

Devoted To
Evangelism
And Missions

The Baptist Examiner

The Paper With A National Circulation

"Go Ye Into All
The World, And
Preach The Gospel."

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa. 8:20)

WHOLE NO. 104

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY DECEMBER 16, 1939

VOL. 8, NO. 46

A Missionary's Wife Pictures Brazil

Belem, Para,
Nov. 7, 1939

Dear Mrs. Gilpin:

I received your most welcome letter yesterday morning. We are all well. I am sorry to hear of the illness of your mother and Grandma Gilpin. I hope both are better now. Give my love to each of them. How are the babies? I guess Rhoda Eve thinks lots of her sister. They will be lots of company to each other in a few years.

I will try to answer some of your questions. The food is poor. We all eat like pigs and yet are losing weight. I believe the bread is the worst trouble. The flour is bad, and the bread is made without milk or shortening. It is a form of light bread. It is so tough you can hardly eat it. Well, in Kentucky, we would not. You can get fresh beef and pork each day, but the meat is nearly all lean. Vegetables are scarce now. We can get green beans, lettuce, cucumbers, cabbage, and greens (mustard). Cabbage is awful high—fifteen cents for a small head about the size of a small saucer. We can get potatoes. They are shipped in from Europe, but they are strong, and I can't eat them at all. We use lots of macaroni and put butter in it. Butter is 27 1-2 cents a pound. We get milk but it is not very good, and it has to be boiled before using. Oranges are real good, and is about the only kind of fruit you can get now that is good. The

(Continued on Page Two)

U. H. H.

A few days ago a Christian worker in Bombay wrote us that two days ago the Corporation had labelled the flats he lived in "U. H. H." — Unfit for Human Habitation — and that the order was given to "vacate immediately." He added that "moving in this weather and at such a notice is a fearsome thing. But God is blessing and two have just been saved, so who cares what the enemy does!"

We are quoting the above, believing that it may have a message for some unsaved reader. Paul likens the body to an earthly house of this tabernacle and Christ tells us that the ominous letters

(Continued on Page Two)

"THREE NARROW GATES"

"If you are tempted to reveal
A tale some one to you has told
About another, make it pass
Before you speak, three gates of gold.
"Three narrow gates: First, 'Is it true?'
Then, 'Is it needful?' In your mind
Give truthful answers; and the next
Is last and narrowest, 'Is it kind?'"

"And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three,
Then you may tell, nor ever fear
What the result of speech may be."

—Author Unknown

Ralph Webb



The above is a good portrait of Elder Ralph Webb, pastor of the Baptist Church of Fullerton, Ky., who spoke for us in our Thanksgiving service, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings recently.

The editor has had the privilege of being one of Brother Webb's teachers in the ministry, and has always enjoyed his fellowship. However, in these recent services, we came to love him in a way not experienced hitherto. His messages were powerful, and dynamically filled with the Spirit of God.

Every few days we have invitations asking us to hold a revival meeting. I rejoice to hold as many of these as possible, but other duties make it impossible for me to be away often. I would like to suggest our Brother Webb, and ask that if you are in need of a meeting, that in prayer you may consider him as your preacher. He is sound, orthodox, calvinistic, Premillennial, Missionary, Biblical, Fundamental, Baptist and Christ Like.

May God's richest blessings rest on our Brother Webb. My prayers shall ever be with him that God shall continue to make of him the great preacher which I believe he is destined of God to become.

The First Baptist Pulpit

"A Christmas Message"

"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen,
For the customs of the people are vain." (Jer. 10:23)

I realize tonight beloved that what I have to say on the subject of Christmas will not add in the least to my popularity as a radio preacher. However, beloved, I would remind you in the very outset of my message that I am not seeking popularity, but rather I am seeking to please my Lord. Every time I face a congregation or stand before this microphone, I am reminded of the words of Paul when he spoke to young Timothy saying, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables." (II Tim. 4:2-4)

I

I am satisfied that many — perhaps a great majority of my audience will be surprised and even shocked when I say that Christmas is not of Divine appointment. God, at no time and in

(Continued on Page Four)

Down To The Pocketbook --- And Deeper Yet

A church suffered damage to its property. Members of the church viewed the damage with sorrow and varying comment such as: "What a pity! It makes me sick at heart" and "What a shame! I am so sorry." The damage to the church was done during the first part of the week and comment followed during the week. Then Sunday came. One of the members who had viewed the damage made her regular offering an added a generous love gift to help repair the damage. She was sorry down to the pocketbook.

A preacher preached on stewardship. He called attention to a people's departure from God and consequent hard times which came. The message brought words of praise to the preacher from the members. One member added to his regular offering a love gift of a twenty dollar bill. He praised the message down to his pocketbook. Another member said nothing to the preacher about the message but talked to God about it and added to her regular offering a love gift of a check for a hundred dollars. She praised the message down to her pocketbook.

