

## Toward Peace On Earth

It may be that a woman in a little North Carolina town has done what all the statesmen and diplomats and military men have failed to do—pointed the way toward world peace.

The trouble, of course, with the statesmen and diplomats and military men is that they try too hard. Because international problems are complicated, they assume the solution must be complicated—the more complicated, the better! And so they set up one complex procedure to handle this phase of the situation, and another complex procedure to handle that phase, and still another to handle yet another; only to find that each procedure creates a new problem of its own, requiring yet another complex procedure to cancel out the evil brought into being in the effort to eliminate the original one. They forgot what both history and the personal experiences of most of us teach—that the tougher the problem, the simpler the solution.

How terribly entangled they become in their own solutions is illustrated by the fact that virtually every plan seriously considered, by either the Truman or Eisenhower administration, has at its heart a common factor: the proposal to rearm Japan (which we fought a world war to disarm) and Germany (which we fought two world wars to disarm). And what makes it all so ironic is that we propose to rearm these nations just when their peoples, for the first time in modern history, have turned away from militarism as a curse.

Mrs. Ernest M. Reagan, of Weaverville, on the other hand, did not try at all. Indeed, pointing the way toward world peace was the thing farthest from her mind. All she did was perform an act—probably an impulsive act—of Christian sympathy and understanding.

What Mrs. Reagan did was duly chronicled in the daily press several weeks ago and is no longer news; but the spirit of her act is ever new—as new and as simple and as miraculous in its effect as the spirit of Christmas, and of Him whom Christmas celebrates.

Mrs. Reagan had sent two sons to war. While they were gone, she wrote them every day. And when the names of the 22 Americans in Korea who refused repatriation were made public, Mrs. Reagan wrote each of them. The one-page letter to those "lonely boys" in Korean prison camps were just like the letters "I would have written my own sons".

She tried hard, she said later, to write nothing that would offend even the most orthodox Communist. She merely "tried to thank each one for all they had done for us in the war and asked if they would please come home and make their relatives happy".

Just a little act of Christian kindness, with no thought of its ever being known by any but those "lonely boys".

But this was a simple, a natural thing—and so incomprehensible to the Communist mind; it was a thing of the spirit — and so a deadly dangerous thing to a regime that puts its faith in physical force; it was a kindly act, performed without thought of propaganda value—and so, to the Reds, an act that must hide a particularly powerful propaganda.

Thus the Communists, using their "brain-washed" victims as vehicles, emitted a roar of anger and fear that was perhaps more genuine than any that has greeted a formal proposal from the United States government.

Does not this incident point the way for Christians?

Even such programs as the feeding of the East Germans have had a profound effect in the cold war; these acts of kindness have been effective, even though they could be discounted as propaganda weapons—which they are.

But suppose Christians in the West should write personal letters to individual men and women behind the Iron Curtain; just such simple, sympathetic letters as Mrs. Reagan's; letters written with no motive other than to be helpful and understanding. Enough letters like that—each different, because each would be a personal message from one individual to another—would break down the Iron Curtain as surely, if perhaps not so swiftly, as did

the sounding of the trumpets bring down the walls of Jericho.

But, to be effective, they could not be written



News Making  
As It Looks  
To A Maconite  
By BOB SLOAN

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots; and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

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THE angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"

And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible."

And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

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NOW the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother, Mary was espoused to Joseph before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."... Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife; and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

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AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. . . . And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David), to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in

with that chiefly in mind; for if our purpose were simply victory over our enemies, the letters would be nothing more than a new kind of propaganda, and the insincerity of the writers would be apparent.

To gain this end, they would have to seek another; the test of whether they were written in the true spirit of Christianity would be whether the writers were as deeply interested in saving the young men of Russia from war and death as they were in saving American boys.

An impossible attitude?

It wasn't to the Christians of the First Century.

An impossible task?

It wasn't impossible to create the atom bomb.

Then there was the man who was confident he wore the pants, but who, whenever he went out with the Mrs., found he had nothing to say about which pants.

If Americans really are interested in saving the American Way of Life, they would do well to balance their constant concern about the danger of "creeping socialism," with some worry about the danger of "galloping fascism".

the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. 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 in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

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."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

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 unto him gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt have I called my son".

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. . . .

But when Herod was dead, behold an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life." And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. . . . And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth.

## STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Dear Santa Claus:

I am home for the Christmas holidays; and to be with my family, and in Franklin, ought to be Christmas gift enough. But, like all boys, of six or sixty, I find myself writing to ask for something else.

I once knew a little boy whose letter to Santa asked for two things—the opportunity to go to the North Pole and work with you and Mrs. Santa in making toys for good little boys and girls; and then the pleasure, on the trip back home, of helping you distribute the gifts from your pack.

I hardly hope for a trip to the North Pole, or a ride back via sleigh. But I do ask for something of the spirit of that little boy at this Christmas season—the spirit of giving happiness rather than getting it.

Christmas deepens the yearning in the hearts of millions of men the world over for peace on earth, good will toward men. Could you do something, Santa,

to remind me, along with the other millions, that at Christmas, and through the year, the good will that can make possible peace on earth must first be felt in the hearts of individual men and women; that I can be at peace with others only if I have peace within.

Finally, as the Christmas season wanes and the New Year begins, I'd like a faith tonic (I'm sure you must be a pharmacist as well as a toy manufacturer). I'd like to start the New Year being adult enough to really believe in the things I say I have faith in—in the power and the force of things like right and truth and justice.

These things I'm asking for I know you can't put in my stocking. But maybe you could tuck in a little note that would give me the mental push I need to go out and try to get them for myself.

Respectfully,

A Grown-up Little Boy.

P. S. You'll find the piece of fruitcake we always put out for you on the mantel, right where you can get it as soon as you come down the chimney!

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK  
We don't care for Christmas presents, just send us the price of a year's subscription to The Press instead.

The envelope containing the lucky number in the organ contest was opened this morning by a committee composed of Messrs. E. K. Cunningham, T. W. Porter, and J. G. Siler and the number is 444. The holder of card No. 444 is Mrs. Lou Coalman.

Mr. Eugene Campbell returned home Saturday from St. Louis, Mo. He has been absent several months in Nashville and St. Louis.

Mr. D. L. Guy having resigned his position as principal of the Franklin High School, the trustees have selected Mr. M. D. Billings to take his place for the spring term.

10 YEARS AGO

Miss Hazel Ammons, who is employed in a textile mill at Bessemer City, is spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ammons. (Ellijay).

The Rev. C. C. Welch preached his farewell sermon Sunday at the Briartown Baptist Church. We are very sorry to give him up, but he feels that he is more needed at Glenville. (Flats).

Jack Wood, Marvin Wilson, and Arthur Younce went coon hunting Wednesday night and got a large coon. (Kyle).

Miss Amella Poindexter, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Poindexter, has returned from Charlotte for the holidays. (Iotla).

Betty Horsley and Barbara Stockton have returned from Brenau College, Clell Bryant from Chapel Hill, Merrily Brooks from St. Mary's, and Dorothy Reid from Meredith College, Raleigh. Lane Porter from Peabody College at Nashville, Tenn. Home from Greensboro are Dorothy Sloan, Marjorie Blumenthal, Imogene Landrum, Kathryn Long, Louise Pendergrass, and Mamie Addington. From W. C. T. C. at Cullowhee: Carlyne Jamison, Hazel Morgan, Margaret Corbin, Thelma Baldwin, Mary Raby, Evelyn Norton, Jack Angel, Fred Houk, Clayton Ramsey, Merie Kinsland, Mildred Shope, Louise Kinsland, and Harry Corbin.