

REAL DATE NOT KNOWN

Isaiah Foresaw Christ's Birth

Editor's note: The following material relating to tomorrow's Sunday School lesson with scriptural references to Isaiah 6:9-7; Luke 2:8-9; John 1:1-18 and Hebrews 1:1-4 is based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches in the U.S. and is used by permission.

By N. SPEER JONES
AS CHRISTMAS draws near, we turn once more in our lessons to the story of the birth of Christ. It is interesting to remember at this time that although we celebrate this wondrous event every year, we do not know at what time of year Jesus was actually born; nor do we even know in what year, although most scholars feel it was in 4, 5 or 6 B.C. according to our dates. An error was made during the middle ages in identifying the year of His birth.

According to the "Oxford English Dictionary," the word Christmas first appeared in 1121, in a volume known as the "Old English Chronicle." The word means, of course, a mass, or festival, in celebration of Christ.

The prophecy of Christ's birth reaches back for centuries; that of Isaiah in today's lesson was given about 735 years before the Messiah came.

The two verses from the ninth chapter are renowned; anyone familiar with Handel's "Messiah" has heard them many times. The titles accorded to

future Christ here leave no doubt that He will be the incarnation of God Himself. This theme is intensified many years later, after Christ's life among us, by the apostle John. In the so-called prologue to his gospel, assigned here, he speaks with the Word of God and its relation to deity, creation, life, the world, men, the Word incarnate and the Word revealing.

John opens his gospel with the thought of what was even before time began. He points out (verse 14) that flesh did not become the Word, but that Word became flesh, "and dwelt among us." The word "grace" used here is the rough equivalent of "love."

Verse 9 brings us to the narrative of Christ's birth, with emphasis on the lack of recognition the world had for its God descended among men. Christ came into the world of the Roman Empire—a highly civilized society with a finely developed communication system. Yet Christ's arrival was so unassuming that the great Roman powers were not aware of it. "And the world knew Him not."

Even His own people, God's chosen ones, the Israelites, failed to receive Him. The birth of Christ is in a sense the special province of Luke, who wrote more about it than all the other New Testament writers combined. According to his story, we find three groups of people drawn to the site of Christ's birth—the shepherds, told by the angels of His arrival; the wise men, guided

by the prophesied star, and Herod's soldiers, sent when he heard of the wise men's arrival, to attempt to kill this threat to his power.

It has long been a subject for conjecture why the shepherds were chosen to receive God's announcement of Christ's birth. Perhaps it was because these simple people, concerned with the basics of life, and especially with the element of loving protection, would be more likely to believe and understand this great event than many of the prominent people.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that both Bethlehem and shepherds have a significant Biblical history before Christ. God Himself is portrayed as a Shepherd; Moses tended sheep for 40 years, and David was a shepherd boy near Bethlehem.

The major purpose of Christ's incarnation is highlighted in the passage from Hebrews. No reference is made there to Christ's wonderful deeds, teachings, character or ascension; only His "purification of sins" is mentioned.

JAIL INDIAN

PRETORIA, South Africa (Reuters)—An Indian business man Tuesday chose to go to jail for three months rather than pay a \$10 fine for refusing to leave the house he has lived in for 30 years and move to an Indian township eight miles west of Pretoria. Nana Sila, 64, also was ordered to be out of his ever-humble home by the end of his next January.

Post office dept. head is prepared

By M. McINTYRE HOOD
LONDON — In a quiet office at the London headquarters of the Post Office Department, is a man who since the beginning of August has been preparing for the Christmas rush. He is Brigadier Kenneth Holmes, director of postal services. He has the job of organizing the complicated machinery of world-wide postal deliveries, and during the last two months of the year, this becomes even more complicated than at any other time.

Brigadier Holmes realizes more than anyone else that avoidable delays to the Christmas mails are the unpardonable sins of the postal world. He and his staff, many of whom are first-class linguists since many languages, have since August been planning to deal with what is expected to be a record Christmas post volume this year.

Graphs show that as the world population increases and as new races of people develop the Christmas greetings habit, the goodwill mail will continue to soar.

The Brigadier plans his job with the thoroughness of his military operations he was accustomed to organize in war.

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time. Possible strikes and lock-outs, fog at airports, disasters on land, sea and in the air, all have to be taken into account so that quick improvisations have to be made. His main concern, and that of his whole staff, is to see that every possible scrap

or parcel of Christmas mail is delivered to the recipients in time for the Christmas holidays. Brigadier Holmes is 50. He is recognized as a world authority on the mechanization of postal services.