Hard times came and churches found increased difficulty in meeting their obligations. The members of a church were sorry Oh, so sorry at the hard time the church was having. One member was so sorry that he added to his regular offering a love gift of

(Continued on Page Four)

Nation's Tobacco Bill

Three-fourths of all the money spent for tobacco products in this country is spent for cigarettes. This rather amazing fact has been disclosed as the result of a survey made by the Research Division of the Curtis Publishing Company, in conjunction with a consumer purchase survey by the United States government.

Furthermore the survey showed that the cigarette bill of the average American family of smokers (urban) is slightly under \$30 a year; and, naturally, that families with the most income are the biggest smokers.

Other Curtis studies based on the expenditure survey have shown

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
JOHN R. GILPIN ----- Editor
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 February 6, 1939, at the post office
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ELDER A. N. MORRIS



**BROTHER MORRIS'
 NEW BOOK**

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the advertisement of "A Re-Discovery Of The New Testament Church", which is a small book soon to come from the press, and written by Elder A. N. Morris of Huntington, W. Va. It will only cost fifteen cents per copy. Of course, the editor has not seen it any more than you, but, knowing Brother Morris, I can heartily recommend anything he may present on the subject. I would, therefore, urge you to send in your money now, by way of an advance order.

EDMUND HARMS

If you ask me who Brother Harms is, what he looks like, his age, what he does, or anything about him personally, I could not tell you.

It does seem strange that I would write an editorial about one concerning whom I know so little.

Yet, I do know one thing concerning him, — he is a brother beloved in the Lord. For several

months he has been sending us one or more subscriptions to our paper each week. Ordinarily they are two year subscriptions. He has been contributing to all of the objects which we foster. How I thank God for him, especially in view of his interest in, and love for, this paper. Oh, that God might raise up many men who would feel the responsibility of securing subscriptions and helping us in carrying the financial burden of this weekly paper.

God's blessings on you, Brother Harms. I trust some day to meet you in the flesh, and to love you then as I love you now in the Lord.

**ATTENTION HUNTINGTON
 READERS**

A new independent work known as the "Open Door Mission", located at 1443 Fourth Avenue in Huntington, will be dedicated Sunday, December 17. We had hoped to have a program for the dedication service, but Brother Crofts who is interested in the work, has not been able thus far to provide us with such.

Beginning next Monday evening, December 18, the editor will be preaching each evening at this mission at seven-thirty o'clock. We would be happy to meet our Huntington friends, and will deeply appreciate it if those who are readers of this paper, will visit with us during the week, and by all means, make their presence known.

BRAZILLIAN MISSIONS

Since sending our last money for our mission work in Brazil, we have received the following amounts:

Ironton Friends	
Ironton, Ohio	\$3.00
Independent Baptist Church	
La Frank, W. Va.	3.00
Cherryville Baptist Church	
Louisa, Kentucky	252
A Kenova Friend	
Kenova, W. Va.	2.00
Anonymously	2.50
Just Our Club	
Russell, Ky.	1.00
Total	\$14.02

OUR RADIO PROGRAM

Doubtlessly, most of our readers know that we conduct two broadcasts on Sunday — 9:00 A. M. and 9:00 P. M. through station W. C. M. I. — 1310 on your dial. This costs us approximately one hundred dollars per month,

which we pay in advance.

This means that we have our broadcasts paid for, for the month of December, and for this we are indeed thankful. However, we have a mighty small sum in hand with which to begin the New Year of 1940. After paying for our December broadcast, we had only \$19.83 in the fund. This week we have received:

Anonymously	\$4.50
Ironton Friends	
Ironton, Ohio	2.00
Mrs. Harold Vaughn	
Coalgrove, Ohio	1.00
Total	\$27.33

Now that we are in the season of much giving, why not make a gift toward our mission work in Brazil and our radio fund!

**A MISSIONARY'S
 WIFE PICTURES BRAZIL**

(Continued from Page One)
 Bananas are not like what we have there. They give you fever, so we use very few of them. Apples, grapes and pears have to be shipped in, so they are high.

When the rainy season comes, fruit and vegetables will be plentiful so they say, but they are such liars you can't believe any of them. I never saw such a place. My! My! but it is awful.

You ask about my house: I made some pictures of it and will send you one if they are good in the next letter. It is three stories high. The first floor (basement) is under all of the house. It is large and nice. One large room for servants room, toilet, shower-bath, and a small room for cooking, I suppose. Then we have another big room, I guess 30x25 feet which is a fine place for the

children to play. Then we have a backyard with a high concrete wall ten feet high all around it. It is full of flower beds and concrete walks. By the way, I wish you would send me a package of pe-tunia seeds. (Editor's Note: May many of our friends send various types of flower seeds). I would like so much to have them.

