

### The Message of Christmas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By NEWMAN CAMPBELL

The International Uniform Lesson on the above topic for Dec. 23 is Luke 2, the Memory Verse being Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men."

THE OLD, old story of Christ's birth is told for us in today's lesson. It is old, but ever new and sweet, and every year we read it with thankful hearts.

Luke tells the whole story of Jesus' child life in this one chapter, from before His birth to His home in Jerusalem, including the incident of His talk with the priests in the temple in Jerusalem.

The decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world was to be taxed, and everyone should go to his own city to enroll is first recorded. Records of the time, recently discovered, prove that such a decree was made.

Joseph, Mary's affianced husband, went to Bethlehem, the city of David, for "he was of the house and lineage of David," and Mary went with him. It was near her

time, and there in Bethlehem she brought forth her firstborn in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

Shepherds See the Angel  
"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in 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."

These shepherds were simple men, unlearned, and easily frightened, but they believed easily, too. They did not try to ascribe these wonderful circumstances to earthly things. When the angel said, "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," they believed at once, and he told them how they would be able to tell the Child, "wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger," and then the heavenly choir burst forth in song, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem and found the Babe, and then they "made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child." All who heard it marveled, but Mary "kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

According to the law Jesus was circumcised after eight days, and after the purification days were over, Mary and Joseph took their baby to the temple to offer a sacrifice for Him, and He was named Jesus. An old man named Simeon, who was "just and devout," had

### Rev. Joe Daniel To Preach in County During Coming Week

Rev. Joe Daniel from Marion, will preach at the home of Carl Stanley on Snathers Street on Saturday and Sunday nights, December 22 and 23rd. There will be special singing and string music by Mr. Daniel, James Maudlin, Bobby Stacy, and others. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend. Mr. Daniel will also preach at the Cove Creek Congregational Holiness church in that community Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

### Herbert B. Angel EM 3/c En Route Home

Herbert B. Angel, EM 3/c, is getting ready to rejoin the ranks of civilians, according to information received from the Naval Staging center, at Pearl Harbor. At his staging center, the prospective discharges are grouped according to what separation center they will report to for their final papers. They are placed aboard ships headed for the States as soon as shipping space is available.

been notified by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Blesses God for Child  
When he saw the Babe, he took Him up in his arms, blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation."

Simeon also prophesied that "this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against," and to Mary, "Yeah, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul." He blessed them all.

There was also an old prophetess named Anna who also gave thanks for the coming of this wondrous Child.

"And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord," Joseph and Mary took their Baby home to Nazareth. "And the Child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him."

We have no further record of the Child Jesus until, in this same chapter, Luke tells us of the visit to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, when Jesus was 12 years old. After the days were fulfilled the parents started back to Nazareth, but after a day's journey, when they thought their Son was with others of the company, they could not find Him and went back to the city. After searching for three days they found the boy in the temple talking with the doctors, hearing what they had to say and asking them questions.

When His mother gently reproved Him by telling Him that they had been seeking Him, sorrowing, He said simply, "How be it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Possibly His mother Mary, understood, but Luke says "they understood not the saying which He spake unto them."

Luke concludes that "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

### Library Notes



MARGARET JOHNSTON  
County Librarian

Each year I rather envy the school children the opportunity of singing the carols for weeks before Christmas. Re-reading the age old story and singing the carols helps us to fall into the spirit of a real Christmas. Every year many people re-read Dickens' "Christmas Carol" and no matter how many times we hear it we enjoy it. The Christmas party from the "Pickwick Papers" will be in play form on the radio Dec. 21st at 5 o'clock on the Asheville station and I hope you will plan to listen to it. There are many other Christmas

Stories for you and your family to enjoy together. Let the following books help you: "Home Book of Christmas," "Stories to read of Christmas," "Christmas Book of Legends and Stories," "So Gracious the Time," "Blue Flower," "1001 Christmas Facts and Fancies."

If you are not familiar with the "Christmas Annual" don't let this Christmas pass without using it. It has music, art and stories such as "Meaning of Christmas Plants," "Story of the Christmas Seal," "Woodcarving of Brasstown" as told in stained glass windows.

For children there are "Alexander's Christmas Eve," "Turkey for Christmas," "Big Book of Christmas Entertainments," "Animals Christmas," "St. Nicholas Travels," "Christmas Story," "Children's Book of Christmas Stories" and "Story of the Christmas Tree." These and many others may be borrowed for the season.

LOS ANGELES—Women formed in five long lines—each for a different size—when a downtown department store put 1,400 pairs of nylon stockings on sale. A saleswoman nearly fainted when three women refused the lucky tickets with a contemptuous: "Nylons? We don't want no nylons."

### Pfc. James R. Trull Discharged From Service

Private First Class James R. Trull, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Trull, of Canton, R.F.D. No. 1, has arrived home and has been discharged from the service.

Pfc. Trull has served with the Engineers in India for the past two years.

### Be Quick To Treat Bronchitis

Chronic bronchitis may develop if your cough, chest cold, or acute bronchitis is not treated and you cannot afford to take a chance with any medicine less potent than Creomulsion which goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes.

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### Keep The Home Fires Burning ...

Yes, it's O. K. to do this, provided they are kept in control. Avoid carelessness with your fireplace, stove or furnace. It would be bad to lose your home by now, especially if it is not protected by insurance.

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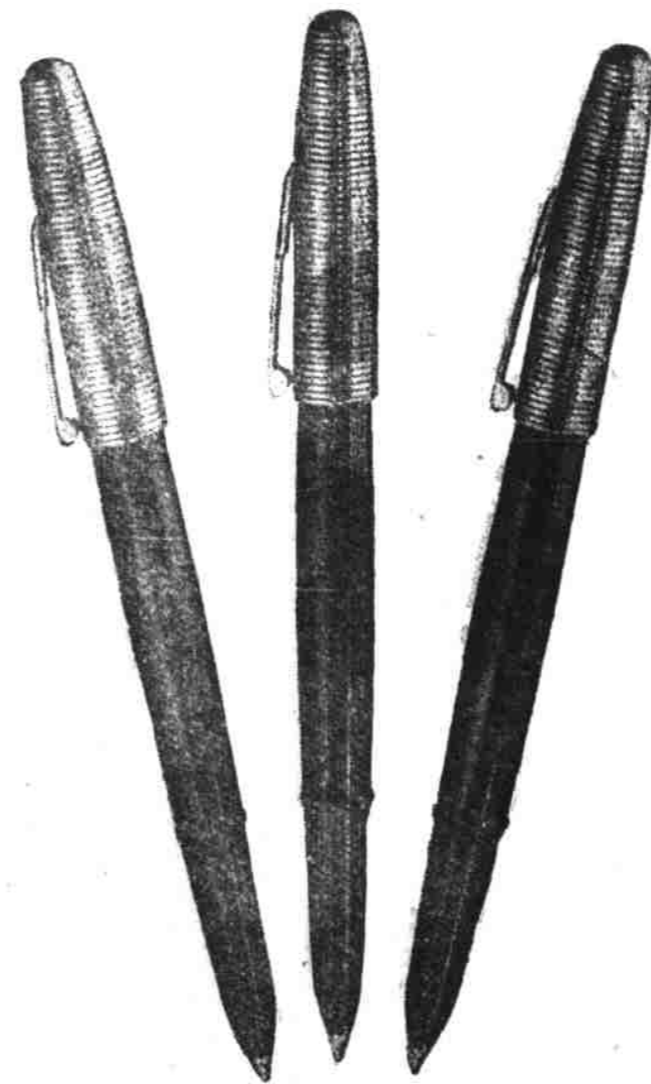
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