TOO BUSY... NO ROOM?

The Inn would still have been a busy place that night long ago in Bethlehem had it made room for the Christ-child; but it would have been occupied with a more significant kind of business. How often our lives are so cluttered up with the trivial that there is no room for the significant! How many ingredients such as service, consideration and love have been forgotten during the past few weeks as we were swept along in the "Christmas and New Year" preparation for the day commemorating the birthday of the Babe of Bethlehem!

But we can be busy with the business that thinks of others, for the real spirit of Christmas is selflessness and when this spirit is found in our lives, then shall the song of the Angels be fulfilled—"And on earth peace, to men of goodwill."

It was such a spirit that possessed the founders of the Bible Society, who determined that every man should have God's Word in his own language. And the work goes on as dedicated men and women busy themselves with the great enterprise which had its beginning more than a century-and-a-half ago.

We are in this great mission when we support the Bible Society with our prayers and gifts.

THE CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society Prince Edward Island District The Bible House, Kent St. Charlottetown (Opposite Eaton's)

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Established 1759 by Royal Foundation The Rev. F. Louis Elias, Rector Organist and Choir Director Mrs. J. H. Tye, B.A., B.D., Minister Mrs. Leslie Hiscot, Organist and Director of Senior Choir Mrs. Stanley Newman, Director of Junior and Intermediate Choirs 8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School, Junior, Senior and Bible Classes 11:00 a.m.—Sunday School, Primary and beginners classes 11:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Sermon. Subject: "INCARNATIONALLY LOVING GOD" Anthem: "And the Glory of the Lord"—Handel 6:30 p.m.—Christmas Carol Singing. In the Spirit everyone is invited to join in the Hymn Sing, all are welcome. 7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon. Subject: "HEAVEN" Anthem: "God that madest Earth and Heaven"—Brooks

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Monday, 11:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve Celebration of Holy Communion Guest Preacher: Rev. A. E. Piercey. Tuesday (Christmas Day)—8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion Service. Broadcast: C.P.C. Subject: "INCARNATE LOVE" CHURCH GIVING FAMILIES ARE HAPPIER FAMILIES. TO ALL—OUR Sincerest wish for a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

The Kirk of St. James

The Reverend T. H. B. Somers, M.A., S.T.M., Minister Organist and Director of the Choirs Mrs. Christopher Gledhill, M.A., B. Mus. 9:45 a.m.—Church School Christmas Service 11:00 a.m.—Churchtime Nursery 11:00 a.m.—THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS WORSHIP Subject: "BETHLEHEM—THE GRACE AND GLORY OF GOD" Introit: "O Saviour Sweet" (Bach) The Junior Choir Anthem: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (Thiman) The Chancel Choir Offertory: "God's Son is Come" (Bach) Postlude: "Noel" (Tardi) 4:30 p.m.—CANDLELIGHT CAROL YESPERS Organ: Imposition of Carols—The Chorotown Choral Procession—WOLFEY—There Is No Rose—The Yenge Child—Balalaw—This Little Babe—Interlude—Spring Carol—Deo Gratias—Blessings—Soloist: Miss Fernie Johnson and Miss Barbara Rogers) The Second Group of Carols—The Galley Choir "When Christ Was Born of Mary Free" (Brown) "Sunny Bae"—English Traditional "Bring Me A Torch"—French "O Saviour Sweet"—Bach The Third Group of Carols—The Chancel Choir "Gabriel's Message"—Bassque, arr. Pettman "I Saw A Maiden"—Bassque, arr. Pettman "Falen-Tiding"—Tyrolene, arr. M. Shaw "Cradle Song of the Virgin" (Reger) Soloist: Miss Barbara Rogers "Whence is That Lovely Fragrance?" (French, arr. Willan) Offertory: "Pastoral Symphony" (Messiah)—Handel Postlude: "Noel en Masette" (d'Agou) "AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY, GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE"

St. Peter's Cathedral

Anglican Church of Canada ROCHEFORD SQUARE The Venerable J. R. Davies, M.A., Rector The Rev. Canon E. M. Malone, M.A., D.D. Honorary Assistant Pastor Miss Suzanne Brexton, Lic. Mus., Organist Mrs. B. W. Patterson, Choir Director Dec. 23—The Fourth Sunday in Advent 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:45 a.m.—Matins 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Choral Eucharist and sermon 7:00 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon. Dec. 24—Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.—Evensong (said) 11:30 p.m.—The Midnight Eucharist, with Blessing of the Crib Dec. 25—Christmas Day 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.—Matins (said) 11:00 a.m.—Procession and Choral Eucharist (Family Service) 5:00 p.m.—Evensong (said) Visitors are most welcome at all services.

