

Mainly for Women

Timely Topics for Women

BY BARBARA BAINES

SHARE CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHILDREN

Nowhere in the world is the celebration of Christmas happier or more abundant than on the American continent. We have combined the customs of all races, the carols and mistletoe of England, the tree of Germany, the broches of France, the greens of Scandinavia, and added a Santa Claus of our own — and as a result we are now looking forward to one of the most joyous occasions of the whole year. For days and weeks the children have been talking of nothing else.

But a word of warning! Let the children really share Christmas with you. Offing, and doing little kindnesses is the real spirit of Christmas. Do not spoil their fun by doing too much for them. It will give YOU great pleasure, no doubt, to surprise them on Christmas morning with a beautifully decorated tree, holly wreaths at the mantle, candles in the window and a host of artistically wrapped gifts; but have you ever stopped to think that by doing so you are spoiling the children's pleasure. They have a right to share in all the fun of the preparations, to learn early that to give brings greater joy than to receive.

How they delight in choosing gifts for mother and dad and the rest; in going about with a great air of mystery, in dropping vague hints, and others not so vague, as to what your present is to be. What a lark the wrapping of their parcels is, deciding on what colours they prefer and how best to tie the bows.

With a little guidance from mother or dad, or elder sister there are many things young children can do, and will love to do. Let them make place cards for the Christmas dinner of red, stiff paper, and use the tiny silver stars that come by the box to work out a suitable design — then print each name with India ink. Or encourage them to make their own Christmas cards with holly or poinsettia designs and a suitable Christmas greeting.

Or, if you are going to give a children's party during the long holiday, let them decorate white cardboard picnic plates with candles or holly. Water colours or tempera paints can be used very effectively. They make an attractive way to serve lunch, and think of the saving in the dish-washing.

They will consider it quite a treat if you let them make popcorn balls, tinted with vegetable colouring, or gingerbread men, to decorate the tree. The boys, and girls too, will make quite a thing out of a hike to the country for cones and prize branches of pine and spruce, if they know a farmer with a big woodlot.

They will enjoy planning the house decorations, and, of course, they must all have a share in decorating the Christmas tree with tinsel and snow and all the gay ornaments they have collected, and in seeing that the coloured lights work. Be sure, too, to let daughter do most of the setting of the table for the dinner (if she is ten or older). She will be very careful of your best china and she is not too young to learn how to do it.

The children will enjoy delivering Christmas presents, too, if you have gifts for friends in the neighborhood. And be sure and let them take a jar of jelly to some shut-in, or a toy or two to some children less fortunate than themselves.

Christmas time is children's time, and of course we like to give them beautiful gifts, the best we can afford. But the children who look back upon Christmas with the greatest delight are not those that come down Christmas morning to a confusing array of expensive gifts; but rather the ones who have caught the gay and heart-warming spirit of Christmas, because they have had a share in the preparations that are a part of our Christmas traditions.

THE WOMEN OF BRITAIN NEED COMFORTS

Her Majesty the Queen has expressed concern regarding the lack of comforts for the women of The Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Already 80,000 women have enlisted and thousands more are enlisting in this service. They wear khaki uniforms and army pay. Some of them live under canvas, others in requisitioned houses, and so on, and they may be moved about at a moment's notice. Many act as "observers" on the coasts of Britain, and courageous women, they must be brave the icy cold, fatigue and loneliness, as they keep a constant watch for the approach of enemy planes. Others act as cooks, orderlies, fire-fighters, clerks, and truck and ambulance drivers — work requiring great physical stamina and coolness.

The women of Britain do not carry guns but they are right up in the front lines of defence. Vincent Sheehan, noted author, recently said "A new breed of woman is being born out of the welter of blood and destruction in Britain: a superwoman, tireless and fearless, and without class distinction."

Other Uniformed Services

In addition to the A.T.S., which co-operates with the army, there are many other uniformed services. The W.R.N.S. (Women's Royal Naval Service) are trained at the old Greenwich Royal Naval College in the ways of the sea. Their work is often dangerous and discipline is very strict. The Queen is their commandant-in-chief. They do all types of shore duty, issuing stores, catering, signalling, ciphering, and act as clerks, wireless operators and teleprinters.

The W.A.A.F. (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) does a vital work, ferrying planes, manning switchboards and releasing men from all types of administrative jobs.

The women of the A.R.P. are heroines if ever there were any. They act as wardens, fire-fighters, drive fire-trucks and ambulances and are trained in first aid. They must know the streets and short-cuts of their "square" thoroughly enough to be able to avoid bomb-craters and rubble in the black-out.

