

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 57

December 1965

Number 12



**Christmas Pageant presented in 1964 at the
Home for Young Deaf, Ibadan, Nigeria**

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THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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Home for the Young Deaf

Ibadan, Nigeria

A year and a half ago we were ready to write the epilog (end of the story) of our efforts to establish a deaf school in Ibadan. Today we feel as if it is just the beginning of something far more than we had ever dared hope. Our kind and gracious God has shown us His guiding hand, and the school continues to operate with the gifts, prayers, and support of many Christians the world over. What greater reward could there ever be?

May I tell you a story that illustrates what I have just spoken. It is a Nigerian custom for women



Mrs. Charles Yunghans, American teacher at School for Young Deaf in Ibadan, Nigeria, puts the finishing touch on the costume of an angel for the 1964 Christmas Pageant at the school

in a family to dress identically for festive occasions. Often one might see 20 or 30 women, both young and old, dressed alike walking in a group down the road.

My husband, our children, and I have been adopted into the Nigerian household of Jacob and Adelaide Oyesola. It has been a usual custom to outfit the women and children of both families in identical cloth each Christmas. The Eve of Christmas of 1964 was spent in the home of the Oyesolas. The gift exchange produced the expected cloth in identical patterns.

The cloth that Adelaide gave me to match her new Nigerian dress was, however, in loud reds and oranges with a bold pattern of a printed "OK" throughout the whole dress. Adelaide has always been one for rather conservative colors and patterns — as conservative as Nigerians can be.

I was quite awed at the bright and bold pattern. No doubt my face reflected the shock, and she asked, "Do you know why I chose this gay and bright pattern?"

I gave her a very innocent look and shook my head no. "Well," she beamed quite proudly, "everything is going to be OK for the school in 1965!"

Truer words were never spoken! The Lord has blessed us!

Several months ago I was taken by surprise when the Austrian



As Mrs. Oyesola prompts in the background, the three “Wise Men from the East” come bringing gifts to the Christ Child

ambassador to Nigeria visited my home. His country has made funds available to him to spend on a charity in Nigeria. Our school was chosen to receive the gift. What a wonderful blessing from our Lord! At last a few people in Nigeria have recognized the importance of our school.

I have also encouraged a fund-raising campaign among the Lebanese merchants in Ibadan. A Lebanese friend of mine has taken the responsibility to personally collect contributions. The purpose of this, of course, is to publicize the school among the local business people to create in

them an interest in our school program. As you can see, good progress has been made in many areas to keep our hopes high for the future.

As you read this article, we will be in the midst of preparing for our Christmas program. The pictures with this article were taken at our 1964 Christmas pageant and will give you some idea of our program.

Our hearing mission conducts a hearing Sunday school that meets on Sunday mornings in our home. Most of these children are American, although we do have an Irish and an English family at-

tending too. The children, ages 3 to 11, are of many Protestant backgrounds, and three of the families are Catholic.

For the Christmas pageant I combine the children of my hearing Sunday school with the deaf children from the school. We try to work the two groups of children together as much as we can in various activities. It is good for the hearing children to see others who are not blessed with as many gifts as they have. It helps them to appreciate the blessings God has given them. And it is good for our little deaf children to see other children from different countries interested in them and wanting to help. It is a wonderful mission program all the way around.

As I bring this article to a close, I encourage you to pray for all of us — both the deaf children and the teachers. Perhaps the following incident will help you to understand our need for your prayers.

Earlier this year a 5-year-old boy was enrolled at the school. Little Okin had been a scared and unhappy little boy that first week of school. He spent most of his time in tears and crouching in corners. Like all the other children, Okin came from a bush village from parents who could not read or write. He had spent most of his young life roaming, as the Nigerians say, from one forest to another, coming home only to eat.

We had to be continually

watching to know where he was every minute of the day. For a little boy to wander out of the school building into the city's traffic without having ever experienced the sight of automobiles would be fatal. The thought was terrifying!

