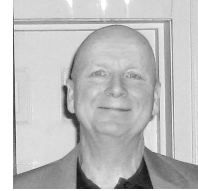


Lo The d Ou Righteousness

The Word Became Flesh

Elder Charles Moore



very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing,

taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:6-8)

God came, even though He knew the consequences. He was willing to come even if it meant that the Almighty had to experience pain and death — so great was His love for us. He came so that He might share the human condition and take our burdens upon Himself. What other religion do you know whose God comes in person to die for His people? Buddha did not claim to be God, nor did He claim to have come from God. He was in search of the divine principle — the word became word. And neither did Mohammed claim to be God, only a prophet of God and author of the Koran. In all other world religions we have the word become word — a verbal revelation: writings, injunctions and moral codes. Jesus came to us as word become flesh and much more.

Booker T. Washington who

(Continued on page 2)

Some of the most important words in the entire Bible for us are these: **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)** Could this helpless infant really be God? What would it have been like for infinite God to take on a human body "The Eternal Being" wrote C. S. Lewis "who knows everything and who created the whole universe became not only a man but (before that) a baby and before that a fetus inside a Woman's body. If you want to get the hang of it think how you would like to become a slug or a crab." Mere Christianity

"He was the God-man," wrote commentator G. Campbell Morgan. "Not God indwelling a man. Of such there have been many. Not a man Deified. Of such there have been none save in pagan myths, but God and man, combining in one Personality the two natures, a perpetual enigma and mystery, baffling the possibility of explanation."

As a result, His appearance changed. He no longer looked like God; He looked human and felt human in every way. He hurt, He laughed, and He bled. No halo hovered radiantly

over Jesus' head, no royal robes draped His shoulders, and no angelic wings graced His back. Because He was human, people could come near Him. Fishermen felt comfortable in His presence. Prostitutes spoke to Him without shrinking back in shame. Even lepers called Him friend. From the throne room of God to the manger to the cross to throne room again, Jesus came so that in Him we might pass from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

This is the great truth that sets Christianity apart from all the world religions. Our God has not remained remote and unapproachable; he has come to us in person. He did not just write us a letter. He did not just send us a representative. He did not just speak his laws from a mountain. He came to us as one of us. The Infinite became an infant. The Eternal One became a wee one. The Bible describes the miracle of what Christ has done when it says: "**Who, being in**

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was born a slave wrote in his autobiography, Up from Slavery, a story about his brother: "The most trying ordeal that I was forced to endure as a slave boy... was the wearing of a flax shirt. In Virginia where I lived, it was common to use flax as part of the clothing for the slaves. That part of the flax from which our clothing was made was largely the refuse, which of course was the cheapest and roughest part. I can scarcely imagine any torture, except, perhaps, the pulling of a tooth, that is equal to that caused by putting on a new flax shirt for the first time. It is almost equal to the feeling that one would experience if he had a dozen or more chestnut burrs, or a hundred small pin-points, in contact with his flesh.... But I had no choice. I had to wear the flax shirt or none.... My brother John, who is several years older than I am, performed one of the most generous acts that I ever heard of one slave relative doing for another. On several occasions when I was being forced to wear a new flax shirt, he generously agreed to put it on in my stead and wear it for several days, till it was 'broken in.'"

Jesus Christ is our elder brother who has come along side of us to take on the roughness of the world on our behalf. He has put on our shirt — experienced what we experienced, walked where we have walked, and eased the pain of life. God dressed himself as one of us and entered our world. He joined us because we were held hostage to sin and spiritual death. He rescued us from eternal danger. Imagine it! God, who could have crushed the world because of its sin, came into the world to be crushed for our sin. The very One who said that everyone who sinned would die, came to the world to die in our place. He both pronounced the judgment and took the judgment upon himself. He is willing to place our suffering and pain on his own back, if we are willing for Him to do it. That's why He was born, that's why He came, and that's why He died. Remember that this Christmas season.

"Don't cry because it's over,
Smile because it happened."

DR. SEUSS

Cyber News Diane Begeman



Roy & Bennie Gee spoke at the Petersburg Church of God 7th Day. It was great to see them both. Roy really wanted to check out everything that the Village of Dundee has to offer so he decided he would check out the Urgent Care that we have. His diagnosis - Flu. After flying home and another visit to an Urgent Care at home he again was diagnosed with pneumonia. He is on the mend but Bennie told me she sure didn't want it! Glad you're better Roy.

David Charles, Kay Nevil and Lynn Vaughn flew off to Wales for 10 days. The trip had been delayed because of Geneva's funeral. We are anxiously awaiting a report from David on their adventures.

I received an email from Thelma Gilbert a friend we've known for years. She is doing well. We haven't seen her in a while so it was good to hear from her.

I talked with Ellen Momberger, she is always doing something. Her newest love is crocheting. I've seen some of her quilts that she has done in the past, I'm sure her crocheting is as well done as the quilting.

Arvilla Pease is keeping busy with bible studies she attends with the other residents at her apartment complex and going out with the girls.

Ben Smeltzer has secured a job in Arizona. We're so proud Ben. Now on to finding an apartment. Ben surprised everyone by coming home before he starts his new job on December 3rd.

Berty Lane is recovering from a surgery she had.

