

# The Dawn of Tomorrow

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## A Christmas Prayer

May the spirit of Christmas remain in all men's hearts so that hope and peace and love shall prevail over our land and all other lands on earth.

## The Shepherds Visit to The Manger

There is no record in Scripture of the shepherds bringing gifts when they came to the manger. We can let our imagination play happily with the thought that they had something with them to offer the Child, or that they came again bringing some present out of the love of their hearts. In one of the old English Nativity plays they brought cherries, a bird, a ball.

What we do know about the shepherds is that they brought themselves to the manger—and with haste. The moment the angels left them,

they went straight to Bethlehem to look for their newborn Saviour.

There are twentieth-century folk who are not so simply wise as the shepherds. They become bemused by the angels' song, they stand a round dreaming under the Christmas stars, and somehow they never go to the manger at all. Oh, they may send a gift to show their interest, to mark their celebration of the child's birthday—and it may be a substantial gift, perhaps even a sacrifice. But

these givers have forgotten—or perhaps they never knew—that we cannot send gifts to the manger, we have to take them. For the first gift must be ourselves. No amount of philanthropy can be a substitute for that.

They are forgetting too, that important as "Christmas giving" may be, Christmas receiving must come first. God is the Christmas Giver. His gift is Himself.

If we were not so used to the story if we were hearing for the first time, it would seem incredible. But it is true. What now seems incredible is that we could refuse the Christmas Gift—could know about it, sing about it, even imagine that we rejoice because of it, and yet refuse from Christmas to Christmas to accept it for our own. This Christmas, let it be different. Let us come to the manger, humbly and with haste, and ask for the Gift that waits to be given:

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in: Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

## NUCLEAR TEST BAN TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME

After a delay of two months, the quarrelsome nuclear-test ban talks were scheduled to resume in Geneva this week. In response to a U. S.-British invitation, the Soviet Union last week agreed to pick up the discussions where they left off at the end of the 340th session.

Although the Soviet Union warned that it would resume its own atomic explosions if the West were to carry out any tests during the talks,

the U. S. made it clear that it would not agree to any unilateral test moratorium until agreement was reached. Said the State Department: "The U. S. will continue to take such actions as it deems necessary to safeguard its national security until a controlled test-ban agreement is achieved." Thus, the Atomic Energy Commission will go ahead with the fifth in its current series of underground blasts, scheduled for Dec. 10.

## Barbados and Bahia Now On Ship List

Itineraries of the liners Argentina and Brazil, operated by Moore-McCormack Lines from New York to the east coast of South America, henceforth will include regular calls at Barbados and Bahia. In the past, these two ports have been included on occasions but not on a regular basis.

Barbados was originally a regular port of call of the Good Neighbor Fleet when the service was started in 1938. It is an island of sugar cane plantations and sugar mills, with Bridgetown its port and with its Cathedral and its bathing beach and its quiet fishing village, once the principal community of the island.

Bahia, which lies south of the bulge of Brazil, is the oldest of that nation's cities, and was once the centre of its government. Bahia originally developed along its waterfront; the transition to present day is noted in that the

city now lies on two levels, the original and the so-called modern. Bahia, an important port of export for Brazilian iron ore, also has important fishing industry.

## RULES CHARGES NOT SPECIFIC

Jackson, Miss. — The first round was won by Mississippi in a voting rights suit being heard in Federal District Court before District Judge Harold Cox who held that the Government's charges should be made more specific.

The Government's complaint charged that at least 10 Negroes had been denied application to register in Clarke County, solely because of their race. Cox said the complaint failed to outline a single case.

He asked for names, dates and circumstances. U. S. Atty. Robert Owen held that the complaint in itself was enough. Judge Cox's ruling applied also to cases involving registrars in Jefferson Davis and Walthall counties.

Further hearing are scheduled.



Dr. J. H. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and his wife, Mrs. Jackson, left Chicago, Ill., via Pan American Air Lines, O'Hara Field, 9:45 a.m., Wednesday, October 25, 1961, for San Francisco, where they were met at the Airport by Dr. F. D. Haynes and other Baptists of California, to spend a two hour lay over, before leaving for Honolulu. Leaving Honolulu, they will visit Tokio, Japan, Hong Kong, China, New Delhi, India, where they will spend three weeks, attending the World Council of Churches meeting; then on to Pakistan, Caro, Egypt and Italy. They will be gone about 2½ months, returning to the States the last of December.

Dr. Jackson was elected to the presidency of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., with a total of 2732 votes.

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., plans to set up an Educational Program to aid Educational Institutions in each State (State Schools).

A request from the Arkansas Baptist College for a loan of \$25,000.00, from the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., approved.