

Kings Mountain Herald

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GARLAND ATKINS
Publisher

GARY STEWART
Co-Editor

LIB STEWART
Co-Editor

DARRELL AUSTIN
General Manager

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE—When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. St. Matthew 2:10

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Real Christmas meaning

The following article was written by Crystal Sparrow, a member of Patterson Grove Baptist Church in December, 1978. She was 9½ years old at the time. Crystal died of a rare illness on January 30, 1979, after an illness of two days. She was a fifth grader at Bethware School and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Sparrow.

A REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

It happened a long time ago. There was a man named Joseph and a woman named Mary. God chose Mary to have Jesus.

Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to pay their taxes and the innkeeper did not have any rooms. So he led them to a stable and that was where Jesus was born on Christmas night.

A star shown very bright that night and three

shepherds saw the star and Angels around the star and the Angels said, "Go to Bethlehem and see the Christ Child," and they did.

At the same time, Wise Men saw the star and heard the Angels and went to Bethlehem, and found the baby and gave him money and great gifts.

There came the shepherds, and they did not have anything to bring but LOVE.

So Jesus grew up in a carpenter shop and went out and preached to people and prayed and they threw him in a jail. Then they killed Him...He was nailed to a cross and put in a cave and a very big stone was put over the cave, but Jesus got out. He pushed the stone away and went to Heaven to be with His Heavenly Father.

And that is the real meaning of Christmas.

Put peace into practice

It's the Christmas season, a joyful one, as the birth of Christ is celebrated around the world.

Why has the Christian religion survived and spread through the 1979 years since Christ was born?

There are many reasons. Christ, through his Apostles, found more apostles who were willing to risk death for principle. Today it is not hard to be a Christian by label.

But the principal reason is the fact that Christ's practices and teachings, love of thy fellowman, replacement of greed, envy, with kindness to the suffering, aid to the less fortunate a spirit of giving before taking - and not even having to take.

It is popular today to view with alarm.

With two world wars, the Vietnam and Korea Wars behind us and the troublesome problems now in Iran, the world remains in a suspended sense of fear minimized only by the necessity to

perform everyday tasks that are demanded in a fast paced temporal existence.

America has had problems before in its dealings with other countries but none has seemed so fraught with potential dangers as that now with Iran.

History, Biblical and otherwise, is filled with the continuing story of man's inhumanity to man, the story of might making right, and rules of living twisted into a two-way street, applicable to one and not to the other.

The goal of universal adoption of the spirit of giving seems unattainable and likely is. Yes, it is conceivable that man is somewhat kinder to man than he was 300, 200 or 100 years ago.

The continuing prayer at Christmas time is that the world will put into practice the principles of humanity practiced by the Prince of Peace.

Tips for drivers

The Kings Mountain Police Department offers these tips to holiday drivers.

It's holiday time again and if you're like many Americans you will be taking to the open roads to visit family and friends and the longer the drive the greater the chance that you might fall asleep behind the wheel. So be prepared.

If you are getting drowsy while driving, the best thing you can do is to pull off the road and rest for awhile. Walk around a little, have a cup of coffee, and even get a bite to eat. But don't continue your trip until you feel well rested.

If for some reason you can't pull off the road, a series of exercises developed by a University of California doctor can help keep you alert and awake.

The series for highway drivers suggests that at the first sign of drowsiness the driver should start wiggling his toes. The hands are next and should be exercised by gripping the steering wheel tightly and then relaxing.

This should be followed by alternately focusing the eyes on the road ahead and then on the dashboard. Neck muscles can be exercised by moving the head from side to side while keeping the eyes on the road.

The series ends with the driver taking deep breaths and sitting straight with his back arched against the back of the seat.

These exercises will keep a tired driver awake but remember, the best advice is still to pull off the road and get some needed rest. Falling asleep behind the wheel of a car and turn a "cat nap" into something more permanent.

Reader Dialogue

Thanks for UF coverage

Dear Mr. Atkins, Mr. Austin, Ms. Stewart, & Mr. Stewart:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kings Mountain United Way and Rev. R.E. Boggan, Jr. and myself, I would like to express our appreciation for the Herald's excellent coverage of this year's Campaign Drive.