I got a picture from Michael Moss of his twin daughters. I must say I don't know how he tells them apart. I heard one is a little taller than the other and that's how you tell.

Carrie DeHaan has been interviewing for jobs since her residency will be done in late summer. The good news is that they are looking at places in the lower part of Michigan. We know that God will make you a blessing wherever you end up. It was great to have Carrie, Joel, Caleb and Jeremiah at church after Thanksgiving. Caleb is quite the character.

We did a bible study on Joshua. We used a study guide from Book by Book by Paul Blackham. It comes with a video also. I really enjoyed it even though I missed half of the studies with the group. We changed the day from Wednesday to Tuesday and I was having trouble remembering that. I miss the lively discussions that we have. If your church or small group offers a bible study I encourage you to attend, or if that's not possible to get the study and do it on your own. There is always some little nugget to learn and put into practice.

I will take this time to invite you to come to the church for our annual Christmas Eve Service. It's held at 7 pm. You will not be disappointed. Come and renew your friendships and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with us. Until we meet here again.

Michigan Report

Tim Begeman



Since the Christmas season is approaching I would like to share this writing by Harry Reasoner (of 60 Minutes) from 1973. In it, Reasoner suggested three possible ways of approaching Christmas:

Merry Christmas from Harry Reasoner

"The basis for this tremendous annual burst of gift buying and parties and near hysteria is a quiet event that Christians believe actually happened a long time ago. You can say that in all societies there has always been a mid-winter festival and that many of the trappings of our Christmas are almost violently pagan. But you come back to the central fact of the day and quietness of Christmas morning - the birth of God on earth.

"It leaves you only three ways of accepting Christmas.

"One is cynically, as a time to make money or endorse the making of it.

"One is graciously, the appropriate attitude for non-Christians, who wish their fellow citizens all the joys to which their beliefs entitle them.

"And the third, of course, is reverently. Christmas is such a unique idea that most non-Christians accept it, and I think sometimes envy it. If this is the anniversary of the appearance of the Lord of the universe in the form of a helpless babe, then it is a very important day. It's a startling idea and the theologians, who sometimes love logic more than they love God, find it uncomfortable, but if God did do it, He had a tremendous insight. "It has a magnificent appeal. Almost nobody has seen God, and almost nobody has any real idea of what He is like. And the truth is that among men the idea of seeing God suddenly and standing in a very bright light is not necessarily a completely comforting and appealing idea. "But everyone has seen babies, and most people like them. If God wanted to be loved as well as feared he moved correctly here. If He wanted to know His people as well as rule them, He moved correctly here, for a baby growing up learns all about people. If God wanted to be intimately a part of man, He moved correctly, for the experiences of birth and family hood are our most intimate and precious experiences. So it goes beyond logic. That's what a bishop I used to know called a kind of divine insanity. It is either all falsehood or it is the truest thing in the world. It is the story of the great innocence of God, the baby - God in the form of a man. And it is such a dramatic shot toward the heart that if it is not true... for Christians, nothing is true. So even if you have not got your shopping all done and you are swamped with commercialism and the frenzy, be at peace and even if you're the deacon having to arrange extra seating for all the Christmas Christians you won't see until Easter, be at peace. The story stands. It's all right so, if a Christian is touched only once a year by this incomparable story, the touching is still worth it, and maybe on some given Christmas, some final quiet morning, the touch will take.

This month started out with the funeral of my mother, Geneva Begeman. There was a packed house for her remembrance solemnities. The service started out with me giving the eulogy which was followed by Kay Nevil and Kathy Smeltzer singing "It Took a Miracle" which my mom and dad sang for many years as a duet. Next, Chelsey Begeman delivered some memories she gathered from all of mom's grandchildren. Chelsey finished by reading a note mom had written to her to encourage her in her future endeavors. We were blessed to have Roy and Bennie Gee in the area to attend the funeral. Mom loved Pastor Roy Gee's reading of scripture so we had him read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. Elder Moore gave the final message and the "Echoes of Happiness" sang one of mom's favorite songs "Redeemed". All in all between the showings and the funeral we were all touched to see so many family and friends travel far and near to pay their respects.

During the first weekend of November we all worshiped with the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day for their early Thanksgiving celebration which featured special guest speaker Roy Gee. We were all blessed to the full with all three of Pastor Roy Gee's messages.

This month we had our bi-monthly visit to the Magnum nursing home joined by the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. We had a good turnout of residences that enjoyed our truncated worship service. We did some singing, praying and Pastor John Schott gave a moving gospel message.

David Charles made trip a trip across the pond this month joined by his daughters Kay Nevil and Lynn Vaughn. He made a visit to the UK to visit some cousins and his brother and sister-in-law, Albert and Pearl. They had an exciting trip seeing the White Cliffs of Dover, driving left of center and maneuvering scads of round-a-bouts.

My dad, Dale Begeman is residing at Hickory Ridge rehab center this month for some well needed physical therapy. Currently he is having trouble walking which was exacerbated by his recent stroke he suffered.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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Why Jesus Is Better than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole. JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh. JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year. JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies. JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited. JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa. JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap. JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name? JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and our future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly. JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO... JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "you better not cry"... JESUS says "Cast your cares on me for I care for you,"

Santa and his little helpers make toys JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but... JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree. JESUS became our gift and died on a tree.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.