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Christmas Editorial
 Courtesy: LOYAL PHILLIPS
 Winston-Salem City Daily Advance

For the twenty-second year
 Loyol Phillips, Ass't to the
 President of Dear Publication &
 Radio, Inc., makes his
 Christmas Day editorial
 available to SNPA members.
 The first Christmas was the
 fulfillment of the greatest
 promise ever made.

For centuries the prophets of
 old had predicted the coming of
 a Redeemer.

The prophet Balaam pointed
 to the star which would identify
 the Messiah. Micah named the
 village to be followed by His
 arrival and Isaiah predicted His
 miraculous birth and foretold
 His name. However, 2,000 years
 prior to the fabled event, the
 patriarch, Jacob had told his
 sons about the coming of Christ.

The faith of the devout few
 became a certainty and the
 prophetic became the actual
 when the divine promise was
 fulfilled on Christmas night,
 2,000 years ago.

According to prophecy, He
 was born into a humble en-
 vironment and was accepted by
 only those who through divine
 vision were able to com-
 prehend.

There was no room for Him in
 the inn because there was no
 place for a Prince of Peace in
 the hearts and plans of those
 who needed Him most.

Only the shepherds of the
 Judean hills and the wise men of
 the Orient were prepared to
 accept Him.

Otherwise, His lowly con-
 temporaries scorned Him and
 the world's rulers tried to

destroy Him.
 Modern festivities generally
 glamorize the birth in the
 manger as being beautiful. We
 color the scene with peaceful
 animals, adoring shepherds,
 and kindly Magi with perfumed
 gifts.

But the real nativity was
 touching and glorious only to
 those who beheld it through the
 eyes of hope.

The great rolling chords from
 the heavenly host were heard by
 only those whose ears were
 attuned by faith.

There were no news media to
 report to the world the glad
 tidings: "Unto You A Savior is
 born."

Enshrouded in spiritual and
 intellectual gloom, men had lost
 hope for a better life. Leaders
 and followers alike were
 motivated by greed, intolerance
 and lust.

The world was subdued by
 skepticism, men matured
 without worthwhile objectives --
 and became flotsam and jetsam
 in a life of futility.

However, despite King
 Herod's brutal efforts to
 murder the Christ child, the
 message of Christmas still got
 through.

After a sojourn in Egypt
 where His parents had hidden
 Him to avoid slaughter by
 Herod's legions, the Bethlehem
 Babe returned to His home
 village of Nazareth, where He
 matured into the only perfect
 man in all history.

He taught compassion and
 integrity and spoke out against
 the exploitation of the poor. He
 opposed ritualistic religion,
 which had become a device of
 the rich, and he publicly
 recognized the rights of women.

A nonconformist and a heretic
 in His times, He exemplified
 tolerance, justice and love for
 all people regardless of race,
 religion or sex.

His strange doctrine came
 like a lightning bolt on a dark
 night and today, after twenty
 turbulent centuries, remains
 the only beacon which can lead
 mankind to peace.

Again, we pause to com-
 memorate the birth of a Spirit
 who suffered persecution and
 crucifixion to demonstrate a
 greater love than mortal man
 can conceive.

The gift of a Son at Bethlehem
 still reminds us that sacrifice is
 not obsolete and that brotherly

Exit December And 1971

The last half of December
 brings us winter, at 7:24 in the
 morning on the 22nd, the
 shortest days and longest nights
 of the year, Christmas Eve,
 Christmas and New Year's Eve,
 among other memorable dates.

The anniversary of the Battle
 of Trenton falls on the 26th,
 dating from 1776. It was the
 turning point of the Rev-
 olution; Washington gathered
 his men together Christmas
 night, secretly ferried them
 across the Delaware River at
 Taylorsville and surprised a
 British force of some 1500 men
 (mainly Hessians) on the
 morning of the 26th, reaching
 picket lines just outside Trenton
 before his force was dis-
 covered.

Woodrow Wilson, 28th
 President and son of a
 Presbyterian clergyman, was
 born at Staunton, Virginia, on
 the 28th in 1856. (South Carolina
 in 1926 made the anniversary a
 holiday, which few still ob-
 serve.)

