

Sesus is the Reason for the Beason

Beginning 53rd Year in Broadcasting

Once again we send this special Issue of GIJAPA so we can THANK YOU for your support all year long through your gifts and prayers. We could not do what we are doing without each one of you and the Churches behind us all the way!

Naomi, Eric, Melanie and trustees - Joe Rightmyer, Bob Feathers, Bob Stevens.

Under the Tree

December the twenty-fifth is the birthday of the Lord. Just in case some folk think we don't know any better it needs to be pointed out that we don't know what day the Lord was born, but HE was born and it might as well have been December the twenty-fifth as any other day.



People usually get gifts on their

birthday so it seems logical to give gifts to Jesus on His birthday rather than to each other. Should we decide to give a special gift to the Lord on His birthday, why not in the spirit of the season place the gift under the tree of GIJAPA?

There is a tree provided in the scripture for that purpose. Peter tells us in Acts the fifth chapter, "Whom also ye slew hanging Him on a tree." Then John tells us in the place where He was crucified there was a garden. And that reminds us that there was a tree in the Garden of Eden called the tree of life. The tree in the garden where He was crucified is also the tree of life. When Adam and Eve sinned and were driven out of the Garden of Eden the Lord put Cherubim at the tree of life with a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life lest Adam should eat of it and live forever. Yonder on the bloody branch of Calvary's tree hangs the fruit that sinners may eat and live forever. Jesus said, "He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day." The real Christmas tree is the cross, the tree in the garden where He was crucified. I hope many of you will join me as I place my special gift to the Lord Jesus under the TREE on the day that we celebrate as His birth. And remember these words of Paul regarding the birth of our Lord: "Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus: who existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea the death of the cross." E.B.





Because of your generosity we are heard 12 times each Lords' Day here in the US (coverage map and cost in GIJAPA November issue); And five times by short-wave stations that cover a large

part of the world. RADIO AFRICA: Broadcast via Radio Africa's powerful 50,000 watt signal and you will reach a potential audience of 164 million English speaking souls in the three former British colonies of Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and over 21 million souls in the countries of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Liberia. BEACON OF HOPE: Did you know that over 88% of the population within Beacon Of Hope's coverage area is of the Islamic faith? Not only does Beacon Of Hope give you the opportunity to save the souls of over 216 million Muslims but you will also strengthen the faith of the Christians residing within northern Africa. What a powerful and affordable way to further the Great Commission! **BIBLE VOICE-EUROPE:** Bible Voice plays a vital role in the pioneering movement of bringing the Gospel to the people of Europe. Here's your opportunity to share the power of Christianity and the love of Jesus Christ with millions of oppressed, searching and hungry souls! SRI LANKA: also known as "The giant Superpower 100,000 watt station of Asia" GIJAPA has the potential of reaching over 1.5 billion people. Our words of encouragement and inspiration are so desperately needed by the masses as they continue to recover from the devastation of the powerful Tsunami that swept across the Indian Ocean, eventually flooding the eastern coast of the island of Sri Lanka as well as many other countries bordering the Indian Ocean. In addition to reaching the people of Sri Lanka, GIJAPA's message will also touch the people of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan every Lord's Day. **BIBLE VOICE-RUSSIA:** The Russian Constitution states "freedom of religion" but this freedom is not exercised by the Russian Government. GIJAPA has the potential of reaching over 165 million people each Sunday. Radio is the primary means of news in this area of the world. The short-wave broadcast cost about \$2,500 for a four Sunday month.



The radio broadcast is the hub around what the other ministries of GIJAPA revolve. In the November newsletter, we detailed the cost of the broadcast in the US and above we've detailed our short-wave ministry. When there is money available we send the hard back pew Bibles (cost \$5 each, and \$70.95 to ship 14) to four struggling Churches of Christ located in India, Philippines, The Gambia, W. Africa, and Zambia, Central Africa. We also send them boxes of used clothing when we have the postage of \$70.95.



Via Internet: you can hear the GIJAPA broadcast anywhere in the world. All you have to do is connect to the radio station's website at the time of our broadcast (see above) and you can listen as it is being broadcast. For example: www.wlw.com is WLW website and GIJAPA is broadcast at 6:30 & 8 am every Sunday. Likewise for all the other stations except WWVA www.newsradio1170.com and you can hear GIJAPA at 9:30 pm. You receive the monthly GIJAPA newsletter list and the prayer request by going to our website www.gijapa.org and click on subscribe to email sign up using your email address. The weekly broadcast is also posted for you to listen whenever it is convenient for you. There are hundreds of sermons and communion meditations in printed form on the web also.