One day I managed to break through the shell he has built around himself — if only for a single moment. I brought a Nigerian tailor in to measure the children for some new clothes. Okin was scared to death of strangers, and a wild look covered his face when he saw Lawrence, the tailor. Okin flew into my arms and hung on for dear life! Mrs. Oyesola was standing next to me, yet Okin made a dive for me. Perhaps it was a sign that I was getting through to him — at



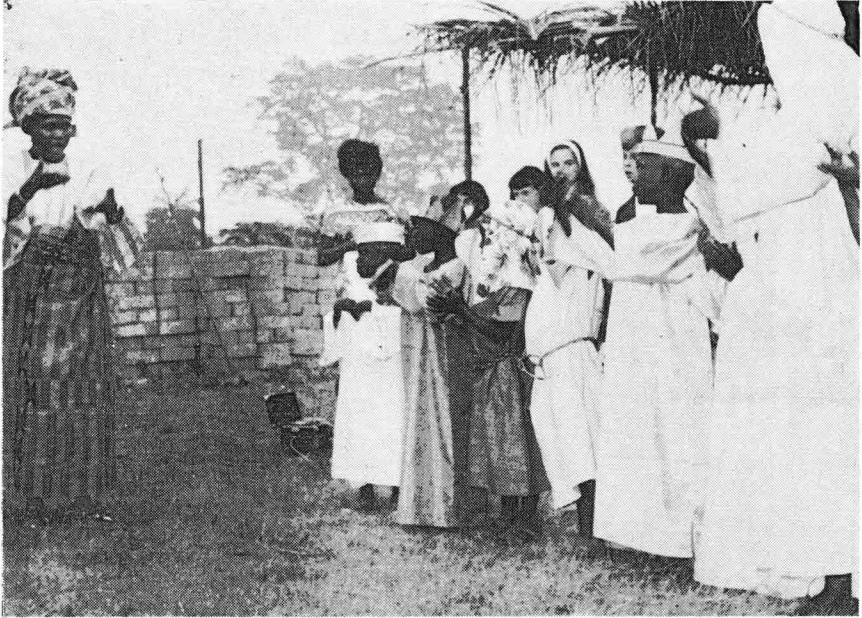
One of the Wise Men presents his gift to the Baby Jesus

least, a little bit. How these children need love, love, and more love!

With your prayers and with your support, dear reader, you are helping us to give these chil-

dren the love they need — the physical love of friendship and the spiritual love of our Savior Jesus.

MRS. MARIAN YUNGHANS
Ibadan, Nigeria



All participants in the Christmas Pageant join in singing and signing their joy and thanks for the birth of Jesus, their Savior. Mrs. Oyesola, who leads the singing, is the headmistress of the school

Survey Team Sent to Nigeria, West Africa

Nov. 2, 1965

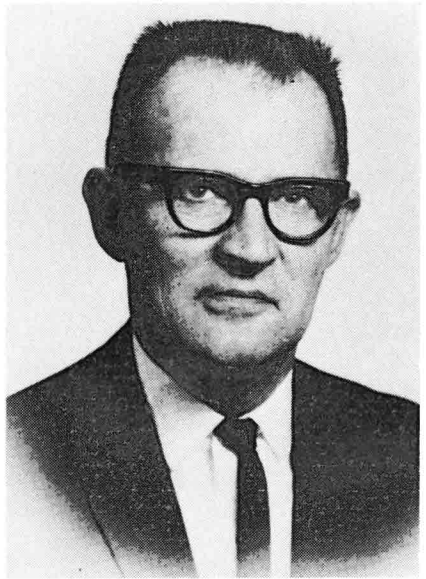
The Board for Missions in Africa recently requested the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf to send a survey team to Nigeria, West Africa, to explore the possibility of expanding the work among the deaf in this area of Africa.

The survey team will visit the Home for Young Deaf at Ibadan, Nigeria, at the beginning of their trip to examine at first hand the present status of the work and the opportunities that the Lord has opened to our Lutheran Church for expanding the school program and for beginning work among the adult deaf.

The team also plans to visit other areas of Nigeria, which has one fifth of all the people in Africa. From Nigeria the team will travel to several other countries on its 21-day trip, including Ghana and the Union of South Africa.

The board of directors of the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf agreed to accept responsibility for the survey including the personnel and the financial cost for three men. Philip Bauer, Jr., president of the board of directors; John Eberlein, Jr.; and Melvin Luebke, headmaster of the Mill Neck Lutheran School for the Deaf, represented the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf.

Rev. C. Roland Gerhold, missionary to the deaf in the Newark, N. J., Field, is also a member of the team. Rev. Gerhold will study what is presently being done for the adult deaf in Africa.



Rev. C. Roland Gerhold

The survey team left for Nigeria on Nov. 2. The DEAF LUTHERAN will have more information concerning this survey in the forthcoming issues in 1966. Watch for them.