The second floor is our first floor, and it is built up so no one can see in the windows. It has five rooms, a hall, a little tiny room, and toilet. The second floor has four bedrooms, two halls, bathroom, and small porch. The house is made of hollow bricks covered with cement. It has only been built a few years. The owner said it cost \$13,000 to build both of the houses. Another joins one side, as you will see in the picture, but you can't believe them. That might be so, and it may not. The rooms are painted in colors. The walls are green, blue, and cream. All the ceilings are made of wood and painted white. The

(Continued on Page Eight)

U. H. H.

(Continued from Page One)
 "U. H. H." are written upon your house. For He says: "He that believeth NOT is CONDEMNED ALREADY."

You may not have to MOVE IMMEDIATELY; but there may be only a step between you and death.

Be sure that when the call comes it will, if you are not READY, be at an inconvenient moment. It will be even worse than moving one's house in Bombay during the monsoon!

—The Indian Christian



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Baptist S. S. Committee

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BOOK REVIEWS

Any book favorably reviewed may be ordered from The Baptist Examiner

From William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

SHAFTED SUNLIGHT. BY Paul Hutchins. 214 pages. Price, \$1.00. Cloth Binding.

This is Paul Hutchins latest book of Christian fiction, — not only the latest, but his greatest. "Yesterday's Rain", "Blaze Star" and the other eight by Hutchins — marvelous as they are — fade far into the background when compared to **SHAFTED SUNLIGHT**. Every string of emotion of the harp of life is played upon in this wonderful book of Christian fiction. Sin, salvation, murder, passion, true love, hate, betrayed love, and broken hearts all appear to make this Paul Hutchins greatest triumph.

Several things are outstanding relative to the book. There are very few characters like Perry Munzel, the preacher. Yet, he is not overdrawn, for while there are only a few like him, thank God, there are a few. God's grace in remaking Angel Farnum from her own estimate of failure, wondrously remakes Rodney Bartin, pastor of a fashionable society church. One cannot read this book without saying within himself, "Oh, the marvel of God's grace!"

Perhaps the greatest scene in the book is that of Rodney Bartin talking to dying Halford Lavant. Both had studied in the same class under a modernistic professor. Lavant had gone out in sin as a result thereof. The preacher had gone out to preach a cross-less Christ. In bringing Lavant to Christ, Barton brought himself back to Christ.

There is one simple criticism to offer: The editor believes it wrong for a woman to speak to a mixed assembly. In one instance, Angel Farnum testified publicly as to what Christ meant to her. This is in contradiction to 1 Cor. 14: 34. Yet, in spite of this, I still say that it is the greatest book of Christian fiction I have ever read, and I have read quite a few.

MISSINGS AT TWILIGHT, by George F. Santa, 133 pages. Cloth Boards. Price \$1.00.

We feel that we can do no better than to quote the review of Moody Monthly, to which we append our hearty endorsement.

"The author possesses a rare gift of composition, and his appreciation of nature, as well as his love and understanding of the Word of God, has given him a background for these interesting sketches. All of them have been given over station W. M. B. I. Chicago, and it was at the request of his many listeners that they are now put into print. Some of the subjects: Detours, Gardens, Woodland Trails, Pine Trees, Camp Fires, are suggestive of the contents."

CHRIST AT EVERY TURN, by Karl Frederick Whetstone. 168 pages. Cloth Boards. Price \$1.00.

This is an unusually interesting book, as the table of contents reveal.

A National Crisis
Moonlight and Roses (A sermon to lovers)

When Life Begins in Earnest (A sermon to newly weds)

Single Bliss (A sermon to Bachelors and bachelor girls)

The Ideal Mother (A sermon to mothers)

When Sorrows Like Sea Billows Roll (A sermon to widows and widowers)

"What Will You Do With Your Life?" (A sermon to the teen-age)

Twilight and Evening Bell (A sermon to the aged)

O Death, Where Is Thy Sting? (A sermon to Mourners)

Enforced Idleness (A sermon to the unemployed)

The Pastor Interviews Satan (A sermon on the temper)

Religion and Life

Furnishing material for a series of sermons as it does, makes this a helpful book for preachers.

WHEN GOD DIED, by Herbert Lockyer. 118 pages. Cloth Boards. Price \$1.00.

Here are twelve sermons which have the cross for their center and circumference. There is a spiritual warmth to the book which will render it a great blessing to its readers. The preacher will find helpful hints for sermon-building and the layman will find it an interesting devotional study. Every message is true to the Book and exalts the Lord Jesus as Saviour. The Christ of the cross should be more precious and real after reading these messages.

From Harper and Brothers, New York City.

HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS, by Alfred Grant Walton. 56 pages. Cloth Boards. Price 75c.

This book, which is most attractively printed and bound, being the work of a prominent minister, dispenses comfort, inspiration, and hope for the human heart. It is really a literary gem of heart-felt poems and prose essays which thrill the soul. It would be an especially fine gift for young people, particularly graduates.

From Howard W. Nicholson
1406 Lagoon Avenue
Wilmington, Cal.

WINGS AND SKY, by Martha Snell Nicholson. 128 pages. Cloth \$1.50. Suede \$1.00.