Your coverage was the vehicle that kept area citizens reminded of the importance of the United Fund.

Since your last report of our activity, we have received additional monies. Our total to date is \$83,228.90, for 115 percent of our goal. I feel sure that 1981 Campaign Chairman Mark Wilson will need your superb assistance again next year.

Dr. Terry R. Sellers
1980 Campaign Chairman
1981 Campaign President

Editorial reply

To the editors,

In reply to your editorial of December 4,

regarding the Iranian student's speaking at Central School, we would point out several facts.

First, the student was invited to give a presentation on Iran's culture, geography, and religion as well as its current political situation. We were assured that he would not present propaganda. Those of us who were fortunate enough to hear his morning talk know that he lived up to this condition. He did not try to sway our students in any direction, nor did he express any hostility for the United States.

Secondly, the student had requested that no press be invited. Because of the volatile situation in his own country, he feared reprisal. That request should have been respected.

Thirdly, we believe that our students should be given the opportunity to hear foreign people speak on their respective countries, particularly when the country is included in our social studies curriculum, as is Iran. We believe that students deserve the chance to become more cosmopolitan and less provincial in their views. We try to instill the quality of open-mindedness in all of our students. To understand another culture is not necessarily to condone that culture.

Finally, we support Mrs. O'Shields' handling of the situation. The Iranian student had come here with the understanding that the press would not cover his speech. He lived up to his agreement not to propagandize, and our assistant principal was simply carrying out our

Hey, Santa, don't forget these requests.

Dear Santa,

Well, old boy, another year has almost passed us by. We haven't even recovered from your last visit and they tell me you're loading your sleigh for another ride.

You're a generous fellow (but why is it I always have to pay for your generosity?) so would you consider some of the following Christmas presents:

All-State honors and selection to the East-West All-Star football game for Kings Mountain High's talented tailback Kevin Mack. You brought him an early gift last week in a football scholarship to Clemson, but keep bringing in the awards, Santa, because Kevin really deserves them...

A case of Roloids for Tootie Allen so he can more easily digest George Blalock's hotdogs. Tootie says he has the perfect solution for the Iranian crisis. Send Khomeini some of George's hotdogs but forget to send the Roloids...

A clean report for the city in its HUD audit, which has been in the news for several months. Then, maybe, criticizing can cease and we can all get about the business of continuing to make Kings Mountain a progressive city...

Some new lights for the Kings Mountain High gym, which has to be the darkest anywhere, and a couple of championship basketball teams to give the loyal Mountaineer followers something to cheer about...

A high school coaching job for Kings Mountain Junior High basketball coach, Ken Napier, who is much too good a coach to be stuck in junior high...Ditto for David Heffner, the KM Junior High jayvee football coach, who has a lot of the ball and should be catching the eye of high schools in search of a good coach...

An NAIA District 26 basketball title for Belmont Abbey's Crusaders and their deserving coach, Bobby Hussey, Kings Mountain's only contribution to college basketball coaching, and a Shrine Bowl coaching assignment for KM's Dan Brooks. It looks like our only hope of getting a player in the Shrine Bowl game is by first getting a coach in it...

A major college baseball scholarship for KM's Tim Leach, one of the best pitchers in North Carolina, and a state baseball championship for the Mountaineers and their hard-working coaches, Barry Gibson and Bud Bumgardner...

A plane ticket to the U.S. for the American hostages being held in Iran, and a peaceful solution to whatever the problem is between the two countries. I don't know if anyone really knows what that problem is...

A lot of good fishing for Harold Wells, Herman Blalock and Floyd McDaniel and a lot of spending money for them 'cause I don't want them to have to fish for their supper...

A quiet Christmas for all of the volunteers, such as firemen, rescue squad members, reserve policemen, and others, who give so freely of their time and talents to keep us safe...A hot meal, some new clothes and a toy for so many people that we don't know who are starving and having to do without the things we take for granted...A safe and Merry Christmas for Rev. Tom Lesley, missionary to Uganda, who is out on the road somewhere on a 3,000 mile walk to raise money to feed some of the hungry people in this world...

Completion of a couple of buildings that some people have been waiting along time for. One, the new Herald Publishing building on Canterbury Road, which will be my new home away from home, and also the new underground home of Rev. and Mrs. Graham Wood, the first of its kind in this area...