Andrew Johnson, 17th
 President, was born on the 29th
 in 1808, at Raleigh, North

Carolina, but moved to Ten-
 nesses at the age of eighteen.
 Though he was the only
 President Congress tried to
 impeach, historians have been
 kind to him; the emotional,
 vindictive effort to impeach him
 failed, in 1868, by one vote. By
 that slender margin the
 presidential power and arm of
 American government was
 saved from destruction.

Johnson, who had succeeded
 Lincoln at his death, believed,
 like Lincoln, that the Southern
 States had never left the Union,
 thereby making it easier for
 them to resume their former
 roles. But as a Tennessean, he
 was suspect and many of his
 vetoes were overridden by a
 victorious, vindictive Congress.

love is the cardinal precept for
 human behavior.
 Today the Spirit of love
 speaks to us across twenty
 centuries to proclaim
 humanitarianism as the sacred
 obligation of all men and
 nations.

Christmas should be a day of
 reverent gratitude and neither
 gifts nor tinsel should detract
 from our commemoration of the
 birth of a Savior.

Our music should continue to
 speak to all of the magic and
 love of Christmas. Our carols
 remain the world's most loved
 music as they strike a chord of
 joy within the hearts of young
 and old.

The gifts of infinite value are
 those which express kindness,
 tolerance and compassion.
 There can be no real love
 without giving.

It is our hope that the true
 spirit of this Christmas season --
 its joy, its hope and its childlike
 faith may abide with you.

Loyal Phillips

**Thought
 to
 Remember**

By MARION SWINDELL

The story is told of the
 great Dutch artist who was
 commissioned to paint the
 portrait of a famous man of
 his country.

After weeks of work the
 artist completed the painting.
 It was beautifully executed.
 Wonderful in detail -- vibrant
 in color.

In the foreground of the
 picture the artist had painted
 some tulips. The flowers were
 so beautiful and colorful that
 those who viewed the painting
 never saw the portrait of the
 subject -- they could not take
 their eyes beyond the tulips.

Sometimes we all tend to
 major in minors. In doing so
 we place importance on trivial
 matters and fail to see the en-
 tire picture. It is difficult in
 many instances to see beyond
 the "tulips."

**OUR THOUGHT TO RE-
 MEMBER:** Those who look
 beyond small things -- see more
 of the world.

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**Let's Go To Church Sunday
 Make Church Going
 A Habit**

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 MESSAGES
 ARE MADE POSSIBLE
 BY THE FOLLOWING
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CELEBRATION!

A fragrant pine wreath festooned with a big red bow encircles the door
 knocker, a symbol of hospitality. Inside, the tree blazes with rainbow lights,
 and there is a tiny creche on the mantel. You light the red candles on the table
 and serve coffee and sandwiches and cake. The atmosphere is rich with warmth
 and friendliness.

This is Christ's birthday and we are celebrating, and, in a magical way,
 it seems to instill in all of us a special feeling of friendship and love for our
 fellowman. What a wonderful thing it would be if we could keep this Christ-
 mas spirit in our hearts all year long!

To do so would be perfection -- and that is something none of us can
 quite attain. But through the Church we CAN keep faith and truth within us
 from one Christmas to the next. Try it, and see.