For twenty-five years, the author has been an invalid. They have been twenty-five years, of pain and thankfulness by one who has learned songs in the night. This is a book of poems which have been produced as the result

of affliction. Yet God has led Mrs. Nicholson through the furnace fires, not only for her refinement, but to give encouragement to others that they might triumph over physical weakness and infirmity.

Do you know some suffering saint? Do you know some aged soldier of the cross, yet now infirm? This is the gift for such a one. It will be appreciated next to God's word. The poem "His Plan For Me" is worth more than the price of the book.

Every sufferer will find encouragement and even the hale and hearty will be blessed by reading these 168 poems. Why not send a copy especially to your mother?

From the American Printery
Little Rock, Arkansas

SCIENTIFIC HOMILETICS, by James F. Dew, 132 pages. Heavy paper binding. Price \$2.00.

The title implies the nature of the book. It should be a valuable aid to any preacher in preparing messages from God's word. It gives the substance of what one would ordinarily learn in a course of Homiletics. It also contains 10 varieties of argument and fifteen figures of speech. There are also thirty six sermon outlines on practical, doctrinal, and missionary subjects. These outlines are worth the price of the book, and any preacher who reads and studies the book will be a more forceful exponent of God's Word resultingly. Surprise your pastor with this book as a gift.

From Cokesbury Press
Nashville, Tennessee

VALUES THAT LAST. By Clovis G. Chappell. Cloth Boards. 216 pages. Price \$1.50.

This is another series of sermons by one who is recognized everywhere as an outstanding preacher.

Let me first present two criticisms. First, I do not like his implied denial of the doctrine of predestination. To deny this doctrine is to deny much of God's Word. Then on page 62, he says, "If he is a son of Adam, he is also a son of God." This of course is entirely fallacious, for one must be born again to be a son of God. Cf. John 8:44; John 1:12; Gal. 3:26.

In spite of these two criticisms, it is one of the best books of sermons I have ever read. They are messages which have a heart appeal and best of all from the preacher's stand-point, each offers helpful suggestions for several sermons. Every preacher should own this book. It would be a delightful gift for your pastor.

A QUIVER OF SUNBEAMS. By Alfred H. C. Moore. Cloth Boards. 183 pages. Price \$1.50.

This is a unique book of 27 chapters, each a brief, but pointed sermon in itself, in which are dis-

cussed the everyday issues of life.

It is a book of wholesome Christian philosophy. Every reader of this paper should read this book. You'll never forget the chapters, "All Kinds Of Trouble", and "Hard Words," and there are twenty-five more chapters just as interesting. Your pastor will thank you again and again for this book after reading it, and what's more, if you buy it for yourself, you'll thank God that I recommended it to you that you might purchase it.

From J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Penna.

STRANGER WITHIN THE GATES. By Grace Livingston Hill. Price, \$2.00. 328 pages. Cloth binding.

This is the latest book written by Mrs. Hill, and it the story of a beloved family known as the Garlands.

At the death of Mr. Garland, the responsibility of rearing and educating five children, fell upon Mary Garland, the mother of the family. They were one ideal family until Rex, a son of eighteen in college, wrote that he had been married, and was bringing his bride home for Christmas. This was a most trying time for all, for they could not understand how that Rex could bring a stranger into their home especially at this time of the year,—the Christmas season, which meant so much to each of them.

It was at this time of trial that Mary Garland came to see that the only one who could solve this great problem which had come so unexpectedly into their lives; was Jesus. She and her children had been Christians for a long time, but since the death of their earthly father, they had drifted away from their Heavenly Father. So when Paul, the oldest son returned from college for the holidays, Mary Garland gathered her children around her, and there in stillness of the night just two days before Christmas, they poured out their hearts to God and asked His guidance in this great time of need.

It was a real trial for the family when Rex brought his wife home, who was nothing more than a modern girl of the world. They all realize that this has been sent upon them by God as punishment for their lack of faith in God. The meaning of the Scripture, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby"; is clearly taught in this book. But through the guiding hand of God, everything comes out best for all concerned. If you wonder why saints suffer, read **STRANGER WITHIN THE GATES**.

DOWN TO THE POCKETBOOK
AND DEEPER YET

(Continued from Page One)

a hundred dollar bill. He was sorry down to his pocketbook.

A church desired to be a missionary in fact as well as in name. Its desire moved members to concern of varying sort. Some members were anxious, Oh, so anxious for the church to do more for missions. One member was so anxious that she added to her regular offering a love gift of a check for fifty dollars for missions. She was anxious down to

her pocketbook.

A denomination found itself deeper and deeper in debt. Members of churches were grieved, Oh, so grieved, at the denominational situation but not grieved down to the pocketbook.

A paper desired to advance the truth. Its editor worked hard at the job. His efforts brought praise from readers. But not down to the pocketbook. The articles it gave were appreciated. The sermons it published were used. Some readers even thanked God and some wrote that they felt the need of the paper — but not down to the pocketbook.

A church dared to break with the world in an effort to be scriptural. It found friends within and without its membership who wanted, Oh, so much, to see it succeed — but not down to the pocketbook.

