

may, but we may still hear the message of warning and of judgment, if we but listen to God as he speaks through the Bible, through providence, and through the adorning of the Holy Spirit within our hearts. May we be quick to hear and to heed the message, which is sent in love, that bearing we may repent of our sins and find eternal life through faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

DECEMBER 21.

Christmas Lesson.

Luke 2: 10-20.

GOLDEN TEXT. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2: 11.

On the Sunday preceding Christmas our thoughts turn naturally to the manger at Bethlehem, and in accordance with its usual custom the International Lesson Committee has assigned for our study on this Sunday a Christmas Lesson.

THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD.

The picture which the Evangelist Luke gives of the shepherds who were abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night is one that has fastened itself in the imagination of some of the world's greatest artists.

THE MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN.

The words of the angelic messenger at once allayed the fear of the shepherds. It was good tidings of great joy which he had come to proclaim, and the message which he brought has since gladdened the whole world with its assurance of the birth of the Messiah. Never was such good news heard among men as when the angel told the shepherds of Bethlehem the joyful news of the Saviour's birth.

THE SONG OF THE ANGELS.

The angelic visitant who said, "Fear not" was not alone, for "suddenly," we read "there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." It was a glorious song and it is still re-echoing through the world, and shall go down through the centuries to the end of time.

THE VISIT TO THE MANGER.

When the angels had left them, the shepherds had but one thought and that was to seek out the new-born Saviour. Hastening to Bethlehem, they found Mary and Joseph with the babe, which was laid in a manger in accordance with the words of the angel. They soon made known the wonderful vision which they had seen and all who heard marvelled at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

THE THINGS TREASURED IN MARY'S HEART.

It is a significant sentence which the Evangelist has penned concerning Mary. Others were talking about these wonderful happenings, but Mary "kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." With a mother's love she was treasuring up these tokens of the divinity of our Lord, whose heavenly origin she understood better than any other living being.

THE SHEPHERD'S RETURN TO THEIR FLOCKS.

After they had seen the infant Christ the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all things they had heard and seen." As one commentator has expressed it, they returned "to their duty as shepherds, but with a new life and blessing in all their daily work. Feeding sheep could never again be commonplace toil to them. After our holiest communion with God, our views from the Pisgahs of life our insight into the Word and heaven on the mountains of transfiguration, we must return to our daily duties, but with a new life in them."

JESUS THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND.

The crowning thought of our lesson is suggested by the words of the angel to the shepherds. The significance of Christmas for us lies in the fact that it celebrates the coming of the Saviour of mankind.

The mission of Jesus was "to save his people from their sins," and this salvation is for all who will repent and believe. Jesus brought a full

and complete salvation for the world, and he stands as the only perfect Saviour whom the world can find. Let us emphasize to all our classes in the Sabbath School in our church services, and in all our homes this crowning truth that Jesus is the Saviour of mankind, and will be our Saviour if we put our trust in him.

Religious News.

MACNAQUAC, N. B. Fourteen candidates were baptized Sabbath, Nov. 23, and ten at the previous Sabbath. Bro. Hayward has been with me for a few days, rendering valuable service. I expect to baptize next Sunday (20th). This large field seems ready for the harvest.

GEO. HOWARD.

It was our pastor's happy experience to baptize into the fellowship of 3rd Elgin church on Lord's Day, 9th

November, Mrs. Adam Power and Edith Bannister. May all thanks be rendered unto God for his mercy drops.

J. W. COLLETT, Church Clerk.

TABERNACLE, ST. JOHN. The special meetings now being held at the Tabernacle church are increasing in interest. Had baptism on

three successive Sundays recently, and expect to baptize next Lord's day. A number are seeking the way into the church. We expect to continue the special meetings next week. The work of the church is prospering with increased attendance, increased contributions and a deepening of the spiritual life.

