

# STUDENT NIGHT AT CHR

—For Thoughtful Reading—

**GOD IS LOVE** — Pressures at Christmas encourage us to buy beyond our means. We become weary and worn. Often we hurry about, and afterwards wonder why we have to put up with such mad turmoil every year. The world seems to strive to make us so weary that we do not have time to recall the real meaning of the season. It may even whisper to us that we are too exhausted to go to church, to remember the first Christmas, and to thank God for His gift.

But wise men still resist the pressures of the unbelieving world. Wise men continue to make their pilgrimage to the Manger at Bethlehem. It is an intelligent approach to the problems of humanity in the present hour to seek the Christ, there to discover again the truth that God is love.—Tidings.

**AGE-OLD TRADITION** — We do not know when the first creche was set up as a tableau to illustrate the nativity, but church records indicate that St. Francis of Assisi received special permission from the Pope to reconstruct the scene in the Bethlehem stable.

Today the crib, surrounded by figurines of the Holy Family, the Three Wise Men, shepherds, angels and farm animals, is to southern Europe and Catholic countries what the brightly decorated Christmas tree is to America.

In the Southern Hemisphere Christmas is celebrated in mid-summer heat. They will have the traditional turkey dinner. Families often go to the seashore or the hills for a picnic.

—The Lighter Side of Life—

**TRYING TIMES** — A little blonde-haired, blue-eyed girl, about four years old, wandered away from her mother and over to the doll counter during the Christmas rush. After deep concentration, she chose a pair of dainty pink pajamas for the somewhat bedraggled and much-loved doll she carried with her.

She looked about uncertainly for a moment, and then asked in a very serious, grown-up tone, "Where is the dressing room please? I'd like to try them on her." — Cheer.

**IMPROVISER** — Our five-year-old grandson had one line in the kindergarten Christmas playlet. He was to appear in angel's robes and say, "I bring you good tidings"

## PASTOR'S CORNER



### MERRY AFTER-CHRISTMAS

It's been said that December 26th is the BLAH day of the year. Everyone experiences letdown after the excitement and anticipation of Christmas. The tree dropping in the corner has somehow lost its magic glow, here and there a dead branch falls off. Late arriving Christmas Cards receive little attention; 80% of the expensive toys you bought because the kids saw them advertised on TV are broken and litter the house like dead soldiers on a battlefield. The house is a mess. You flop on the couch and groan, "Thank goodness, that's over for another year."

### THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WAS THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

After the original one, there was no AFTER-CHRISTMAS BLAHS. Listen to what Luke says about the shepherds who went to the stable that memorable night to see Jesus: "AND THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED (THAT'S AFTER CHRISTMAS), GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD FOR ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY HAD HEARD AND SEEN AS IT WAS TOLD UNTO THEM."

Here is the proper sequel to Christmas: glorifying and praising God for all He's done for us. If our heart has become another Bethlehem and Christ has been born there and dwells within, we'll have a great AFTER-CHRISTMAS.

What to do after Christmas? Begin the new year by glorifying and praising God through witnessing, praying, devotion to His church and allowing Christ to Live His Life through you.

### MERRY AFTER-CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU A BIG THANKS FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS MUSIC

All our choirs and drama department outdid themselves with this year's great music. It's impossible to put into words what this kind of music program means to our church and to our celebration of Christmas. MBBC is in your debt.

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

and our prayers for God's comfort go to two of our church families:

Jack Brown, his children, Ricky, Kathy, Billy, and Sandy, in the loss of their wife and mother, MaryJo.

To Mrs. Bill Barnett in the loss of her mother.

Ronald Dunn