Down to the pocketbook — is a good measurement of the interest we have, the sorrow we feel, the sympathy we express, the support we give.

Down to the pocketbook — is a good way to help keep up a church's honor, repair damage done to its property, support missionaries it loves and spread the message it preaches.

Down to the pocketbook — is a good way to show interest in a denomination and praise of a paper.

Before a baptismal service the preacher went to the dressing room to see if the candidate was ready. The new convert met the pastor with a smile and said something like this: "Before I left to come here to the service tonight I told a friend that I was going to be baptized. He noticed my pipe in my hand and said to me: 'Are you going to have your pipe baptized too?' " The question can be applied in some cases to the pocket-

(Continued on Page Five)

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"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"

(Continued from Page One)

no place in the Bible, has authorized the commemoration of the birth of our Saviour. We are told to commemorate His death. This we do every time we observe the Lord's Supper. However, there is not a Scripture from Genesis to Revelation wherein we are told to celebrate His birth. I challenge each of you of my invisible audience to find one hint in the Word of God that we are to celebrate a season known as Christmas.

McClintock and Strong in their "Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature," say, "The Observance of Christmas is not of Divine appointment nor is it of New Testament origin. The day of Christ's birth cannot be ascertained from the New Testament nor indeed from any other source. It was celebrated with all the marks of respect usually bestowed on high festivals, and distinguished also by the custom, survival probably from heathen antiquity, of interchanging presents, and making entertainment. At the same time the heathen winter holidays were transformed, and, so to speak, sanctified by the establishment of the Christmas cycle of holidays, and the heathen customs, so far as they were harmless were brought over into Christian use."

Charles H. Spurgeon, perhaps the greatest Baptist preacher since the days of Jesus, in his exposition of Psalm 81 says, "We will keep such feasts as the Lord appoints, but not those which Rome or Canterbury may ordain. When it can be proved that the observance of Christmas, Whitsuntide, and other Popish festivals, were even instituted by a Divine statute, we also will attend to them but not until then. It is as much our duty to reject the traditions of men as to observe the ordinances of the Lord."

II

Not only is it true that Christmas is not of Divine appointment, but it is also true that no one knows even when Christ was born. I am positive, and all students of the Scriptures who are willing to take God's Word as a final basis of authority, will agree that He could not have been born in the month of December. Sanford's "Concise Cyclopedia of Religious Knowledge" says of Christmas day: "A festivity of the Christian church observed on the 25th of December in memory of the birth of Jesus Christ. There is difficulty, however, in accepting this as the date of the nativity, December being the height of the rainy season in Judah, when neither flocks nor shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem. Although as regards Christmas, an ingenious case on behalf of the month of October has been made out, from what is known concerning the course of Abia (Luke 1:5). It doesn't seem possible to arrive at any certain conclusion. By the fifth century, however, whether from the influence of some tradition or from the desire to supplant heathen festivities of that period of the year, such as the Saturnalia, the 25th of December has been generally agreed upon."

III

There are many who in spite of what has been said, would argue for the observance of Christmas by replying that the whole world celebrates Christmas. Strange as it may seem, most people seem to think that God is on the side of the majority, and hence, since the most of the world celebrates Christmas, Christmas must then be pleasing to the Lord. May I remind you beloved, that throughout the Bible in practically every instance, God was on the side of the minority. When Israel was in Egypt, though they numbered better than two million, they were a hopeless minority, yet no one would dare deny that God was on their side. When Israel sent the spies into Canaan to investigate conditions before attempting to enter the land, only two of the twelve said, "We can possess it." Ten brought back a pessimistic report. This Scripture plainly shows that God was on the side of the minority. In the days of our Lord Jesus' sojourn in the flesh, the majority were against Him, though they were badly wrong in their attitude. No one of sensible reasoning believes God to be on the side of Hitler and the German government in opposing the Jewish minority. It is a rare instance that a majority is ever right. I would remind those of you who believe that since everybody observes Christmas, it must therefore be fitting and proper for you to do so, — I would remind you that you are on dangerous ground in following the multitude. Remember the Scriptures: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil." (Ex. 23:2) "I have refrained my feet

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**A Rediscovery Of The New
Testament Church**

By Pastor A. N. Morris, 221 Richmond St., Huntington, W. Va., is a clear cut discussion proving that the first church was a Baptist church, and that the N. T. church is an assembly and not some invisible universal concern. This position is buttressed by both Scripture and scholarship. One copy 15¢ 2 for 25¢, 10 for \$1.00, 100 for \$8.00.

