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and

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BIBLE THOUGHT

Rejoice evermore!—I Thessalonians 5:16.

Wherever vision of the Light
Disturbs the sleeping souls of men,
Night trails away its shadowy flight,—
And Christ is born again.

Wherever soul in travail turns,
And climbs the barriers that constrain,
With steady cheer Hope's sweet lamp burns—
And Christ is born again.

—John Oxenham

Macon's Christmas Trees

THIS year Macon County's children are to have Christmas trees throughout the county instead of just one tree in Franklin. There will be the usual Christmas tree at the court house for the children of the town and nearby communities. But those, who each year have at heart the reaching of all the children, led by the American Legion, have realized that many children from more distant localities cannot come to town. Bad weather in the past has disappointed many little ones, and there are others who have never seen a Christmas tree.

The newly organized Christmas Club will make possible other community trees in every corner of the county. This spreading out of the limbs of Franklin's annual tree to light other trees will make Bethlehem's star shine more brightly for many a little child. A beautiful tree, with its mystery of glistening sparkle and bright lights, with carols and gifts, brings again to old and young alike, the yearly remembrance of the birth of Christ, who came as a little child to save the world.

His message of love is a gift that every tree will bear.

Total Defense

THE words of William Knudsen, defense commissioner, who tells the country that defense is lagging, should carry a warning and bring response from every loyal American. That there is a "terrible urgency" as he told machine tool manufacturers, there can be no doubt. Urgency is, and that it is increasing, no one that has followed and is following daily the course of total war, can dwell in a false security without total defense.

Last Friday night, speaking to the National Manufacturers' association, Mr. Knudsen said that aircraft output was lagging 30 per cent, and that the result of the present five-day week and failure of labor and capital to cooperate for the utmost speed might have grave consequences.

That the whole nation needs to realize the "terrible urgency" and the steps necessary for total defense becomes more apparent daily.

"Ask your men what they think of a civilization that drives women and children to live in cold, wet holes in the ground," said Mr. Knudsen.

"We have gone back a thousand years in the last year. Why? Because a few individuals decide the action of totalitarian nations. And democracy is fighting for its life. And it makes one shudder to think that brains can devise a situation like this—where we kill the harmless because we want to break the spirit of the people."

In strong words Mr. Knudsen emphasized the need of putting production on a war basis so that "the possibility of such barbarity spreading to our shores will be an impossibility forever. . . . America is about the only spot where law prevails, and where the man at the bench has a chance to make his way without clicking his heels."

While this plea for physical defense meets response, there can be no better time than the Christmas season to stir the minds and hearts of men to defend with their lives the "truth that makes men free" and that alone can bring "Peace on Earth."

First Flight Recalled

THIRTY-SEVEN years ago, on December 17, 1903, two bicycle repair men, of Dayton, Ohio, Wilbur and Orville Wright, made the first memorable flight in a heavier-than-air motor driven craft, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

The assistant postmaster, W. H. Tate, who witnessed the strange sight, was the speaker at the celebration that took place last Tuesday. Airplane formations of the army, marine corps and coast guard flew over the scene, dipping their wings in salute to the monument erected on Kill Devil sand dune to commemorate the historic event, and wreaths were laid at the base of the memorial in honor of the Wright brothers.

The speaker reminded the gathering that the original plane of the Wright brothers is owned, not by this nation, but by the Kensington Museum in England. He urged Americans today to bestir themselves to secure the return of the plane to this country. He recalled that the Wrights "did not have even human sympathy, but ridicule." He called on his countrymen to hang their heads in shame, saying, "It is a national humiliating condition for Americans, that this great exhibit of the greatest scientific discovery of the ages although born in the genius of two Americans, built and first flown by Americans, is lost to this nation forever."

Social Security Benefits Received In Macon County

Figures Show A Total Of \$134,275.00 Distributed

Approximately \$134,275.00 has been distributed in Macon county through operation of nine of the ten divisions of the Social Security Act, from its beginning and through June 30, 1940, it is estimated, on a basis of official figures, by Charles G. Powell, chairman of the N. C. Unemployment Compensation Commission.

Normally, unemployment compensation, or benefits to workers temporarily out of jobs, is the largest item in the program, except in agricultural counties. In the two and one-half years of benefit payments, through June 30, these benefits reached \$21,717.59 included in 3,108 checks issued to residents of Macon county.

Old Age Assistance, help for needy residents past 65 years of age, in the three years of distribution, through last June, amounted to \$49,246.90 in this county.

Aid to Dependent Children, help for those deprived of their normal breadwinners, amounted to \$14,853.00 in the same period in this county.

Aid to the Blind, in the same 36 months, amounted to \$1,737.00 in the county.

County Pays One Fourth In these three divisions of the Social Security Act, the Federal Government provides one-half of the funds and the state and counties one-fourth each, with a state equalizing fund to help the smaller counties. Prior to January 1, 1940, these three governmental units furnished one-third each for Aid to Dependent Children.

No county figures are available for Old Age and Survivors Insurance. Monthly payments in this division started after January 1, 1940, due to a 1939 amendment, after lump-sum payments for three years. This will, in due time, become one of the most important of the five major divisions of the Social Security Act.

With practically accurate figures, it is evident, Mr. Powell points out, that about \$87,555.00 was distributed in this county to July 1 in four of the five major divisions of the Act, exclusive of Old Age and Survivors Insurance.

Other Services In the other five divisions, classified as "services", approximately \$46,720.00 has been distributed in this county, including about \$985.00 in Child Welfare Services and about \$1,920.00 in Vocational Rehabilitation.

Macon county, through the health department, received \$8,330.00 for Maternal and Child Health service; \$7,435.00 for Service to Crippled Children; and \$28,050.00 in Public Health Work.

These five "service" division reports are approximate. The 1940 census figures of 3,561,990 for the state and 15,894 for this county were used in prorating the funds, made up of Federal allotments, matched by the state and counties.

Macon county, central UCC office records show, has 14 resident employers subject to the Unemployment Compensation law and 271 workers protected by it. Liable resident employers paid \$19,246.21

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends for the kindness and sympathy shown during the illness and death of our husband and father. The beautiful floral offerings were greatly appreciated.
Mrs. Aaron Tallent
And Family.

J. E. Potts & Son
Funeral Directors
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Phone 164 Franklin, N. C.

Loyal Order of Moose
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In American Legion Hall
Every Thursday Night
7:30 O'CLOCK P. M.
J. J. Mann, Secretary

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BEST WISHES

—and many of 'em!

We'd like to tell each of you personally that we wish you a Season of Good Cheer—but we can't see all of you. So here goes for a Merry Christmas to Everybody.

Ralph Womack