 signatures by Thursday morning. By noon, when the petition was presented to Mr. McLean, the number of signatures had reached nearly 600.

All Student Cabinet members signed the petition.

An attempted food-protest demonstration last Wednesday evening during supper hour was thwarted by Student Association Vice President Ned Browning.

The demonstration grew out of general discontent on the part of a number of students with the quantity, quality, and appearance of the food served in the cafeteria.

Demonstrators had planned to march from the cafeteria with food trays, across the causeway to the L.A. building, where the trays were to be placed in front of President Ansley Moore's office. They felt that such a graphic sign of protest would prompt action by President Moore to correct the conditions.

Some 20-30 students, including a number of Student Association members, were ready to participate in the "food-march." However, the initial attempt was undertaken by less than ten students.

As the group moved to march out of the cafeteria they were met at the door by Vice-president Browning who refused to let them pass. At this point most of the professed marchers acquiesced, leaving only several students. The students who remained argued with Browning, who urged them to try more rational and peaceful means, that peaceful or gentlemanly means had proven ineffective in the past. They felt that it was necessary to take more drastic and rash action.

After a short while, however, this small group withdrew.

The students protested that the food served in the cafeteria is generally very poor in nutritional value, improperly prepared, and unappetizingly served. Dissatisfaction is not only with the food itself, but with conditions of sanitation in the serving area and dining area.

Food Committee

The Food Committee met Monday, Dec. 16 with Mr. Silas Vaughan, Mr. Robert Davenport, Mr. Charles Stevens, and Mr. Thomas Kanonas to discuss the current grievances concerning the food in the student cafeteria.

Beginning immediately the menu for breakfast will be: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday -- scrambled or fried eggs and a meat (sausage, bacon, or ham); Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday -- a choice of omelet or sweet breads (pancakes, French