H. H. K.

There are 31 homes in SIMONDS. (Branch Simonds, 8 Baptists, 8 Ad-of Fairville field), 4 Primitive Baptists, 3 Methodists, 1 Catholic and 7 unclassified. 15 of these are generally represented at our Sunday services. The Advents Baptists and P. Baptists have church buildings. The Baptists have services on Sunday, fortnightly and each alternate Tuesday. We have just ended a fortnight of special meetings. The Christians experienced much spiritual awakening. Two young ladies were baptized last Lord's day. Others are seeking the light. Believers, pray for us. **WYLLIE H. SMITH.**

God is manifesting his quickening power in the **NORTON, N. B.** Norton church. We are holding special meetings for the past three weeks, and a very precious display of divine grace has been the result. Quite a large number have manifested an interest in their salvation, and a number have personally accepted Christ as their Saviour. Yesterday, Nov. 30, it was our happy privilege to baptize seven (7) of our young people who delighted to follow their Lord. Bro. Bynon preached for us on two successive week evenings, and gave us most splendid help. We continue the services this week with the hope that others also will make a complete surrender to Christ. **H. S. SHAW.**

A little over a year has passed since our new church was dedicated, and we are happy to report that we are now free of debt. All the services of the church are well attended and the interest is good. **MILTON ADDISON.**

SUREY, N. B. The pastor of the Olivet Baptist church, Rev. Marcell Nales, is sick at present and there are no meetings at present. But we are hoping that God in his infinite mercy will raise him up to preach the gospel once more. Brethren pray for us.

Four miles from Petiteodiac, a place known as Graves Settlement, there lived a few Baptists who resolved to build a house of worship. Three weeks ago the house was completed, and in the presence of a

very large crowd the house was set apart, or dedicated to the services of God. Through the wise generosity of Rev. N. McNeil, everything connected with the opening was a complete success. Rev. E. C. Corey was the preacher of the morning, Dr. J. W. Brown in the afternoon, Rev. H. H. Saunders in the evening. Although many of the people were compelled to stand up during the services they were listened to with marked attention. At the close of the evening service an evangelistic service was conducted by the writer. A number expressed a desire to be saved. I have continued the meetings since. Nine (9) were baptized, others have professed conversion and no doubt will join some other church. Bro. Corey was with us two nights, Dr. Brown one night and Brother McNeill several nights. The people are delighted to have these brethren come as they preach the grand old gospel. There are some 20 Baptists here who desire to be organized into a church. We are looking to God for a rich blessing this week. **J. A. MARPLE.**

For the past few months the **ELGIN, N. B.** Goshen people have been repairing their house of worship. Last Sunday it was again opened for worship with due regard for the occasion. Dr. Brown and Rev. N. A. McNeill kindly preached for us morning and afternoon. Although the day was unpleasant good congregations gathered, good offerings were given, and at the close it was gratifying to state that the amount in hand would about meet all bills. \$500.00 has been expended, and the house thoroughly refitted. It is finished within with hardwood veneer and nicely painted in natural wood. A furnace has been put in the basement. The work is so well done that for years it should not need any further repairs. Two weeks ago the Pollet River church met at Dea. Solomon Smith's and after spending the evening very pleasantly, presented the pastor with the sum of \$26.00. We gratefully acknowledge the same. The time is approaching when this large field that I now try to serve alone, should be divided. The people are well able and the work demands it. **H. H. SAUNDERS.**

New Brunswick Home Missions.

At the Board meeting on Dec. 2, the work for three months was received, and all of the reports showed commendable zeal on the part of the pastors, each part of the work being well cared for. The number of calls for aid is increasing. The vacant fields continue to call for men and financial aid. At every meeting such calls are repeated with emphasis.

The Board is doing its best under the existing circumstances to meet all these demands and requests. However, as soon as one field is well cared for, another is to the fore needing assistance. At present nine fields are with us pastors and some of them have been waiting for ten years for a man to lead them, others for two or three years have been without regular pastoral care. The Board is now ready to give the aid needed to help these fields if the men can be obtained to supply them.

This great need should cause deep concern to all who are interested in the progress of our work as Baptists. The neglect of these fields must end in stagnation and retrogression. Two causes for this state are quite apparent. Young men preparing for the ministry are offered more lucrative places with less of the physical hardship attending, and do not feel called upon to make the sacrifice demanded.

The churches do not understand that a more vigorous effort should be made to secure a pastor and large sacrifices be made for his support. The want of executive ability and push on scattered fields is often the cause of long lapses in pastoral work. Very frequently the pastor has to be the executive. Without a pastor the Board is drawn into service and called upon to choose the man, arrange amount of salary and stand behind the arrangement to the end.

I firmly believe that if such men, Province men, as are now in the Senior Class of Newton could be prevailed upon to enter these vacant fields, the next few years would see one of the greatest developments our united work have ever witnessed.