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PHONES

RUSSELL 271

ASHLAND 271

LAWRENCE GILLEY — Route Man

"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"

(Continued from Page Four)

from every evil way, that I might keep thy word." (Psa. 119:101)

IV

May I ask you beloved a simple question: Suppose that Christmas were of Divine appointment and that it was for the purpose of honoring Christ, is the manner in which it is observed honoring to the Son of God? It is hard for me to understand how that gluttony, extravagance, drinking, firecrackers, and the exchange of gifts could be pleasing to Him who died for us. Please note the expression that I have used — "the exchanging of gifts." Great care is taken to be sure that the gift made to a friend is worth as much in dollars and cents as the one you expect to receive from this friend. And all this beloved is for the purpose of honoring the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ. If it were my birthday that you were honoring it would seem logical that you should send the gifts to me, but in this case—observing the birthday of Christ we send gifts to one another. It indeed seems strange to me how that the heaping of gifts upon one another could bring any honor to the Son of God. But, says the objector, did not the Wise men give gifts? Exactly beloved! But they did not give gifts to one another—they gave them to Jesus.

For the past several weeks in the papers there has been advertised Christmas Whiskeys and special brands of drinks for the holiday season. How could this bring honor to Jesus? Instead, it is a disgrace to civilization.

In the town of Huntington, the business men of this city presented a demonstration in the form of a parade to open the Christmas business season in which there was no suggestion of the birth of Christ, but rather, the emphasis was emphatically upon the pagan and mythical elements which have always been part of the celebration of this day.

Now be honest, how many of you have remained home today because it was Christmas, when you ought to have been in God's house. Extravagance, cooking and carnally have characterized your life today. I ask you, Have you pleased Christ today.

V

I realize that there are many who will agree with me in what I have said thus far, yet they persist in the celebration of Christmas on the ground that one has to give the children a good time. I am quite ready to agree that it is necessary that children be given a good time, but certainly not at the expense of dishonoring the Saviour. Why should it be considered necessary to drag the holy name of Jesus into a celebration which is purely carnal and fleshly.

Furthermore, I for one, do not believe that it is right to lie to a child even though you may desire to give the child a good time. There are multiplied thousands of parents who have literally lied to their offsprings at this Christmas season, not once but dozens of times, relative to Santa Clause. May I remind you that the Scriptures teach, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Do not be surprised if that lie comes home to you multiplied many fold.

In a little while that child is going to get older and is going to learn that the story of Santa Clause has been only a lie. In a Sunday School class of seven year old boys a few weeks ago they were discussing Christmas. One of the lads had found that there was no Santa Clause. He had exploded the myth of Christmas. When he told his Sunday School teacher of his discovery, he said, "When I get a little older, I am going to look into this Jesus Christ business also. I never did see Santa Clause and I never did see Jesus Christ. Since they lied to me about Santa, I am wondering if there is really any Jesus." Here beloved, is a child who has the seeds of doubt and skepticism relative to Christ sown in his mind just because his parents and teachers observe Christmas in order to show the children a good time.

In this respect beloved, are you willing to listen to the Scripture? "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4) In the light of these Scriptures, I urge you to be very careful at to the good time you prepare for your children at the expense of the truth and the honor of the name of Jesus.

VI

I recognize that there are many churches who observe this Christmas festivity. In many of them upon last Sunday and today

L. M. ONEY
General Merchandise
Phone 273
Worthington, Ky.

DOWN TO THE POCKETBOOK AND DEEPER YET

(Continued from Page Four)

book. Happy is the convert who is baptized pocketbook and all. Happy is the church member whose service does not stop short of his pocketbook. Happy is the church whose members love it down to the pocketbook. Happy is the paper whose readers appreciate it down to the pocketbook.

—The Sling And Stone.

NATION'S TOBACCO BILL

(Continued from Page One)

that in other classifications the most dollars are spent by that half of the population with the most income, but the tobacco analysis is the first which gives information on the principal factors behind the difference in consumption. The study shows that families above the medium income level buy more tobacco and pay higher prices and that a large percentage of these families consume tobacco than in the group with less income.

Cigarette-using families, per thousand families, total 607 in Chicago, 678 in New York City, 555 average of six other large cities, 495 average of 14 middle-sized cities and 445 average in 29 smaller cities. The average purchase is about a package a day among families with the most income and between four and five packages a week among those with below medium incomes.

Other facts brought out are interesting. Twice as much money is spent for smoking as for books, newspapers and magazines; twice as much as for toilet preparations and other personal care; half as much as for amusements and recreation.

That the American public buys twice as much tobacco as reading matter is an item that ought to

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Opal Porter, Mgr.

provoke serious consideration of the trend of times.

—Editorial in Tampa Tribune

COMMENT:

The editorial given above ought to cause everybody to think—that (Continued on Page Six)

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"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"

(Continued from Page Five)

the preaching of the Word of God has been dispensed with and cantatas, pagents, and pantomimes have been substituted. Beloved, so far as I am concerned, there is nothing which should take the place of the preaching of the Word of God. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk. 16:15) It is through the preaching of God's Word that God has ordained that men should be saved. "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (I Cor. 1:21) When we substitute anything else for the message in sermon, we are substituting the commands of men for the doctrines of God. Surely no one who does so could fittingly ask the Lord's blessing upon the substitution that has been made.

