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THIS, THAT, & THE OTHER

MRS. THEO. B. DAVIS

One of my cherished beliefs is that everyone who belongs to an organization should take a share of the responsibilities. When I was unexpectedly asked to help this year with the Christmas program it seemed only fair to consent, since it has been some years since I have done this.

It could hardly be an orthodox Christmas program without angels, a madonna, shepherds, and kings of the Orient. And that brings up the matter of costumes. How do angels dress? Do they have wings, or where did we get the idea they have them? When they stop flying do their wings still stand out motionless and stiff? Birds and fowls close theirs when they come to rest. Did Mary wear a halo as she sat by the manger?

We can manage the shepherds fairly well, though I fear a sheep in Palestine would be alarmed at some of the crooks used in our pageants. And why do we have the shepherds reclining on the simulated ground, if we do not have them "all seated?" Luke tells us they were abiding in the fields, so we are perhaps justified in fancying them as lying down; though I'm pretty sure some of them had to be standing up watching.

It is Matthew who tells of the wise men who, tradition says, were "Gaspar, and Melchior and Balthasar." But Matthew does not tell us whether the three wore their kingly crowns while riding their camels or entering the stable. I've an idea they did not, for several reasons, but may be all wrong.

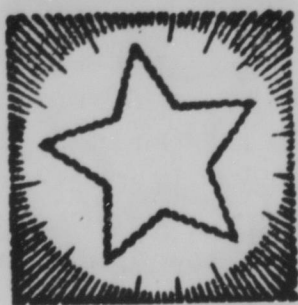
Equipped thus, with an almost unlimited amount of ignorance, I am briskly telling boys how to change bathrobes and chenille table covers into royal reinment. I am explaining how costume jewelry, otherwise known as ten-cent-store stuff, will pass for gems if the lights are sufficiently dim. I am persuading small girls they will appear angelic with full, soft drapery shirred from shoulder to feet to look wings when the arms are lifted. At least, I hope it will. I am ordering shepherds not to out-dress the kings and watching a chance to induce my son to make the crooks. I am wondering how young a prophet the audience will accept as fairly authentic, and whether he ought to wear a beard.

Meanwhile Mrs. Philip Massey is corralling the characters and arranging for the candles, tableaux, and scenery; Mrs. Griffin is anxiously and hopefully directing the singing. You know how such things are. You never can be sure whether they will go off as planned or blow up in your face. At any rate, it won't be long now.

As a child I called out "Christmas Gift" to all I saw during the holidays. Later I changed it to Merry Christmas. Now I find such greeting is so often out of place

(Continued On Back Page)

TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS



God
so loved
the world that
He gave His only be-
gotten Son, that whosoever
believeth in Him should not perish,
but have everlasting life. Jno. 3:16.
Then shall come a star out of Jacob and a
scepter shall rise out of Israel. Num. 24:17. And
in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall
stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles
seek; and His rest shall be glorious. Isa. 11:10. Therefore
the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall con-
ceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isa. 7:14.
Behold I will send my Messenger, and he shall prepare the way before
me, and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come. Mal. 3:1. And she
shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; For he shall
save his people from their sins. Matt. 1:2. And, lo the angel of the Lord
came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them. 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 a Savior, which
is Christ, the Lord . . . And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of
the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:9-14. And Jesus increased in wis-
dom and in stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52. And, lo, a
voice from heaven, saying: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well
pleased. Matt. 3:17. Now Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the king-
dom of God and saying . . . repent ye and believe the Gospel. Mark
1:14, 15. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was
lost. Luke 19:10. As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. Jno.
20:21. Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so am I.
Jno. 14:15. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost:
teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have com-
manded you: and lo, I am with you alway. Matt. 28:19,
20. I go to prepare a place for you . . . I will come
again and receive you unto myself. Jno. 14, 2, 3.
Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
Col. 3:1. Behold the tabernacle of
God is with men, and He
will dwell
with them
and they
shall be His
people, and
God him-
self shall be
with them, and
be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears
from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither
sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. Revelation 21:3, 4.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE—PEACE and THANKSGIVING

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts . . . and be ye thankful." Col. 3:15.

In this Christmas time there are only two things necessary to fill our hearts and lives full of the very best—peace and thankfulness. With wars and rumors of wars abroad and disturbing financial and social conditions at home, there is no peace for the people as a whole. With thousands without work, many without necessary food and clothing, there seems to be little basis for real thankfulness to many of us.

But peace is not an external condition. It is an attitude of the mind and a condition of the heart toward God and our fellow man. Once I saw a little bird sitting unafraid on its nest beneath a roaring waterfall. To me that was symbolic of peace. If I am conscious of forgiven sin and bear no malice in my heart toward any one, I should have the peace and good will in my heart about which the angels sang.

It is hard to be thankful when we are hun-

(Continued on Editorial Page)

CHURCH NEWS

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Baptist church held the special season of prayer for Foreign Missions on Friday afternoon and evening of last week. Following the afternoon program supper was served at the church. The evening service was conducted by the Y. W. A. Special gifts were made for the Lottie Moon Christmas offerings.

The Southside Circle of the Baptist W. M. S. met Monday afternoon with Mrs. C. M. Watson. Mrs. Robert Phillips directed the program on "All the World."

The following are the services to be held in the Zebulon Baptist Church during the Christmas season:

Friday—The annual Christmas program of the Sunday School and the Church will be held at seven-thirty p.m. The public is invited. Sunday, Dec. 25—Sunday School at 9:45; Morning Worship at 11:00. Sermon—"The Other Meanings of Christmas"

CLUB COLUMN

Again the Garden Club wishes to remind the community of the Christmas Decorative Contest which will be held Friday, December 23.

Judging will be from seven to eight o'clock and the public is invited from eight to ten o'clock.

First prize of two dollars for exterior decoration, which includes general effect of decoration as seen from the outside.

Those entering the contest are as follows: Miss Ruby Stell, Mrs. Donald Stalings, Mrs. H. C. Wade, Mrs. C. E. Flowers, Mrs. G. R. Massey, Mrs. F. E. Bunn, Mrs. W. D. Spencer, Mrs. G. J. Griffin, Mrs. C. V. Whitley, Mrs. L. M. Massey, Mrs. Avon Privette, Mrs. A. V. Medlin, and Mrs. Wallace Chamblee.

Second prize of \$1.50 for decorations on the outside of the house: Mesdames E. C. Daniel, C. G. Weathersby, and S. G. Flowers.

First prize of two dollars for interior decoration which includes the general effect of the house as a whole: Mesdames C. E. Flowers and C. G. Weathersby.

The second prize, \$1.50, will go for the best decorative feature: Mrs. J. K. Barrow, mantle; Mrs. C. G. Weathersby, table; Mrs. L. E. Long, mantle.

QUIET PLEASE

Several persons have expressed the hope that those who are fond of fireworks will refrain from shooting them during the period set for church services next Sunday. It is earnestly hoped that this hour may not be interrupted by the noise of the explosions, and probably there is no need of making this request. However, there may be some thoughtless ones who, out of church themselves, forget that others desire to fix their thoughts for a time on a sermon or a song. This reminder is published that all may remember the day and the hour.