Replacing skilled men on British farms is the task that has fallen on the capable shoulders of the Woman's Land Army — and no light task either, since Britain is aiming at producing more food at home than she has ever done before.

There are 4,000,000 women engaged in industry in Britain. Many of them work in munition plants, gun factories, tank factories and aeroplane factories — their chief aim is to see that their men have the equipment with which to fight.

Other women have taken over the duties of men in business. The Post Office has appealed for 50,000 women to help with the Christmas mail. Women are working in shops and offices, driving busses and taxis, and working in factories producing goods for export.

Voluntary Workers

In addition there are 600,000 women organized for voluntary service under the leadership of Lady Reading. You will see them in high boots and tin hats doing every type of work, serving meals in community kitchens, distributing clothing, doing first aid, and driving officials. They have supplied help for the evacuation of 1,000,000 women and children, and are ready at all times to step in wherever they are needed most. Even the old women unable for heavy work do their bit by sitting with the sick and wounded and helpless, and ministering to their needs, or by "minding" frightened children whose mothers are busy with more urgent work.

"Private life" for many British women is out for the duration. Travelling is discouraged, and many do not see their husbands (maybe on active service) or their children (evacuated) for weeks or months at a time. Social standards have gone by the boards. The exigencies of war have come first.

A large number of these war-workers, living on small allowances, and at their posts long hours, are in great need of extra comforts. The Red Cross has issued an urgent appeal for woollen stockings, sweaters, scarves, helmets and knickers, for heavy gloves, hot-water bottles, toilet necessities, and personal comforts. The I.O.D.E. and other groups are also making plans to do something for these women to whom so little organized help has been given up to the present.

Most of us have many calls made upon us, but surely, out of our abundance, we can spare something for our sisters at war who are giving everything.

BOOK REVIEW

SUSANNAH RIDES AGAIN—By Muriel Denison. (Dodd, Mead & Co. 2.35)

Girls of 8 to 12 will like the newest book of the Susannah series. "Susannah Rides Again." In it Susannah returns from boarding school in England to spend the summer in picturesque Quebec with Aunt Bessie and a number of cousins whom she has not met before. The author, Muriel Denison, paints a true-to-life picture of the habitants of French-Quebec's lakes and forests. She tells of the thrills of a river drive, of the agility of the rivermen, of how Susannah learns to run a boat and ride the logs, and the race by which the pines on their island were saved.

Two old friends, Conny of the Mountains, and Little Chief, the polite Indian boy, join the already large family and what adventures they all have together; fishing expeditions; a canoe trip to the islands; a French Canadian wedding; a huge breakfast at the cook-house on the raft.

You will enjoy, too, hearing all about Rose-Marie Ange and her romance with Hobblering Bill who talks to the logs, and Red Antoine, the (Continued on Page 9)

INTERNATIONAL UNIFORM Sunday School LESSON

SHARING THE SHEPHERD'S JOY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1940

GOLDEN TEXT: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

LESSON PASSAGE: Luke 2:8-20.

The heart hath its own memory like the mind. And in its easiness, The precious keepsakes with which is wrought The giver's loving thought.

— H. W. Longfellow

Shepherds and Angels, 2:9.

The newspapers tell of a crowded head's martial triangle, of a multi-millionaire bedfellow's estrangement from her husband, of two screen favorites breaking up their home through bickering. Position, wealth and fame do not bring happiness. There may be more hope in a cottage than in a castle, more reflection between plough handles than in a noisy stock exchange. The angels did not sing above Herod's palace that first Christmas, but above the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. The songs men, and to suggest a little of what will happen if these shepherds are taken heard upon the hills are far different from the incantations in the night clubs. The glory of the Lord shone around men watching their sheep in the open air under the stars. The shepherds made the response natural to unsophisticated men. They were so afraid—They had gone out to tend sheep and they had heard songs. They had expected to pass long hours in darkness and they beheld a glorious light. They went out to humble, poorly-rewarded toil, and they became participants in an eternal drama.