A new sewer system and town hall for Grover, one of the finest little towns on Earth, and a bottle of white shoe polish and black hair dye for Kings Mountain's always-youthful looking mayor, John Henry Moss...

A year's supply of Twin Pet dog food for Baby Girl, our recently-acquired St. Bernard, the eatingest dog you've ever seen, and a stapler for Leigh Anne. That child can come up with some odd requests...

A conference wrestling title for Coach Steve



GARY STEWART

Moffitt and the KMHS Mountaineers, and a state title for KM's 185-pounder Avery Smith, whose fast start is reminiscent of a couple of years ago when Chuck Gordon, snow at Appalachian, went unbeaten en route to the state crown...

Plenty of gasoline for Bud Medlin to make those weekly trips to Chapel Hill to see the Tar Heels play football and basketball, and a couple of seats down in the "old" bleachers at Clemson for Kyle Smith and Mikki Balty. The new section of bleachers are so "high", they say a drunk can't even climb them...

An all expense-paid, three-day, two-night vacation at the Rock Motel for Dr. Charles Adams...

A couple days of spare time to recover from these past six months of working 12 to 18 hours a day. When the rush is over, I'm going to take a day off, take the phone off the hook and hit the sack. And I dare anyone to ring the door bell...

And, finally, Santa, and most important, good health, happiness and a Merry Christmas for all.



Lib Stewart

The spirit of Christmas

These words by Alex Drier do not deal with Christmas, per se, but it seems to me that they do exemplify the Spirit of Christmas and give us guidelines for the other 365 days of the year.

"To awaken each morning with a smile on my face, to greet the day with reverence, for the opportunity it contains; to approach my work with a clean mind; to hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things, the ultimate purpose toward which I am working; to meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart; to be gentle, kind and courteous through all the hours; to approach the night with weariness that ever woos sleep and the joy that comes from work well done—this is how I desire to waste wisely my days."

To our family Christmas has always meant a time to have the family together in a happy state of love, companionship and goodwill. A time that can win us back to the delusions of childhood, recall to the older person the pleasures he enjoyed as a youth and bring the traveler back to his own fireside and the quietness and joy of a happy home.

As time marches on in a tangled web of change, may the Good Man at this season bring a huge helping of reason and good judgment to all who would employ violence in their motives. Bring them a reminder that the first words sung at this season nearly 2,000 years ago were "Fear not" and that Jesus throughout his ministry repeated, "Let not your heart be troubled." Load them with stories of the Babe in the manger and change their cowardice to courage.

I extend to each of my readers warm and sincere wishes for Good Health and Happiness and a Merry Christmas.

end of the agreement.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Greene
Jerry Hoyle
Ann Bennett
Sherrill Toney
Sharon Baldwin
Ethel Bumgardner
Carol D. Wheeler
Jo Ellis
Sandra Comor
Steve Ellis
Deborah Royster
Joy White
Jackie Shell
Deatrice Branham
Sara Whetstone

Likes peanuts

Dear Editor,

I want to endorse every word of Mr. Garland Atkins' article in Tuesday's Herald (tell them to keep oil), with one exception, I do not like popcorn. I like peanuts.

Sincerely

Ila M. McIntyre
Kings Mountain

Too busy

Dear Editor,

The year, 1885, the place, Paris Art Salon. It is the first showing of Luc Oliver's small painting, "The Arrival at Bethlehem." It highlights Mary's weary and suffering face as the innkeeper is telling Joseph that there is no room in the inn.

As long as we attribute evil motives to the innkeeper, the story does not touch us. But disassociate it from history's overlay and it speaks to us today.

It is evident that the innkeeper lost the sacred in the busy shuffle.

Luke (Luke 2:1-7) does not even imply wrong conduct. This was a business, you rented to the first customers who arrived.

He did what you and I have often done. He was not bad, just too busy.

Never are we in greater danger of getting too busy than during this sacred season. There is much that is religious in December, little that is deeply spiritual.

Christmas means deliverance, knowledge of the truth, becoming what God has in mind for us to become. Let the hope of this beautiful season move you to believe and to receive all that God is offering you.

Pastor George Neighbors