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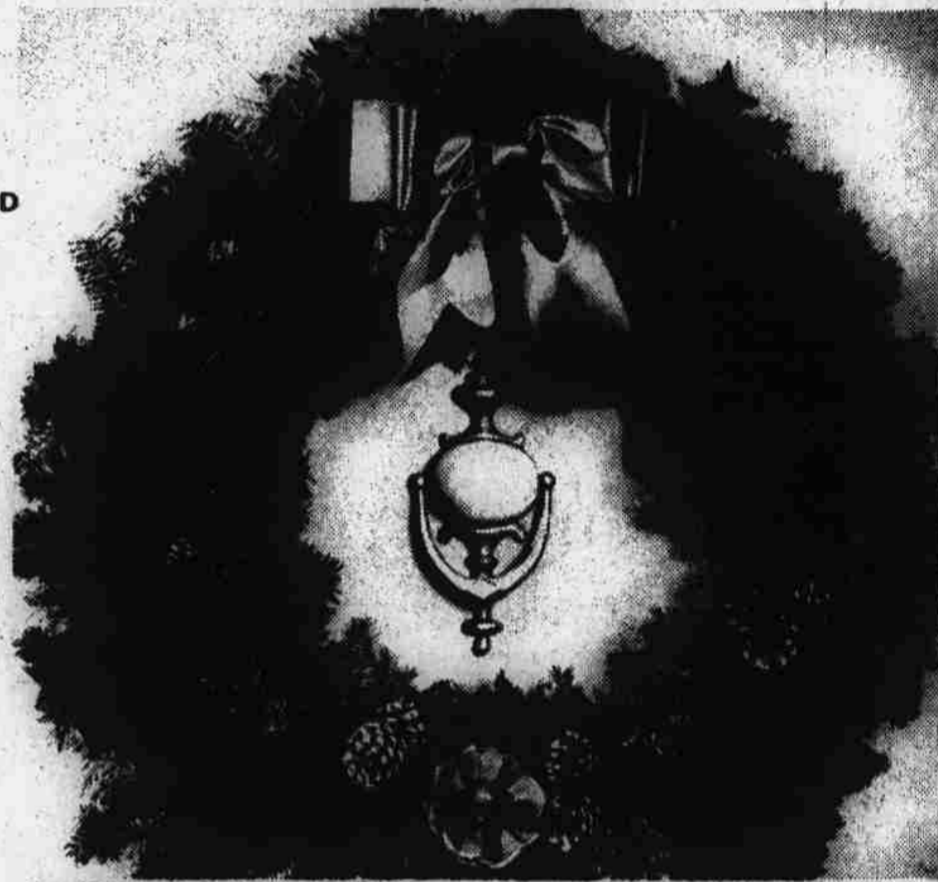
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Romans 2, 10-16	Mark 8, 34-38	Luke 2, 8-20	Luke 2, 8-20	Matthew 1, 18-25	Matthew 2, 1-12	Hebrews 10, 19-25

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VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION
 International Sunday School Lesson for December 26, 1971
 LESSON TEXT: Luke 3: 15-22; 4: 1-15.

Continuing our studies in the Book of Luke, our lesson aim
 for today is to aid in a clearer understanding of how, by
 identifying Himself with mankind, Christ fulfilled His
 mission as Redeemer.

Christ the Dearly, and Christ the Man...for our sakes, what
 a happy combination! Exalted, He carried within Himself
 the ability to cleanse us of our sins -- yet as a man, He un-
 derstood our hopes and joys, our desires, our temptations,
 and our weaknesses! His mercy was never withheld from us,
 nor His compassion or forgiveness.

John the Baptist, forerunner of Christ and ardent disciple,
 gloriously climaxed his witnessing in the single act of bap-
 tism of Christ.

The significance of baptism is familiar to all: immersion
 in water (the cleansing agent) signifies the end of the old life
 and the putting away of acknowledged sin. But Christ's
 baptism had a special significance all its own. Sinless
 Himself, He still had a mission to accomplish which would
 require Him to take the sins of mankind upon His shoulders,
 presenting Himself to God as man's advocate. That Christ's
 act of announced dedication to His appointed task, and His
 complete identification with mankind, was fully acceptable
 in God's eyes, is made clear in the descent of the Holy Spirit
 and of the voice from heaven upon completion of the rite.

Immediately following Christ's baptism, He was sub-
 jected to a number of temptations by the devil. These were
 stoutly resisted, and Christ remained without sin. His in-
 volvement with the spiritual well-being of mankind, despite
 the knowledge of the awful price that would be demanded of
 Him on Calvary, for outweighed concerns for Himself.

Unfortunately, when the devil tempts the mortal man, he
 meets with more success than he should. Being more
 humane, we too often permit the worldly interests to crowd
 our spiritual instincts for good, and we ignore completely the
 fact that physical things often threaten the fulfillment of
 God's purpose for us. Christ's greatest victory (and our
 greatest gain) was His unflinching commitment of Himself to
 our redemption!

We must continually foster our spiritual resources if we
 are to remain steadfast against temptation and live our lives
 as useful Christians. To be successful in our sinless daily
 fight against Satan, our lives must be sincerely committed
 to Christ. For it is only the strength of our Christian con-
 viction that will enable us to face each day unafraid, fraught
 with spiritual hazards as life so often is. We cannot outwit
 Satan...we must stay constantly on our guard.

Even a right relationship with God does not exempt
 us from temptation, any more than it did Christ. But the
 Bible will be our staff, and our willpower our foundation for a
 Christ-oriented life. Spiritual maturity is an essential
 commodity in the Christian; God has supplied the grace, but
 we ourselves must be wholly responsible for our personal
 ideals and integrity.

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