

'Why Celebrate Christmas?' Theologians Recently Asked

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

"Why do we celebrate Christmas?"

Children are apt to ask that question at this time of year. Parents who feel ill-equipped for theological discussion may stall for a while by answering that Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ. But young minds are relentlessly curious. They soon want to know who was Jesus Christ? And why is his birthday so special?

At this point, parents may be compelled to come to grips with the least understood and most difficult article in the Christian creed.

Theologians call it the dogma of the Incarnation. It is an attempt to express in

CHRISTMAS TREE LEGEND
New York (UPI) — We can thank pagans in Northern Germany for the custom of the Christmas tree.

Its origin is traced to a time when St. Winifred went into that territory to preach Christianity. On Christmas Eve, he found people gathered around a huge oak about to offer a human sacrifice according to their rites. St. Winifred cut down the oak, and in its place a young fir appeared. He called it a miracle and sent the people home to celebrate around a fir tree brought inside to glorify God.

Sunny Treat
Chicago — (UPI) — Here's a sunny breakfast treat for a dreary winter morning. Cook 4 to 6 servings of oatmeal according to label directions. Just before serving, blend in 1/4 cup of undiluted frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed. Garnish with toasted coconut and serve with milk and sugar.

Hot canned blue lake green beans are delicious when they are topped with a generous spoonful of commercial sour cream and sprinkled lightly with caraway seeds. Good with baked ham or roast pork.

words a breathtaking conviction that was born in the first Christian disciples as they sought to explain what they had seen and heard and felt and experienced in the presence of Jesus.

The disciples knew that Jesus was a human being—a man who got tired and hungry like other men, who shared fully in the temptations, limitations and sufferings of ordinary existence. The warmth of his humanity shines so clearly through the New Testament accounts of his life that many people, even today, are drawn to love and respect him simply as the wisest and best of men.

Driven To Belief

But the disciples were driven to the belief that there was more than manhood in Jesus. And driven is the right word. The first Christian believers were fiercely monotheistic Jews who had at least

as much difficulty as any modern mind in accepting the idea that is expressed in the opening words of the Gospel according to St. John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory."

Why did the early Christians dare to claim that God was incarnate in a human life that began in a stable and ended on a cross?

A noted modern scholar, Prof. John Knox of Union Theological Seminary, says the claim was an inevitable outgrowth of the unanimous experience of the primitive Christian community.

The story of the Incarnation, he says, is "an effort to represent the meaning of a salvation which had actually been bestowed and received

in the fellowship men had with Jesus.

Find God In Him

"For men in very truth found God in him. When he said 'thy sins are forgiven thee,' the sinner knew he was in fact forgiven, and that the hold of his enemy was broken. And men and women whose lives had been empty and meaningless became, in His presence, suddenly aware of the beauty of God, and what had been a form of death became life everlasting."

As the disciples reflected on their experience, Prof. Knox says, they became increasingly certain that "an event of incalculable magnitude" had occurred in their midst, and that they had witnessed in Jesus "God's supreme disclosure of Himself to men."

"This was the faith of the

early church, a faith which could be expressed only in terms of sacrament and story. But the sacrament and story

are as true as the faith, and the faith rests firmly upon what men had actually found in Jesus—and find there still."

School News

Oak Grove School
By Teresa Gardner

Mrs. Dena DeKorte's sixth grade has been studying Central America and Spanish speaking countries in geography. Mrs. DeKorte teaches science to fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. She has been working with James Hannebeck's room to make a movie on communications. They have also been studying chemistry.

Mrs. Alpha Jane Butler's fourth grade has been studying about the hot, wet regions of Africa and the world. They are now starting to study the hot, dry regions of the world. Mrs. Butler's room has been doing division and some working with fractions.

New class officers were elected as follows: president, Henry Keesee; secretary, Terry Lawless; sheriff, Marilyn Peyton.

Mrs. Mary Carlon's room has new work books. They are learning to write from 200 to 400 by ones, fives, and tens. They are making Christmas pictures and decorations for the room.

Cheryl Lyons brought a large piece of lava from the Lava Beds south of Klamath Falls.

Mark Wright showed the class how he could count to ten in Latin, German and English.

Mike Hills is back to school after being ill with pneumonia. Shortly after Mike returned a film, on how we get food, was shown.