Ephphatha

How can we say, Thou hast not spoken, Lord?
Ephphatha has been uttered in our ears!
Yea, we have heard Thy voice speaking Thy Word,
And we have spoken to Thee through the years.
The earth alone may give to us no sound,
Yet all Thy songs are singing in our hearts;
Our cares have fled and left our souls unbound,
And every fear of darkness now departs.
Yea, Lord, Thou hast spoken; we have replied.
To Thee we shall listen through all our days.
By every Word of Thine we shall abide,
And from our hearts will rise songs in Thy praise.

Mark 7:35

Guie C. Cooke, 1938

The Detroit Convention — Second Report

June 16—25 our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod held its 46th regular convention in Detroit, Mich. The convention theme, *Even So Send I You*, was taken from Jesus' words in John 20: 20-21. Jesus sent His followers into the world to do His important work.

Today Jesus still sends His church to *tell* others about the Good News of forgiveness and salvation, *share* its faith, *teach* the Word of God, *love* God *by giving* Him its time, ability, treasure, *love* its neighbor *by sharing* its blessings with others. The Detroit convention made decisions to do just that. Let's take a brief look at some of them.

Missions

The church has but one command from the Lord Jesus: to "go and make disciples of all people" (Matt. 28:19). For the last 70 years our church has sent missionaries to other countries of the world. For the last 71 years our church has provided missionaries to serve the deaf. The Holy Spirit has blessed the mission work of our church and continues to guide it.

It is good, moreover, for the church to look at its mission program to see if it is doing the best it can for the Lord. Dr. M. L. Kretzmann, long-time resident missionary and professor in India, was commissioned by Synod three

years ago to make a study of our mission program.

At the Detroit convention Dr. Kretzmann presented his study and recommended how our mission program could be strengthened. The convention passed a six-part resolution affirming that the church is God's mission — to the whole world, to the church, to the whole society, to the whole man.

In addition the convention adopted a resolution to unite all mission work under *one* Board of Missions. This includes the Board for Missions in North and South America, the Board for World Missions, the Board for Missions to the Blind, the Board for Missions to the Deaf, the Board for European Affairs, and the Commission on College and University Work. This new board is expected to be operating by February 1966.

\$40 Million Offering

After studying the needs of mission congregations in the United States and in foreign countries, the church saw wonderful opportunities to expand its mission program. The cost of expanding the mission is too far above the present budget, however. In fact this year the mission program was cut back because not enough money was available for missions.

The Detroit convention listened to the words of Jesus, *Even*

So Send I You. Delegates saw that the church could spend more than \$69 million for mission expansion and building programs for education within the next few years. After considering the proposal the convention gave their approval to a \$40 million special offering for building needs.

The \$40 million will be divided as follows: 50% (\$20 million) for building needs of missions and church extension. This would include \$6,126,000 for world missions, \$1,324,000 for Latin American missions, \$418,000 for African missions, \$800,000 for deaf missions, and \$11,332,000 for church extension use for inner city, minority ethnic groups, student centers, and advance site acquisition in large cities.

The next 46½% (\$18,600,000) will be used for building needs for our colleges and seminaries. Then 2½% (\$1,000,000) for building needs of Valparaiso University and 1% (\$400,000) for the building needs of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

The special offering will be received in all the congregations of Synod before Easter, 1967.

LCUSA

Delegates at the convention in Detroit voted overwhelmingly to join with three other Lutheran church bodies in a new cooperative agency, the Lutheran Council in the United States of America (LCUSA).

The new council will gather the four Lutheran church bodies in theological study, public relations, service to military personnel, Christian service in areas of education, missions, and welfare.

LCUSA now has the approval of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, and the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (SELC). The Lutheran Church in America (LCA) is expected to approve the new council's constitution in their convention in June, 1966.

Together these four Lutheran churches represent 8,607,000 Lutherans.

Lutheran Deaf

As members of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, the resolutions adopted by the Detroit convention are important for us, too. We ought to know what Jesus is doing through His church. As Christians we share that work to bring the Good News of forgiveness and salvation to every person.

It is true that we are part of the church's mission program — we receive financial support from the hearing members of the church. But let us be part of the whole church as it goes *forward* with *faith* and *trust* in God and with *love* for *all* men.