The Salvation Army

"Home of Evangelism Since 1865" Great George Street 55 Villa Avenue Capt. and Mrs. R. Walker 9:30 a.m.—Director Class 11:00 a.m.—Holiness Meeting 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School 2:00 p.m.—Y.P.M. 7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Meeting Thursday 8:00 p.m.—Prayer Meeting "A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT THE ARMY"

CALVARY TEMPLE

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Upper Prince Street Rev. G. K. Bran, Pastor 9:15 a.m.—Fellowship Hour, Summerside Radio 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School, White Gift Sunday 11:00 a.m.—Text: "DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS?" 7:30 p.m.—Text: "WHEN THE KING TOLD OFF HIS KINGLY ROBES" Christmas Service you will enjoy. ATTEND CHARLOTTETOWN'S REVIVAL CENTER

First Baptist Church

Corner of Prince and Fitzroy Streets Rev. Carl V. Farmer, Minister (Interim) Mrs. V. L. Dingwell, Organist and Choir Director 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—"A KING AND ONE BORN KING" Dedication of Parents with Children Anthem: "Christmas" (Swiss) (Maunder) Solo: "Birthday of a King" (Geibel) Miss June Foster, Soprano 7:00 p.m.—"THOU BETHLEHEM" White Gift Service Anthem: "Good Tidings" (Peery) Solo: "O Holy Night" Miss June Foster, Soprano

Charlottetown Bible Chapel

233 Cumberland St. at Longworth Ave. 11:00 a.m.—FAMILY BIBLE HOUR and CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 7:30 p.m.—Gospel Meeting Speaker: JAMES A. STAHR, B.Sc., Th.M.

PARK ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

Christie Drive, Parikade Rev. J. H. Tye, B.A., B.D., Minister Mr. Leslie Hiscot, Organist and Director of Senior Choir Mrs. Stanley Newman, Director of Junior and Intermediate Choirs 9:45 a.m.—Senior Church School 11:00 a.m.—Nursery and Kindergarten Classes 11:00 a.m.—MORNING WORSHIP Sermon: "GETTING INTO THE PICTURE" Anthem: "Let All Earth Ring Out With Gladness"—Lustgarten 11:15 a.m.—Primary Church School 7:30 p.m.—EVENING WORSHIP CHORAL CAROL SERVICE In a Manger He Is Lying—(Polish Carol) Little Children Can You Tell—(Anonymous) Under the Stars (English Traditional) JUNGLE CHORUS Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabelle—(French Carol) Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep—Benson—Arr. J. Stainer INTERMEDIATE CHOR How Brightly Beams the Morning Star—(Nicolaï 1569) On Christmas Night all Christians Sing—(Sousa) Lullaby, Thou Little Tiny Child—(English Melody 1591) The Echo Carol—(German 17th Century) Crows—(Brown Hilde) Lo How A Rose Uprighting—(Praetorius 1609) Silent Night, Holy Night—(Franz Gruber 1818) SENIOR CHOR "O Holy Night" (Adolphe Adam) —Mrs. Elizabeth Gay O Little One Swears—(G. S. Scheidt 1650) —Miss Helen Wilcox Shepherd of Israel—(G. C. Stebbins) Dec. 24-7:30 p.m.—Young People's Candlelight Service Dec. 25-10:30 a.m.—CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP Rev. G. Wray—Speaker "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" You Are Welcome To Worship With Us.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Charlottetown, P. E. I. Ministers: Rev. John G. E. Ball, B.A. Rev. Gerald G. Wray, B.D. Rev. Clayton C. Lewis Organist and Director of Choirs Rostov F. Muford, M.A. 9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Church School 11:00 a.m.—Kindergarten and Primary Church School 11:00 a.m.—Nursery Care including Crib Room 11:00 a.m.—M. & M. CHRISTMAS BASKET SERVICE The Cradle, The Cross, The Star —Rep. John G. E. Ball Anthem: "Gloria Excelsis" ("Mass in B"—(Farmer) Quartet: Misses Becky and Margaret Giddings Messrs. Donald MacRae and Lewis Newman 7:00 p.m.—Christmas Carol Services SENIOR GIRLS' CHOR "O Hail Thy Blessed Jesu" (Old French) Arr. Whitehead "Come Follow Me" (Swedish) Arr. Whitehead "O Nightingale Awake" (Swedish) Arr. Whitehead "All You In This House" (Swedish Carol) Arr. Whitehead "The Hillside Carol" (Swedish Carol) Arr. Whitehead "Sweet Baby, Sleep" (Swedish Carol) Arr. Whitehead "Come To the Manger" Soloist: Mrs. David Cox JUNIOR GIRLS' CHOR "Ain't Breathe Chill The Wint'ry Wind" "Some Children See Him" (Burt Carole) Soloist: Ruth Waincoat and Gracie Finley THE STRANGER Under the Stars—Soloist Miss Jane Johnston Under the Stars "O Bethlehem In Jewry" Soloist: I. Rachael Carver; 2. Suzanne Hughes; 3. Rosemary Scott; 4. Carol Rood. "A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT TRINITY AND SPRING PARK