Mrs. Marjorie Gander's room has been making Christmas decorations for the room.

Mrs. Gander's first grade painted a large picture of the first Christmas for the bulletin board in the lunch room. In science, they have been studying the hibernation of animals.

Mrs. Nancy Gustafson's room has been making gifts for their parents. They have been studying and doing experiments in water for science.

Over 400 people visited school and saw the Christmas program which was put on by the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. The band and orchestra played before the program. The program was about the "best part of Christmas" — giving.

Santa Claus came in at the close of the program while the people were singing Christmas carols.

Two Timber Sales Are Planned in Area

Two tracts of timber are being offered for sale by the bureau of land management. Oral and sealed bids on the timber will be received by the district manager, 1133 South Riverside ave., on Jan. 14.

Approximately 149 acres of O and C lands may be clear cut of timber in one of the tracts, and 182 acres of O and C lands may be partially cut in the other tract. No sales will be made for less than the total appraised price.

Further information may be obtained from the district office.

If you plan to decorate your windows for the holidays, wash them first with a little kerosene or ammonia for extra sparkle.

10 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. A Sunday, Dec. 20, 1959

Dress up prunes for a family dessert by cooking them in port wine and chilling over-

night. Serve topped with whipped cream and slivered toasted almonds.

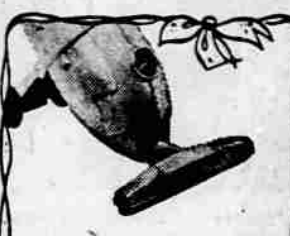
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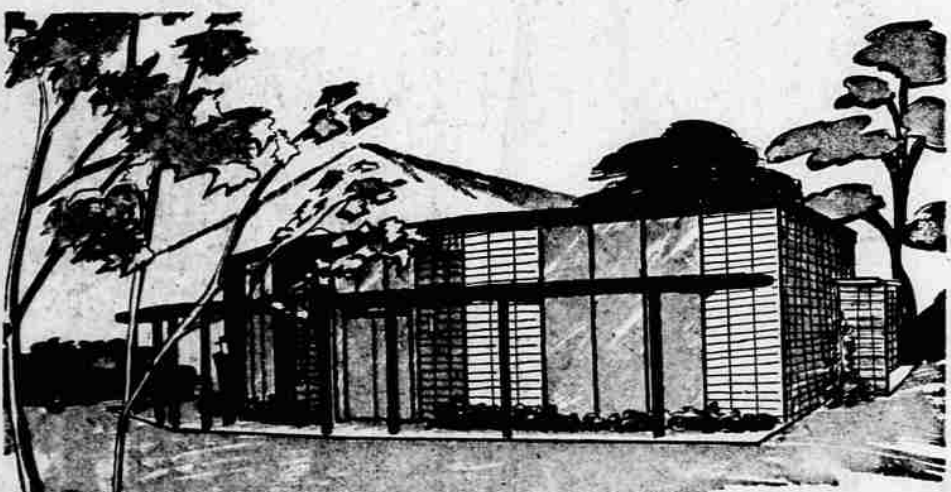
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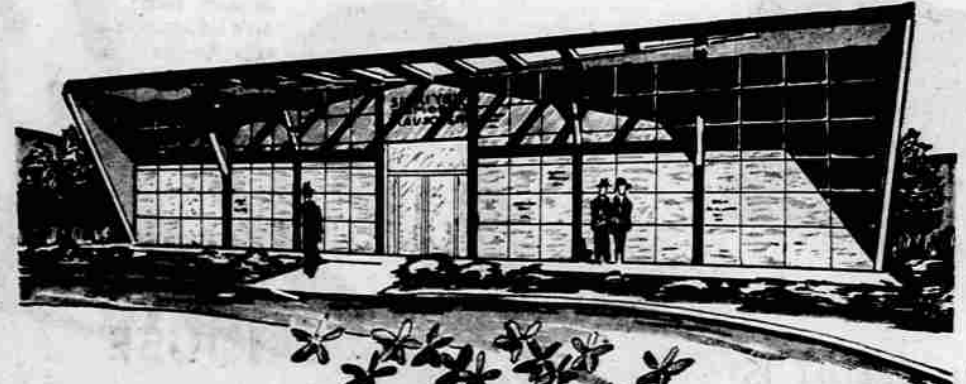
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