

CLERGY COMMENT

The lesson of humanity

By REV. GRAHAM BLAND
St. Alban's Anglican Church, Glen Williams

In a shed at the back of the "Bethlehem Hotel", a little less than 2,000 years ago this Wednesday night, a woman clenched her teeth, her body wracked with the excruciating pain of labor. Perhaps she screamed. Her name was Mary. And then her child was born. Maybe his bottom was smacked and I'm sure he yelled for all he was worth. They called him Jesus. He came into the world with the smell of animals in his nostrils.

We don't know much about what happened after that, except that, eventually, Mary and Joseph took this, their first child, to Nazareth, a dusty little town near a lake called Galilee, where Joseph had a joinery business.

No doubt Jesus had his childhood problems - learning to walk, learning to talk, measles, cutting teeth, cutting himself! No doubt he got in Dad's way in the workshop and asked too many questions.

He didn't always do as he was told either and his parents naturally were worried and angry at times. "Where have you been?" isn't just a question that originated with the late-night peregrinations of 20th century adolescents. Mary used it on Jesus! And the boy must have wondered too at what was happening to him as his voice began to change and his face sprouted hair. Chances are, he even played the Israeli equivalent of hockey!

Then manhood, with all of its responsibilities -

carrying on the family business, repaying some of his debt to his parents, befriending his fellow townspeople in Nazareth.

Maybe some of this sounds shocking in relation to Jesus - his was such a down-to-earth sort of life. And what on earth does it all have to do with Christmas? Plenty!

For Christmas is about a down-to-earth God, the Word that became flesh and lived among us, as one of us. Christmas is about God "in the flesh", God Incarnate, Jesus, a man from Nazareth. I am certain that if we had seen Jesus in the flesh, down-to-earth as he was, we would have seen a person very much like you and me.

In fact, only if we can come to see Jesus as, first of all, a person like ourselves can he do anything for us. Only then can he change us to be the people we were meant to be.

We prevent ourselves from seeing him as he really is by painting pictures of Jesus which are unreal, always "without the warts". On our mind's canvas, he is always the angelic child who never cries, or the angelic man who never frowns.

I wish that this Christmas we could see Jesus, the Christ-child, as he really is, as one of us - a person like us who trod the same road that we tread, who saw the world from our perspective. I wish that this Christmas we could see Jesus as the God who truly came to us, so that we might come back to him, AS THE GOD WHO BECAME LIKE US, SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME LIKE HIM.

the HERALD Community

Ashgrove Christmas stockings, bird not all that gets stuffed

By MRS. JOHN BELLBODDY
Herald Correspondent

Last Tuesday (Dec. 16) at Hillcrest Church, with Mrs. F. M. Wilson as hostess, the Christmas meeting of the Women's Institute was held with 35 members and one visitor present.

At 12:30, all sat down to prettily decorated tables prepared by Mrs. V. Pickett, Mrs. J. McPhail and Mrs. F. Nurse. After a delicious dinner, Pres. G. Treviranus opened the meeting by all singing Christmas carols led by Mrs. F. Thompson with Mrs. J. Carney at the piano.

Secretary Mrs. John Ruddell read last month's minutes and called the Roll, which was answered with a Xmas poem or a handmade gift.

A committee was appointed for a euchar. All were in favor of the Ashgrove sign to be repaired; Mrs. John Bird is to be responsible for purchasing a small fireproof safe to keep our minutes and history books for future keeping.

Mrs. C. Hunter then called on Mrs. J. Wicks for the motto "Friendship is a candle that seems to shine brightest at

Christmas time," followed by Mrs. J.H. Hunter and Mrs. C. Hunter demonstrating many Christmas parcels made from bits and pieces using brown paper and even colored sales paper decorated with tags and ribbons also napkin holders, little colored ornaments for the tree, a red and white gingham tablecloth, an apron for Dad to wear while carving, a dainty one for Mother while serving and even a bun basket cover. Everything they displayed was so interesting and shows how so many things can be made "Christmasy".

Mrs. Ford Wickson gave the courtesies and thanked everyone who had made the day so enjoyable after an exchange of Christmas gifts, meeting closed with a drink of punch and Christmas cake and singing Silent Night.

To the Editor and his faithful staff and all our readers a very Merry Christmas.

We stuff the stockings and stuff the bird.

Through happy chores we race;

Sadly though where our weights' concerned,

We also stuff our face.

Burglars damage church

Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown was broken into Wednesday, but nothing was taken. The door frame sustained damage estimated at \$150 during the burglary.

A break-in at Harcourt on Mountainview Road netted the burglars \$590 worth of tools and \$10 in cash.

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Annual dues required by Jan. 4

Legion Lines
By Tom Elliott

Carclub winners: 462 Norm Long, 178 D. Logan, 52 M. Hanson, 43 B. Sucece, 173 M. Sanvido, 453 D. Wright

The Christmas Draw winners were: 1-2680 M. Reid, 2-1110 M. Henderson, 3-2972 D. Sargent, 4-1762 B. Hill, 5-4883 N. Burns, 6-2406 G. Chaplin, 7-1666 A. Lamoureux, 8-749 V. Bradley.

The lock will be changed Jan. 4. All members who have not paid their dues before this date will not receive their new keys.

The President, Harold Badham and his executive wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. A special thought to all members who are in hospital or at home sick.

At the L.A. party, 45-year pins were given to Ann Collins and Hazel Preston, 40-year pins were given to Winnie

Painting stolen

A man was arrested and charged with theft under \$200 when a painting in the lobby of one of the Silver Creek Towers buildings was stolen. A woman reported observing the man walking out of the lobby of the building with a painting. Police investigated, and as a result, the charge was laid.

A 18-year-old youth was arrested for smashing a fire extinguisher sign with his hands Friday night on Sargent Road.

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