GIJAPA is heard in areas where there are prisons - WIBC, WHAS, WLW, WWVA, WRVA, KAAY, to name only a few; we respond to their letters by sending them a large print Bible (\$10 each) and the first five of 30 lessons of Studies in the Bible. We have over 1,700 prisoners from 11 states, studying with us on 12 different Bible Studies. They are also added to the mailing list to receive our monthly Newsletter. These lessons are graded and returned with the next ten lessons. This has been a very rewarding ministry as you've read many of their letters in our newsletter each month, but once again only if there are funds to do this, are we able to fulfill their requests. I have over 200 requesting Bibles and the Bible Studies, but we don't have the funds to buy the Bibles and mail them. One prison has 35 of 40 inmates located together in one pod that are completing our Bible Studies and are referred to as the "God Pod!" This has generated letters from other prisons asking what they have to do to get a God Pod started in their prison as problems with inmates are minimal.



We have two part-time workers: Barbara Ertel, member of the New Vienna Church of Christ, New Vienna, OH; Glenna Butler, member of the Allensburg Church of Christ, Lynchburg, OH. They work on the average 12 hours a week. Their duties are grading Bible Study lessons from prisoners, packaging Bibles and preparing the 6,000 copies of monthly newsletter for mailing. Sharon Dotson, member of the Pricetown Church of Christ, Lynchburg, OH helps with the clothes ministry when she's needed. I do everything else. Thanks to Eric, my son, owner of 3z.net Company, volunteers his talents and abilities in keeping our four computers working, along with the three printers and copiers. Thanks to Melanie, my daughter, acquired her doctor of nursing degree last year, also volunteers her talents and abilities proof reading and rewriting the monthly newsletter preparing it for the printer.



Luke records that she brought forth her first born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn. Matthew tells us concerning the infant Jesus; "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem saying, "where is He that is born King of the Jews for we saw His star in the east and are coming to worship Him?" *Jesus was King in the Cradle.*

The first question that was asked in the first book of the Old Testament concerning the first Adam, was when God said, "Adam, where art thou?" The first question that was asked about the second Adam in the first book of the New Testament was, "Where is He?"

One prominent interviewer on television was asked, what would you ask God if you could ask Him one question. He said I would ask Him if He had a Son? God has already answered that question. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. One of the great Hollywood legends was asked what he thought God would say to him when he died. He said, I hope He or she, whichever He is, will be merciful to me. Poor dumb cluck did not know whether God was a He or a she. Many people seem confused at this point. They wonder—Is God really a He or might He be a she. People have to be awful dumb to think of such a possibility that God is a she. Just think about it. Mary the mother of Jesus was a SHE. If God is a SHE; that means that two SHE'S produced a child. It would take more faith to believe that two she's could produce a child than to believe in something as simple as the virgin birth. To those who think that God is a she please excuse me for laughing. Ha, Ho, He, Haw. The celebration of the birth of Jesus at the Christmas season is a time of great joy for various reasons, some of them not religious. The first time Jesus came there was very little joy, except for a few shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, Anna, Simeon, Zacharias and Elisabeth. For all else it was a time of great foreboding. Herod was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. Herod was all shook up because of the

birth of Jesus. Jerusalem was all shook up because of what it meant politically. No telling what kind of trouble king Herod might cause. Now think of that. Jesus had not preached a single sermon and the population was all shook up. Jesus had not worked a single miracle and they were all shook up. He had not healed a single sick person or raised the dead, and yet they were all shook up. This troubled feeling is an indication of what the majority of the world will feel when the Lord comes again. Behold He comes with the clouds and every eye shall see Him, Yea, and they that pierced Him and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. If they were troubled over him as a baby before He ever preached a sermon or worked a miracle, what will it be like when He comes again in all His glory. In the Garden of Gethsemane when He identified Himself as Jesus of Nazareth they fell backwards. What will it be like when these wretches are dragged out of their graves to stand before the King in His glory? One more thought about the King in the Cradle. The scribes did not quote all the prophecy of Micah to King Herod. They said that He would be born in Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written through the prophet; "And thou Bethlehem land of Judah art in no wise least among the princes of Judah for out of thee shall come forth a governor who shall be shepherd of my people Israel." The scribes were too cagey to tell the rest of it. The next statement of the prophecy says . . . "whose going forth shall be from everlasting to everlasting." If they had indicated that the baby Jesus was the eternal creator — from everlasting to everlasting, they knew Herod well enough to know they might lose their heads. So they told part of the prediction, but not all. In that case I can't say that I blame them, but that device of leaving off part of God's word and telling people a part of the message is still being practiced even to this day. Thousands are told to believe and ask Jesus to come into their hearts while nothing is said about repentance or obedience in the ordinance of immersion. It has been almost two thousand years since the birth of Jesus. We can still say the One who is from Everlasting to Everlasting was the King in the Cradle.