Happy are those who listen to God's Word and keep it. — Luke 11:28



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Vicar Franzmann Welcomed In Indianapolis Field

Indianapolis, Ind. Members of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Indianapolis, and their friends welcomed Vicar Peter Franzmann with a surprise party on Friday evening, Sept. 10.

The *Lutheran Beacon*, parish paper of the Indianapolis Field, noted that everyone was happily surprised at Vicar Franzmann's skill in the language of signs, and all look forward to having him in Indiana for a year.



Vicar Peter Franzmann

On Sept. 15 Pastor Daniel Pokorny registered as a full-time student at the Graduate School Division of Social Service, Indiana University, Indianapolis. Because the course requires much study, the Board for Missions to the Deaf sent Vicar Franzmann to help Pastor Pokorny in his pastoral duties.

Vicar Franzmann is a student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., taking a year away from his studies to get some practical experience of a pastor's work. Before attending the St. Louis seminary, Peter graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis. His home is in Saint Louis, where his father, Dr. Martin Franzmann, teaches at Concordia Seminary.

Deaf of West Hartford, Conn., Organize as a Congregation

West Hartford, Conn. The first official meeting of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf, West Hartford, was held on Sunday, Sept. 12.

The new congregation voted to accept its proposed constitution, elected its first officers, and discussed other church business.



Mr. Walter Maack, president of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Louis, Mo., breaks ground in a special service on Aug. 22 to announce the beginning of the building of their new chapel. Watching Mr. Maack are (from left to right) Mr. Rex Becker, architect; Mr. E. Mohme, Sr., chairman of the Friends of the Deaf; and Rev. John Ott, Vice-President of the Western District of our Lutheran Church. Rev. Floyd Possehl, present pastor of the St. Louis Field, is not pictured



Mr. Archie Marshall, secretary of the congregation and choir director, also participates in the ground-breaking ceremony. Reading the service is Dr. J. T. Mueller, a faithful friend of the deaf for many years and a former professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Next to him stands Mrs. George Dieckmann, daughter of the first resident pastor of Holy Cross Congregation, Rev. C. Schubkegel. Dr. Martin Franzmann (behind Mr. Marshall), professor at Concordia Seminary, represented the seminary

The first elected officers are R. deRose, president; E. Haffty, vice-president; N. Rarus, secretary; E. Rinas, treasurer; G. Rinas, building fund treasurer; C. DeMars, recording treasurer; R. DeMars, Sunday school superintendent.

The congregation holds formal church worship services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, with Holy Communion on each 2nd Sunday. The 4th Sunday service is followed by a potluck dinner and captioned movies for the deaf.

Formal Bible class discussions, sometimes with filmstrips, are conducted on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Pastor Pokorny Signs on TV

Indianapolis, Ind. Because many of the deaf in the Indianapolis area wrote to station WLWI-TV and told them how happy they were to see signs on TV, the station invited Pastor Daniel Pokorny to appear again. Pastor Pokorny, who signed the show "Five Minutes to Live By"

New Bibles for the Deaf



Rev. William Duey (left), missionary to the deaf in the North Texas-Oklahoma Field, receives a gift of 12 large-print Revised Standard Version Bibles from the Lydians, a Bible class at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (hearing), Dallas, Tex.

Mrs. E. Jackson, president of the Lydians, and Dr. W. Schiebel, Bible class teacher, present the gift to the Dallas deaf congregation

during the week of Sept. 26 to Oct. 2, at 6:30 a. m., appeared on the program last year in November.

Deaf Census

Baltimore, Md. A census of totally deaf persons in Baltimore is being taken as the first step in a planned 3-year research project to learn more about the problems deaf persons have in getting along with people of normal hearing.

The project is being supported by a first-year research grant of \$50,000 from the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Miss Mary E. Switzer, Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation, said, "This project is very important to help us rehabilitate deaf people for employment. Any deaf person who wants to be gainfully employed must adjust in some way to the hearing world. We expect this study to give us additional information on the problems met by deaf persons as well as information on the kinds of programs and services that can help them become self-supporting and remain self-supporting even though they are deaf."

Midwest Regional Conference

Lake Okoboji, Iowa. The regional conference for the Lutheran deaf congregations in the Midwest area met Aug. 20—22 at the Walther League Camp Okoboji on Lake Okoboji, Milford, Iowa. About 131 persons registered for the conference including 8 pastors and Rev. H. Rohe, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions to the Deaf of our church.

