

# The Group Around The Cradle

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"Let us go now even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." Luke 2:15. "When they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh." Matt. 2:11. Augustus sat in imperial splendor upon the Roman throne. With a touch of his hand he set in motion the machinery of government of the civilized world. Proud of his wealth, he compiled a register of the population of his vast domain. That edict set in motion the whole land of Judea. For, in accordance with Jewish custom, the census was taken at the places where the people were born as members of the original twelve tribes.

This humble pair leave Galilee Nazareth to enroll themselves in royal Bethlehem—Joseph, the village carpenter, and Mary, his espoused wife. Southward like an invisible hand, that royal decree draws them. They find Bethlehem overcrowded with strangers on the same errand. Neither inn nor friendly house receives them, and so that very night the infant Jesus is cradled in a manger. Next morning the registration proceeds and on goes the busy world, ignorant of the fact that the greatest event in history has taken place. Every cradle holds a shut basket of unknown possibilities. But that one in the lowly stable holds the Messiah of the Jews, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. A group, strangely prophetic, and as strangely assembled, surrounds the cradle.

**I. In The First Group We Find the Shepherds.**  
Under the starry sky of those rocky ridges they tended their flocks, where David had done the same centuries before. They were the plain, honest toilers and were looking somehow for the coming One. Suddenly from the starry heavens burst the angel song,

"Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy."  
First, we may say. It was a message of good cheer. "I bring you good tidings of great joy."

It was a dark and dreary world in which the child was born, but his hope. When Christ made his advent into the world it was in a deplorable condition. Human wisdom, philosophy and false worship had failed to lift the world's tired head. The human soul had a deep yearning for something upon which to rest and build its hopes. The world was sinking under the weight of woe and guilt. There was no free government, no equal rights; childhood was neglected, motherhood unhonored, marriage corrupt, the religion was pagan and without love, the false Gods, who were without pity, brought no relief to the sin-cursed world. This new message to the world was good tidings indeed. It lifted the weight, opened a path to a brighter and better condition and set in motion ideals which were soon to revolutionize the world.

Second, it is a message of good cheer to us today ("I bring unto you this day.")  
Two expressions should be emphasized in this part of the text, "You" "this day." This message is for us today, because it meets the desire of the soul as it did in former days. It answers the question, "Shall I live again?" It is the only thing that can give us hope. It is indeed a star that is capable of illuminating this life and the life to come. This good message is like a fountain in the desert. Wherever it sends forth its healing streams into the desert of sin, the beautiful and fragrant flowers of Christian virtue grow and flourish.  
This good cheer message of Christ's birth is for you today.  
A mother took her little daughter

# St. Nicks—in Full Uniform—Hold First Convention



Santa Clauses drink a toast at New York convention

In full uniform, delegates to the first Santa Claus convention in New York drink a toast to each other. More than a dozen department store St. Nicks attended the convalescence which was called to elevate Santa Claus standards. But what would a child say coming upon all of them at once?

to church, when the minister preached an earnest sermon against sin, trying to bring the subject home to the hearts of his hearers. The little girl listened with wide-open eyes, and suddenly, turning to her mother, in great distress, she whispered, "Mamma, he means us!" "Unto us, to you, to me—is born a Savior. It means us."

Christmas is the universal festival. The world is on pilgrimage to Bethlehem today because the world's Savior was born there. Jesus is the Savior for all races: the Hebrew with his religion, the Greek with his culture, the Roman with his strength, the civilized man with his refinement and the savage with his coarseness—a Savior for all sorts and conditions of people. I have read that somewhere in Europe there is a bridge with pictures of Christ on its sides. One picture represents him as a peasant, another as a physician, still another as a carpenter, and yet another as a teacher. The thought of the artist was to portray a Savior suited to every class. Jesus is this, because he goes beneath the surface of men's lives and touches the deeper need, and this need is the same in all men.

Luke tells about the shepherds. They were of the poor class of people, yet the message was for them, and they were drawn to the manger in which the Christ-Child lay, and went away rejoicing.