Today the minds of the majority of those who attend services in the house of the Lord have been turned from the things of God to the festivities of the day. Santa Clause, jingle bells, and Christmas trees, along with all of the carnal jollification which accompanies this season, has occupied a prominent place in the minds of the greater proportion of the people of this country.

And while we mentioned Christmas trees, will you listen to God's condemnation of this practice? "Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not." (Jer. 10:1-4) You will notice that God declares that this practice is an heathen one, and He thus admonishes saved folk to abstain from heathen ways. I do not mean to say that each person who has a Christmas tree in his home is an heathen; yet, I do say that it is an heathen, idolatrous practice which you have allowed to come into your home in the guise of Christianity and under the pretext of honoring Christ.

VII

In this respect may I tell you a little more concerning the history of Christmas. Of course, we borrowed it from Rome, that is, from Roman Catholicism. John A. Broadus, in his tract, "Glad Giving", says "When the Western or Latin (Catholic) Christians began the practice of observing a certain day in commemoration of the Saviour's birth, one thing which we first find mentioned about two centuries after that event, and had settled upon the last week of the year for that purpose, they very naturally transferred to this celebration some old Roman customs (heathen customs) which had been for many centuries attached to the feast called the Saturnalia, observed by the Romans in connection with the winter Solstice."

You see beloved, Christmas came through Roman Catholicism. Instead of taking it into our homes, we ought to take it back to its original home.

However, beloved, if you have been shocked at what I have said thus far, may I intensify your feeling by telling you that Christmas was observed fully 800 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Nelson's Encyclopedia, Volume 3 Page 114, we read, "It is, nevertheless apparant that the sanctity of this feast was recognized in times long antecedent to the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. The Roman winter Solstice as celebrated on December 25, observes Professor Tylor in connection with the worship of the sun god, Minthoa, appears to have been instituted in the special form by Aurelian about 273 A. D., and to this festival the day owes its opposite name of the birthday of the unconquered son. With symbolic appropriateness, though not with historical justification, the day was adopted in the western (Roman) church where it appears to have been generally introduced by the fourth century and hence in time it passed to the eastern church as the solemn anniversary of the birth of Christ, the Christian Dies Natalis (Christmas day). A study of the customs associated with this period also reveals an heathen, if not invariably an solar origin. The decorations of churches with the once sacred mistletoe and holly is in itself pagan survival. Other illustrations might be cited such as the sending of Christmas presents, analogues of which are found in the yule gifts of northern Europe and ancient Rome."

Thus beloved, you see that Christmas instead of being the anniversary of the birthday of our Lord, has been handed down to us through Roman Catholicism, having been adopted by the Catholics from the heathen and pagan peoples who lived before the days of Catholicism.

Shortly after Noah's flood lived Nimrod, who was a great grandson of Noah. He was a wicked and licentious man. He married his own mother, whose name was Semiramis. These two together engaged in hunting and drunken debauchery. They were the founders of the country of Babylon. Finally Nimrod was slain and the devil used wicked and cunning mother to foist the false Messiah on the

world. Semiramis said that her son and husband had been resurrected and was now a god, an invisible spirit god, and succeeded in making the people believe this lie. She was a wicked, shrewd, and unscrupulous woman and wanted some glory for herself, so she boldly put forth the claim that she was the woman whose prophesied seed of Gen. 3:15 was to bruise the head of the serpent, and that her resurrected son was the seed of the woman. This was the beginning of the mother and son idea which we have now in our Christmas celebration. Urged on by Satan, this wicked woman designed a symbol of all this deception. The dead Nimrod was pictured by the dead stump of a tree. Semiramis claimed that an evergreen tree grew up out of this stump in one night, and this evergreen tree pictured Nimrod risen and glorified. Semiramis also gave her son the title "The Father of Gods", and

(Continued on Page Seven)

NATION'S

TOBACCO BILL

(Continued from Page Five)

is, everybody whose brain is not too smoke befogged to do any brain work.

The tobacco evil is one of the worst that this nation knows. We are glad that there is more and more of a conscience against this evil in our church at Buffalo Avenue. Recently when a man was baptized, he handed us a package of Camels before entering the baptistry, and said, "I am leaving these things on this side of the baptistry."

Good for him! Every Christian ought to be rid of this dope (cigarette) habit.

—Faith and Life

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"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"

(Continued from page Six)

"The Branch", and attached the titles, "Mother of God", and "The Queen of Heaven" for herself. Please notice that one of the titles applied to Jesus in the Bible is "The Branch." Nimrod, before his death, founded the Babylonian Empire and built the Tower of Babel. On the stone tablets recently dug up in the vicinity of ancient Babylon, Nimrod is pictured with a man crushing the serpent's head; in other words, he is represented as doing just what Jesus is soon to do, namely, destroy the Devil. Thus Nimrod became a false Messiah and Satan succeeded in getting the Babylonian Empire to accept this fraudulent and counterfeit Messiah.

