

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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WHAT MAKES FOR A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

"Wishing you a happy Christmas." How common such words are at this season of the year. They fall so glibly from our lips and the wish costs us very little. It is well to pause and consider just for a moment what they mean.

"A Happy Christmas." Why a happy Christmas? What makes Christmas happy? Is it the Christmas holiday? the feasting and the dancing? Is it the valuable gifts we receive? No, to the Christian there is something deeper than all that in Christmas. "Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." It is the village inn, the stable, the manger and the Holy Child, the fact of the Incarnation! of God made man! Of the Eternal word clothing Himself in human flesh and all that underlies that fact. First of all, Christmas brings us face to face with the "Great Reality."

"No man hath ascended up to heaven but He that came down from heaven even the Son of Man which is in heaven."

The philosophy based on materialism, so loudly proclaimed by scientists when I was a boy, is passing. In a book by Professor Eddington entitled "Science and the Unseen World" we read "Briefly the position is this. We have learned that the exploration of the external world by the methods of physical science leads not to a concrete reality but to a shadow world of symbols, beneath which those methods are unadaptable for penetrating. Feeling that there must be more behind, we return to our starting point in human consciousness the one centre where more might become known." Science has gone as far as she can go with the methods at her disposal in the physical world. She has reached the end of her resources in seeking the "Ultimate Reality." Her hope now is to discover in the spiritual world by other methods, that for which she seeks. To that spiritual world man is closely related

through his immortal spirit. Science can only bring us to a Great Unknown, perhaps Unknowable. The guiding star of revelation however leads the humble and earnest seeker to Bethlehem. There veiled in the humanity of the Holy Bible we see the Deity. There we see that which is the substance of all shadows, the meaning of all symbols, the True Reality. Christ brings us face to face with God. For centuries earnest souls had been praying "Lord show us the Father"—At length on Christmas Day came the answer in the gift of Him who afterwards said: "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."

So we are happy, contented and restful and wish all Christian people "a happy Christmas."—After Christmas comes the New Year. Again I wish you a happy New Year—God puts into our hands a new book of 365 pages all white and clean and not yet soiled by sin. What shall we write in it? By next Christmas it may be stained with sin, blurred and blotted with errors and mistakes but thanks unto Him that loves us and washed us from our sins in His Own

blood these may be wiped out. The pages of the book may be, and I hope will be, illumined with deeds of kindness and words of love. If so, what an offering it will be to present as a Christmas gift to our dear Lord twelve months hence. How much of our happiness as well as the happiness of others depends entirely on ourselves. The secret of happiness lies in making others happy.

It was Henry Drummond who pointed out how much of our Lord's life was spent in just wiping away tears, healing sores, and making others happy. Streaks of sadness there will always be in our lives as there was in the life of the Master who was "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief" but there is the happiness of hope even in the days of darkness and doubt. Let us go forward in hope.

Hope through the watches of the night,
Hope 'till the morning brings the light,
Hope 'till thy faith be turned to sight.
Abound in hope—

May a happy Christmas and hopeful New Year be yours—



ASK THAT JOBS BE MADE FIRST AIM

More than 1,500 government employees packed into Shiloh Baptist Church at Washington, D.C. unanimously adopted and pledged support to the U.G.E. national public resolution asking President Roosevelt to make WPA the No. 1 "must" legislation on the Western Hemisphere and National Defense schedule to be submitted to Congress in promotion of the Good Neighbor policy at home, and throughout America, as well as South and North American countries, thereby assuring a genuine peace and job security for 10,000,000 unemployed—American citizens first, without regard to race, creed or color.

The petition demands that the President's budget and appropriations in 1939 and 1940 recommend and urge Congress to provide for every American family first—not only against starvation, air, gas and cannon attack, but more WPA jobs at decent living wages guaranteeing sick and annual leave with pay—a \$1,500 minimum annual wage for all regular and emergency government employees—abolition of pictures in federal civil service examinations—larger old age pensions for needy old persons—extension of Social Security law to include domestics, farm laborers and others.

"There must be no cut in CCC and WPA," says the U.G.E. resolution. "Adult Education, Women's Sewing Projects, Household Training Aid Centres, Recreation, and public improvement projects such as slum clearance, school building, road construction, park and playground development are imperative."

THE CHRIST CHILD

Only a manger, cold and bare,
Only a maiden mild,
Only some shepherds kneeling there,
Watching a little child;
And yet that maiden's arms enfold
The King of Heaven above;
And in the Christ-Child we behold
The Lord of Life and Love.