SPRING PARK UNITED CHURCH

(See Kirkwood Drive and Dunkirk Street) 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.—Church School 11:00 a.m.—"WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS?" (Rev. C. Lewis) Trio: "Angels We Have Heard" Nancy, Janice, Elizabeth George Organist: Mrs. Frank Deacon Choir Director: Mr. William C. Ball

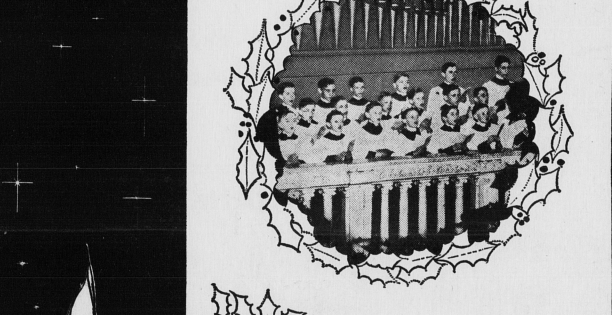
Zion Presbyterian Church

Corner Prince and Grafton Streets The Rev. Donald A. Campbell, B.A., Minister Organist and Choir Director Miss Mildred Wadden, L.M.A., B.Mus. 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School WHITE GIFT SUNDAY 10:00 a.m.—Bible Class 11:00 a.m.—Nursery School 11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: IN JESUS' DAY Solo: O Holy Night—A. Adam Miss Vicki Robertson Anthem: Christmas Awaits Salute the Happy Morn—J. H. Maunder Soloist: Sandra Fletcher 7:00 p.m.—CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Junior and Intermediate Choir Messrs. Elizabeth MacDonald, Janet Stewart, Mona MacMillan, Faye Rogerson, Judy Matheson, Mary Bernard. The Senior Choir will sing the Cantata, Bethlehem's Babe by D. Ratcliffe. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Central Christian Church

215 Kent Street Charlottetown, P.E.I. MORNING 10:00 a.m.—Bible School for the whole family. 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service Theme: "DEAR LITTLE STRANGER" EVENING Special Christmas Cantata with scriptural narration. "Love Transcending" Minister—William O. Weale Organist—Mrs. W. A. MacRae, R.C.A.M. JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Holy Night



The choir sings with near-celestial sweetness, the candles burn with a bright, pure light, and the meaning of the birth of Christ comes into glorious reality.

For, in church, the story of the Night of Nights is told with a beauty that seems to deepen with the years. To miss hearing it again would be to miss one of the Yuletide season's greatest moments.

Yes — it is natural to think about going to church at Christmas. But what about a rainy October Sunday or a hot July one?

In Church, the inspiration is there all year round. The message is as vital in August as it is in December. Promise yourself now — this Christmas — to start going to church regularly.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

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ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY

HOLMAN'S CHTOWN STORE IS OPEN TONIGHT TILL 9 P.M. for your Christmas Shopping Convenience OUR SUMMERSIDE STORE IS OPEN Today Till 5:00 p.m. SANTA CLAUS is in BOTH STORES daily from 1.30 - 3.30 P.M.