**II. In The Second Group We Find The Wise Men.**  
The angel preacher and the heavenly choir were followed by the Magi. "There came wise men from the east," the story runs, "and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his Mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented him with gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh."  
The choir cannot voice the entire Christmas spirit. The Magi are needed. The song must be accompanied by the gift—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The sentiment of the wise men found its expression in gifts. They gave gold—a gift to relieve wants, and it probably was used on the journey to Egypt. They gave frankincense, a gift of fragrance. It was the most fragrant of all incense, and was burned before the veil of the temple and in the most Holy place. They gave myrrh—a gift of friendship. It was given when one wanted to show real friendship. From these gifts we get an excellent Christmas lesson. It is impossible for us to gather around the manger cradle and offer our gifts to the Lord, but he has said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these," etc.

Our gifts today should be gifts which relieve wants. Riches are a blessing when they can be used for the relieving of human suffering.

A poor little girl went into a country store and said to the clerk, "I want some good warm mittens for

# Safe And Sane Driving During Holidays Urged By State Patrol Chief

Raleigh, Dec. 24.—An intensive campaign for safe and sane driving during the Christmas season is heartily

endorsed by Major Arthur Fulk, head of the State Highway Patrol and director of the Safety Division of the Motor Vehicle Department.

Such a campaign has been launched by the executive committee of the National Safety Council. It has been endorsed by Governor Clyde R. Hoey in a recent proclamation calling on all citizens to cooperate in its success.

A "Safe and Sane Christmas Resolution" of the council calls attention to the fact that each Christmas a vast number of American citizens are slaughtered by traffic on the streets and highways. It cites the fact that last December the human toll reached the "terrifying total" of 4,290—more Americans than were killed in the Revolutionary War.

Another "whereas" clause points to the hurry and hustle of holiday activities, the icy streets, lowered visibility, sleet and snow and fewer hours of daylight as contributory factors in making driving at this time particularly dangerous.

The council urges all citizens to "replace indifference with indignation, to temper sentiment with sanity, and to interpret the Christmas spirit of good will in concrete terms of protecting life and limb on the highway."

Specific recommendations are that all participants in the campaign by "being careful and considerate of others on the streets and highways, whether driving or walking; by driving and walking with special caution during the holidays; by not drinking, and by supporting strict enforcement of the laws against reckless and drunken driving."

### ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as Administratrix of the estate of A. R. Walters, deceased, late of Vance County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of November, 1938, or this notice will be pleaded in bar to their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate settlement. This 27th day of November, 1937. MRS. A. R. WALTERS, Administratrix of the Estate of A. R. Walters, deceased.

# GREETINGS

May We Say

## Merry Christmas

—And—

## Happy New Year

In The Good Old Fashioned Way

### Hester Motors

Near Fire Station.

# A Christmas Wish From Us To You



Our wish for this Christmas is that the choicest blessings of life, health, pleasant environment, and good associates may be all yours.

To you and yours we give this wish of happiness and contentment for the holiday season and throughout the coming year.

We thank you for every courtesy you have shown and earnestly solicit your patronage for the New Year.

## Brookside Dairy Farm

Phone 430-J

# Before Christmas Goes By

May we express our appreciation for you who have made our business possible by your loyal support. Our best wishes are for a Christmas and a New Year of joy and contentment.

## Centre Sport Shop

W. A. Hoyle.

# Christmas Tidings

## Wishing Christmas 1937 And The New Year 1938...

Will be one filled with happiness for you. That all your wishes may be granted because we feel that our friends deserve the best. We are grateful for your friendship and patronage.

We are striving to perfect our service to you and trust that we may be worthy of your loyalty as we continue to serve you throughout the New Year.

## Home Furniture Exchange

Corner Garnett and Montgomery Sts.

# New Year's Greetings

# GREETINGS For The Season

We feel that we have merited your patronage by our desire to serve you in the best way possible. We hope that the New Year will renew your confidence in our ability to serve you. May this season bring happiness to you and prosperity during the New Year.

## Adams-Richards Furniture Company

# THE HAPPIEST TIME OF THE YEAR

At Christmas time we lay aside our worries and cares and have a season of mirth and fellowship. We welcome this glad holiday that we may show appreciation of our patrons and friends by wishing them happiness and prosperity during Christmas and the New Year.



## M. G. EVANS