

Christmas 1984 BY LELA BARROW

Ho-Ho-Ho-Christmas is coming. Let us all be "jolly and happy"—is what some people are saying. Some others are grouchy and saying, "I decided to stop sending cards - it is justly a costly chore; it has lost its meaning." Another spoke up, "I've always liked the idea of greeting people at Christmas, especially the ones I don't see often." Here is her good thought, "I could treat card-sending as a holiday devotional, I can call it my mail-a-prayer." As I write the address I ask God to help and guide that person.

What is Christmas? To a child it is Santa Claus with candy, fruit and toys; a few years older, it is exchanging gifts, a television or a car; maybe a diamond ring from a sweet-heart; for a very old lady a rocker or reclining chair.

You see there are so many answers to the above question. But this is the real meaning, Christmas to us: It is a religious holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus. There will always be a Christmas, because on this day was born the blessed Jesus, who came to give us light, hope and joy.

We have come a long way since that first Christmas night. A star, so wondrously bright, led the Wise Men to the place that cradled the Christ Child on the bed of hay. But like "lost sheep" we have wandered away from God and His Son who was born on Christmas Day. Instead of depending on God's guiding hand, the industrial men have assumed full command. So let us return to our Father and pray that Christ will be reborn in our hearts.

The Bible Encyclopedia: "Christmas is a religious holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus. The Christmas tree did not come into our age until the eighteenth century. True Christmas giving comes from the heart; There is much more pleasure in giving than in receiving.

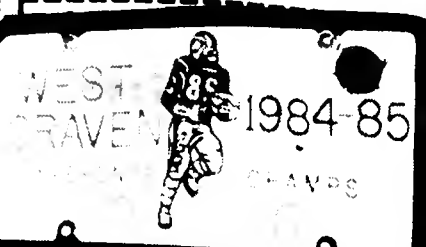
How to:—"Make a Joyful Sound Unto the Lord." Four year old son, Mike loves to sing, even though he can't read, he's memorized all the Sunday School choruses and even sings some of the church hymns.

One Sunday, our closing hymn was "Christ Arose"—probably you know the chorus: "Up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph o'er His foes." Mike, didn't get the words quite right. Enthusiastically, his voice rang out clear and strong, "Up from the grave He arose/ with a mighty trumpet in His toes."

The pastor wasn't embarrassed at all. He said, "The Bible says to sing joyfully"—And Mike was doing that. Singing with the prayer spirit is the most important part of hymn—singing. At Christmas we sing "Joy to the world, the Lord has come"—so many people won't start singing with the organ—many join in late "the Lord has come-no Joy in that hymn.

Perhaps this little boy's singing will make more church people conscious of their way of singing. I have noticed lots of people trying to sing in Church with their mouths shut. We couldn't understand a word or tone coming from the mouth. It isn't the loud, harsh singing that makes your soul happy, but the clear, distinct words and notes that not only make a joyful sound to the Lord, but it brings joy to the congregation. Do your best when you're doing it for the Lord. My cousin, Lala Chapman McGowan, was wonderful in singing Hymns—she sang soprano in the Methodist Church in Winterville during my High School days - each word and note clear and soft.

Charles Wesley's Christmas Carol, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" contains the entire gospel message - Sing for God, not for yourself.



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Lt. Governor-Elect Jordan Outlines Plans For Streamlining Legislative Process And Makes Three Staff Appointments

RALEIGH—Lt. Governor-Elect Bob Jordan says he wants to shorten the length of Legislative Sessions. Jordan outlined his plans for streamlining the legislative process during a news conference in Raleigh, Wednesday morning.

"We have made progress by delaying the opening of the session from early January until February," Jordan said. "Speaker Ramsey and I have talked about recommending to the House and Senate that rules be adopted to allow a cutoff date for the introduction of bills. This way we can get proposals before the General

Assembly early enough to allow full discussion."

The Lt. Governor-elect said all issues will get a fair hearing in the Senate. "Our citizens expect us to have an open process."

Jordan, a Democrat, says he expects to get along "very well" with Governor-elect Martin. "I have assured him that his legislative proposals will be given full consideration by the Senate and its committees. The voters elected us all and they expect us to continue the progress North Carolina has made in recent years."

Jordan appointed three individuals to his staff in the Lt.

Governor's office. John A. Williams will be Senior Staff Advisor for the Budget; John B. McMillan, Legislative Counsel; and Brenda Summers, Communications Director. "I am pleased these three individuals have agreed to serve on my staff. I have known all of them for several years, and I look forward to working with them."

William has been State Budget Officer for the last eight years and executive assistant to Governor Hunt for the last seven years. Prior to that, Williams was involved in a number of business activities in Raleigh.

McMillan is a member of the Raleigh law firm of Manning, Fulton and Skinner. He currently serves as Vice President of the Wake County Bar Association and will be President of the Association in 1985. He is a member of the N.C. Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the N.C. State Bar and is on the Board of Directors of the East Central Community Legal Services.

Summers was Director of Communications for Jordan's campaign for Lt. Governor. She is a former reporter and assignment editor for WBTV News in Charlotte and for WPTF Radio in Raleigh.

A Message From Big Brothers/Big Sisters

As the year ends, we are thankful for all the good things 1984 has brought to us at Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We look forward to continued growth in 1985 which can only bring us additional challenges and responsibilities. We hope to announce the opening of our intake for children after the first of the year. Now that our staff includes a part-time social worker, we hope that we will never have to resort to closing

intake again. However, this means that we will have to have additional volunteers and we will all need to publicize this need. As we grow, funds will have to increase, too.

We believe the Bowl for Kids' Sake event is not only fun but also profitable. We benefit from the publicity it promotes as well as the actual dollars involved. Therefore, we will all need to plan to support the 1985 BFKS as well as to parti-

cipate. Let's all resolve that in 1985 we will do our part to make this a successful BFKS.

We thank each of you for your support and cooperation in 1984 and look forward to your continued support in 1985. Have a Merry Christmas.

Bowl For Kids' Sake 1985

The Bowl for Kids' Sake Committee has been meeting weekly to plan for the February 16th Celebrity Fun Day scheduled for B and R Lanes.

Plan now to attend. Exciting prizes are being donated. AIR VIRGINIA has told us that two stand by tickets to anywhere in the AIR VIRGINIA system will be donated. Wouldn't that be fun to win? Other prizes will be announced. Watch the January Newsletter for more details. We are all excited about this year's event. The goal is \$15,000 this year!!! So, we need YOUR help!!!

WEST CRAVEN HIGHLIGHTS

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