A Saviour in Sight, 10:11. A New Zealand writer has published a book called "A Saviour in Sight." A reviewer says: "With remorseless logic it destroys artificial creeds, and with passionate understanding it points the way to God through Christ. The author defines his purpose as an attempt to show the first steps that lead to the discovery of God and His purpose for To look at Christ on His Cross is to see one's self, both as one is and as one may become. Christ smashes my little comfort-loving phantasies to pieces, and sets me alone amid the consequences of my blindness. The Christ character judges me." It is the same message of divine purpose and moral renewal that the shepherds received nineteen hundred years ago. In the fulness of time Christ came. The long period of preparation led to historic fulfillment. God has not left mankind without a leader. The angel announced: "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Peace and Goodwill, 12:14. The deliverer was not a newly-appointed Roman governor, nor a Jewish high priest, but "a tiny baby thing." A rebirth for humanity came with this babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Poets, artists, mystics and seers have linked this humble birth with God's eternal purpose. It had a Godward and a manward meaning. Glorious to God in the highest came first. Through obedience to the will of God will come peace on earth, and good will toward men. The League of Nations failed for lack of sufficient unselfishness to counteract national ambitions. In the end it will be religion that will outlaw war. The ideals of the Prince of Peace must be made to displace the ideologies of military dictators. Yet the starting place for peace is not with the dictators but with ourselves. If a family cannot learn how to live peacefully under one roof, what hope is there for nations to forego war? If different religious denominations cannot learn to respect one another and co-operate how can rival empires be expected to promote concord?

The Shepherd's Story, 15-18, 20. "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen." Could anything be simpler than the story of the visit of the shepherds to Bethlehem? "They went back to the same old life of hardship and anxiety but they went now in a new mood. The old earth is a different place when once it is seen to have a sky above it. The atmosphere of the field or of the shop is changed when once it has been filled with the songs of the angels. The Christmas message infuses new meaning and beauty into the old life of toil. Have you never walked at night when the stars seemed nearer than the tree-tops, when to your own eyes the sky was aglow with an unwonted radiance? Have you never known some high hour when heaven's host seemed to sweep into your vision? Have you never heard songs in the air which fell from no human lips? If you have never known such moments, then alas, for the meagerness of your inner life! But if you have entered upon these higher moods, your own heart will be the best interpreter of these stories of the Nativity."

In Mary's Heart, 18. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a stranger to luxury. Her son was born away from home, in a stable, with a manger for a cradle. Cattle were housed under the roof. There was no room in the inn. Yet we do not pity Mary. There was compensation for her poverty in her high hopes. The Magnificat was singing in her soul. For her

there was "A Saviour in Sight." The visit of the shepherds was another marvel in the sequence of events that began with the annunciation. "Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." This Christmas, mothers around the world will be knowing Mary's joy and sorrow. A sword is entering into their hearts. They are saying farewell to strong sons called up for military service. They are learning the double lesson of sacrifice and trust. They know that the God who marks the sparrow's fall is no less interested when bombs are dropping. Upheld by devotion to a great cause, they are winning victories over fear and self-pity. And in the letters they are receiving from their soldier sons, they are touching heights unreachably before.

Questions For Discussion
1. What are the losses and gains of city life?
2. Is Christianity giving joy to the world today?
3. How will the war affect your observance of Christmas?
4. Contrast Herod on his throne and the Babe in the manger.
5. How did Mary come to be called "The Madonna?"
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"MY FIVE YEARS AS A RED SPY IN RUSSIA"

Edmund Ruzanski, a Michigan engineer, discloses in The American Weekly with the December 22 issue of The Detroit Sunday Times — how communism has degraded Russian women, and tells how, instead of a Workers' Paradise he expected to find under Soviet rule, he found a Workers' Hell. Be sure to get the December 22 issue of The Detroit Sunday Times.

TO PEOPLE WHO CANNOT SWALLOW PILLS

If you feel sluggish, depressed, liverish or are inclined to constipation—just try this treatment for two weeks: Take enough Kruschen to cover a dime, in warm water every morning. Nothing could be easier to take, and Kruschen is not harsh, but is a mild, gentle laxative. Constipation is caused mainly by lack of moisture in the large intestine. Kruschen contains carefully blended mineral salts that bring back the moisture. Besides cleaning out stagnating, poisonous waste matter, Kruschen helps to rid the bloodstream of other poisons resulting from constipation. Get a 25c size of Kruschen from your druggist and within two weeks you'll feel your old game coming back. Other sizes at 75c.

LEAVING FOR OVERSEAS

Captain and Mrs. W. C. Poulton, for several years Salvation Army leaders in Brampton, are leaving for service overseas. The couple, who are well-known in Georgetown, were transferred to a Toronto charge last spring. On Thursday night, a reception was held for them by their friends in Brampton.



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- Walnut Fruit Cake ea. 39¢
- Cowan's Cocoa 1-lb. tin 24¢
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TOMATO JUICE Libby's 19-oz. tin 7c

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