The Star road is the fairest road that ever you will follow; It winds as a song through desert and through hollow. It climbs up high mountain peaks and into promised lands, And at the end a baby waits with tiny out flung hands.

The Star road is the straightest road although it climbs and dips,

There always is a paradise, a spring for parching lips. There always is a bit of shade, when mid-day melds the skies,

At the end a mother waits with wonder in her eyes.

O you, who travel in this road the starlight has made bright,

Need never fear the crash tumult of the night. For down the crowding voice of angels call, And at the end the Saviour waits, a haven for us all. EB 1998

LETTERS

Hello Madame NAOMI! Together with our children, we are keeping you and your family on with our "prayers and supplications" in our churches. As for our work, besides our regular itineraries both for young and old alike, we have headed almost a week "nightly preaching" at Tubao. A family of Christians there, who are also the first believers in our local church to that place, have "death", and so we have to assist them with "public preaching" until they finally put their "deceased" to the grave. At one time we're in preaching with two (2) different denominational preachers with their and our members plus the other audience, as it was the request of some family members of the bereaved who belong to other churches. Both of these groups and some other audience do not believe on the "basic and necessity" of immersion to one's salvation. Basically, to deal with this difference, "tact" must be observed and "find some level of agreement" among the audience so as we could maintain peace in view of the occasion. So what we did is to establish the "authority and comforting promises" of the Scriptures and read aloud to them those promises such as Matt. 28:19-20 and Mark 16:16 and "other pertinent passages" that one must believe and be baptized to have eternal life, and connect those passages on how the "hope" of the "promise" of the Holy Spirit. But "somehow" we were satisfied we've preached to this audience this "great hope and difference" with these sectarian groups, satisfying our "heart" to the Lord we've executed our spiritual mission of "defense to everyone who asks us to give an account for the hope that is in us, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1Pet. 3:15)! The audience were so appreciative, and as other says "they were blessed" with the presentation. Regards and God bless you all at GIJAPA.

Ed Domingo, Sunset Beach Church of Christ, Philippines

Dear Sister Naomi, Thanks be to God I have received the newsletters you posted. The children are all well in health to the glory of God. I am very grateful sister. We all thank you for your love for our family. Thanks so much. It is our prayer here that the Lord gives you long life with strength and peace, Amen in Jesus name. The work is going on very well here and we thank the Lord for that. We have got many converts this year. Please keep on praying for us for we have many prospects.

Thanks, sister. Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God, London Corner Church of Christ, The Gambia, W. Africa

Dear Granny Naomi, I am Melody Maseka. Thank you, thank you, thank you. The purpose of this letter is to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help with prayers and money you sent when I become ill with TB. I thank God, many times for healing me and speaking to you to send me some money for more drugs, good food, fruits and paying transport to go to the clinic and hospital again and again. During this time, I was dying, very weak with no power to walk. Now I am feeling very well, going to school, and going to Church every Sunday and doing all the work as before. I remain to take the TB drugs for two months up to December this year and have the last sputum tests. I pray and hope that the tests will be negative. Without your help to send the money, I would have died. Thank you very much. I send you all my love to thank you. I am happy and thankful, but feel badly I don't have the names to thank them name by name. Please say thank you to all those who helped me to save my life. Many people die with TB every day here in Zambia. I will come to America in 2019, to say thank you personally. God bless you all with peace, love and happiness.

Melody Maseka, daughter of John Maseka, Messenger Church of Christ, Zambia, Central Africa

Dear Sir, I like your messages on WLW radio, and listen a lot of Sunday mornings. I really liked your message today. I'd like to know if your sermons are available on CDs. I am a long haul trucker semi-18 wheels owner operator with years of experience in this field. I'd sure like to purchase these and listen to them while driving my truck over the road. I haul from the Dayton, OH area to upper New England area of VT, MS and CT.

Thanks, Carl



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