The theme of the conference, "Awake Out of Sleep," was presented in an interesting variety of ways by various groups. The first presentation, led by Rev. Herman Graef of Omaha, Nebr., began with a filmstrip which taught that we should use our abilities to

Coming Next Issue:

Index for Vol. 57, 1965



**Laymen and pastors of the Midwest who attended their regional conference
Aug. 20—22 at Lake Okoboji, Milford, Iowa**

serve God and our neighbor. Then the conference divided into four groups to study the Bible. (1) Proverbs 6:9-11 and 20:13 pointed out the danger of too much physical sleep which leads to laziness and poverty. (2) Proverbs 10:5, 6 encouraged wakefulness during harvest. A farmer who sleeps at harvesttime may easily lose all of his harvest crops. Christians, too, must be awake during the spiritual harvest. We have work to do to bring others to know Jesus. (3) Psalm 13:3-5 explained the difference between spiritual sleep — not knowing Jesus — and joyful trust in God. The person who has one cannot have the other. (4) 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11 reminds us Christians that we are the children of light. We must always be awake, watch, and pray that we do not fall into the darkness of sin.

Rev. A. Hauptman and mem-

bers of Prince of Peace Congregation, St. Paul, Minn., presented the second part of the theme with a review of our Lutheran mission work in many countries around the world. As wide-awake Christians we bring the Good News of Jesus' forgiveness to people in faraway countries with our mission offerings.

The third presentation was led by Rev. George Ring, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Members of his congregation acted out skits which showed church members asleep, awake, and wide awake in their everyday lives.

The Sunday morning Bible classes were led by seven pastors who studied other aspects of the theme in Romans 13:11, Ephesians 5:14, and 1 Thessalonians 5:6. Host pastor, Rev. Ring, conducted the morning worship service, while Rev. Rohe in his sermon urged all to be awake to

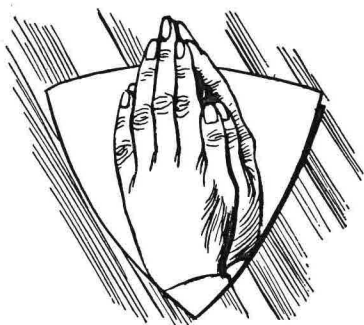
their chances to show their Christian faith.

The business of the conference centered on the adoption of a newly revised constitution. Officers elected for 2-year terms are: Mr. Charles Doering (Omaha, Nebr.), president; Mr. Arvin Massey (Sioux Falls, S. Dak.), vice-

president; and Mr. Kissel (Des Moines, Iowa), secretary-treasurer.

The host congregation for the 1966 conference is Pilgrim Church, Kansas City, Mo., Rev. A. E. Ferber, pastor.

REV. F. P. GEHRS
Winnipeg, Man., Can.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for December

- Dec. 1**—**James 4:1-12.** This is a serious warning against anyone who is selfish and loves himself first. Pray that God will help you to love Him first and love your neighbor as yourself.
- Dec. 2**—**James 5:7-20.** Let your preparation for Christmas this year be preparation in the fellowship of the church. Pray for Mrs. Shirley Hoemann, pastor's wife, Washington, D. C.
- Dec. 3**—**1 Peter 2:1-10.** As we come to Jesus in worship, let us put away all evil. This is the first step to prepare for Jesus' coming to us. Pray that all members in your congregation will live together practicing forgiveness and forgetting each other's sins.
- Dec. 4**—**1 Peter 4:1-11.** Let your Christian life show that you are different from those who do not believe in Jesus. Pray that God will lead the deaf of the Spokane, Wash., Field that they live with love for each other.
- Dec. 5**—**1 Peter 5:1-14.** Humility, faithfulness in your duty, saying *no* to evil, and suffering help us to prepare for Jesus' coming. Ask God to bless the officers of your congregation that they be faithful in their tasks.
- Dec. 6**—**2 Peter 1:1-21.** Scripture was written so that we might learn from it. Pray that God will help you understand and grow with faith in Jesus. Pray for Mrs. Alice Gyle, pastor's wife, St. Augustine, Fla.
- Dec. 7**—**2 Peter 3:1-13.** Be eager for Jesus to return soon. Think what it will mean for you. Pray for the deaf you know who do not love Jesus, so that they will turn from their sin and believe.