When the Visigoths and the Austrogoths, the Huns, and the Teutonic peoples of northern Europe swept down over Rome in the fourth century, they had no respect for churches and for the religion which was preached in that day. In order to overawe the superstitious minds of this barbaric people, Roman Catholicism turned to ancient Babylon and brought in candles, beads, the observance of Christmas, and dozens of pagan and heathen customs in order to impress the superstitious minds of this barbaric horde. Cardinal Newman, of the Roman Catholic Church, in a book entitled, "Development" says concerning the adoption of these heathen customs in the Catholic Church: "These are the very instruments and appendages of demon worship, but they are sanctified by the adoption into the church."

Thus you see beloved from this brief history of Christmas which we have taken time to recount to you that Christmas has gotten to us not through the Bible, and not as a command of God, but through Rome, which in turn adopted it from Babylon who received it directly from Satan. Hence beloved, we make no apologies when we declare that Christmas is worldly, Romanish, heathen, and Devilish.

In closing beloved, may I remind you that Jesus Christ is coming back some day. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (Jn. 14:3) "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10,11) When he comes, I am going to answer to Him and not to you. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Cor. 5:10) I want to be sure that at that time I can stand before Him with confidence, and not in fear and trembling. It is thus beloved that I believe without considering whether you believe it or not. My responsibility is unto Christ. To Him I must give an answer for my life. I repeat again, that I realize that the message I have preached tonight will not in the least add to my popularity with men; yet, beloved, my God knows that I am not seeking to please men, but to honor Him.

A few days ago, one of the sweetest Christian characters of my acquaintance went home to be with the Lord. I speak of Mrs. Jenny Close, of Huntington, W. Va. She was 88 years old when she departed to be with the Lord. She had been a constant listener to this program for months. When I stood beside her casket and looked upon her sweet Christian face, it seemed well-nigh impossible for me to realize that this dear child of God was gone to be with Him. As I stood there, I remembered the visit that she paid me just a few weeks ago. I will never forget how she expressed her appreciation for my messages, and one of the statements that she made to me when she said, "You have taught me so much that I never knew before." And now she is up yonder with the Lord, and He has taught her more in the last few days than I or all the preachers of the world combined could ever teach her.

Yes, beloved, that is exactly our purpose in this program. We want to teach you about the Lord, His way, His Word, and we want to help you to learn more of Him that you might do His will better. May God grant that this message tonight shall bring you to that place of submission in your life that you shall seek more than ever to walk more closely and more strictly before our God and Saviour.

I am sure that many of you may be offended at what I have said this evening. I do not say that I do not care, for I do care. I'd rather have your friendship than to have your enmity. Yet when it comes to a decision to please you or Christ, I must please Him, if it costs me every friend in the world — even then I shall still have the Friend of friends — Jesus, who sticketh closer than a brother. God bless you all!

—This message was delivered December 25, 1938.



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A MISSIONARY'S WIFE PICTURES BRAZIL

(Continued from Page Two)

woodwork is what I call pearl gray. The baseboards are painted brown. The floors are made of two different kinds of wood,—one dark brown and the other light yellow. Both are hardwood. Each piece is 8¼x2¼ inches. Most of the floors are laid in brick fashion. Some are laid in other designs, and they are very beautiful. Around the walls and between the doors is white tile. There is very little wood used in building the new houses, because the insects soon eat it up. There are ants everywhere, upstairs and down, and many kinds.

As to the furniture: We have it fixed very well. Of course, there are lots of things we would like to have yet — such as a sewing machine, radio, and a good cook stove. We burn charcoal and have two things in which you burn it. They look like a deep wash pan with holes in the bottom and a place built up for the air to pass through, and to catch the ashes. You make your fire and set your kettle on the fire. A very poor way to cook. I have no oven. It takes one all morning to cook dinner. When the fire dies down, you have to fill it again and then it takes sometime for it to get started. I have a good cook. I pay her \$2.00 a month and her board. She goes to market each morning and gets the food.

Back to the furniture again: It is nice. The most of it is new, but wood is plentiful, and they use it. Most of it is a kind of red wood. You asked me these questions, and I have answered them as best I could. The customs are so different here, and many people in the states would not understand why we have such a nice house, and would refuse to give to missions if they knew of this. But unless you live in a nice house and have servants and dress nice, you are thought nothing of. I believe here is where many missionaries have made a bad mistake. We have prayed much over this, and have tried to follow the Lord's leading, and have tried to do what we think is best. We want our Saviour glorified above all things. I am willing to live in the worst place in town if that would be for His glory. I only want to please Him. Pray much of us. Many of these people we will never touch only by our lives. Mk. 14:33 (The last part especially).

Many thanks for the money. (Editor's Note: This was a birthday offering from the Philathea Class of our Church). I don't know yet what I will use it for. May God bless each one that had a part. I wish I could be there Sunday and thank them myself.

and tell them face to face of this awful destitute field. Maybe in a few years, if God wills, I can. I am sending you some pictures, and will send more in the next letter.

Well I must close. Give my love to the class, and may God bless you all as He sees fit, for He does all things well.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. Dickerson

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