- Dec. 8** — **1 John 1:1—2:6.** If you follow Christ, you must walk in the light of love and forgiveness. Pray for the deaf in the Detroit, Mich., Field that they grow in the grace of Christian living.
- Dec. 9** — **1 John 3:1-18.** Love in truth. A Christian knows that he is still a sinner. Pray that your weak faith may grow stronger to resist temptation. Pray for Mrs. Irene Graef, pastor's wife, Omaha, Nebr., and Pastor W. O. Ferber, Fargo, N. Dak.
- Dec. 10** — **1 John 4:1-12.** You will know God better by practising His love. Pray for the poor of your church and look for ways to help them.
- Dec. 11** — **1 John 4:13—5:5.** Thinking about God's love is the way to overcome your fear of death and Judgment. Pray that all the members of your congregation will then also practice this kind of love.
- Dec. 12** — **Jude.** Have courage to practice your faith although other people who call themselves Christians do not do so. Ask God to bless the School for Young Deaf, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Dec. 13** — **Revelation 1:1-20.** Jesus is always with you. As you think of Him and pray to Him, remember His majesty and power. Pray that those who write for the church will picture the Christ in truth.
- Dec. 14** — **Revelation 2:13-29.** The Lord of the church knows also your congregation and what you do for Him in your congregation. Pray for your pastor that he may be filled with a love for God.
- Dec. 15** — **Revelation 3:7-22.** Are you hot, cold, or merely lukewarm in the way you accept the chance to serve God? Pray that the congregations of your church will accept the chance God gives them to send pastors and teachers to all parts of the world.
- Dec. 16** — **Revelation 4:1-11.** The first answer of faith is worship and praise to God. Join in it. Pray for your congregation that in worship all members may know God is with them.
- Dec. 17** — **Revelation 5:1-14.** Only Christ, who has died for you, gives you a place in heaven. Ask God to increase your hope of heaven.
- Dec. 18** — **Revelation 7:9-17.** You have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus. Come before His throne in worship. Ask God to bless the deaf of the Cleveland, Ohio, Field that they may with the joy of faith worship the Savior.
- Dec. 19** — **Revelation 14:13-20.** Now is the day of mercy. Let your faith in Jesus lead you to act with love. Your faith-act is your thankoffering to the Lord. Pray for Pastor W. Bottlinger, Vancouver, B. C., Canada.
- Dec. 20** — **Revelation 20:11-15.** Your name is in the Book of Life because God sent His Son to save you. Ask God to bless your celebration of Christmas that it may truly be a time of worship.
- Dec. 21** — **Revelation 21:1-8.** Speak of your joy that God is always with you, forever. Pray that all your family and friends may know this joy as hearts are raised to God in worship throughout the Christmas season.
- Dec. 22** — **Revelation 21:22—22:5.** The river of life flows through you. Bring someone to worship at Christmastime. Pray for Pastor T. DeLaney, San Francisco, Calif.

- Dec. 23** — **Isaiah 42:1-13.** The glory of Christmas is God's. Give Him all your praise! Pray that the children of your congregation may understand the wonder of God's gift to men.
- Dec. 24** — **Isaiah 9:1-7.** Through all ages and lands the Lord is God. He came to earth to live among us. Pray that your friends and all people may accept God's gift of peace that you know in your salvation.
- Dec. 25** — **Matthew 1:18-25.** Emmanuel — God is with us. Know Him and love Him in Jesus. Pray that all who hear the Christmas message in your church may receive a stronger faith in Jesus.
- Dec. 26** — **Psalms 124.** God has come to you in Jesus. Come to Him with deeper thanks and praise. Pray that God will always be with His church to protect it and to give His work success.
- Dec. 27** — **Psalms 135.** Some men worship false gods. Your God has shown Himself in Jesus. Pray for Pastor C. Bailey, Oakland, Calif.
- Dec. 28** — **Psalms 8.** This is the glory of your salvation — that God has chosen and called you as His own. Pray for the government and the leaders of your land that they understand the peace of God in Christ Jesus and work for peace among nations.
- Dec. 29** — **Matthew 25:31-46.** Think of your own life and death. As the year ends, remember your hope of eternal life. Pray that your faith and worship will not become weak in the new year. Pray for the joy of heaven.
- Dec. 30** — **Matthew 25:14-30.** Have you given your abilities to your pastor and your church to be used for God? Pray that God will make you an eager and willing worker for His work.
- Dec. 31** — **Revelation 22:6-21.** Let your hope and joy center on the prayer in verse 20. Ask God to come soon, to bring you and all His people into the home He prepared for you in eternal glory.

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