



## CHRISTMAS WITH CHRIST

*By Rev. Vicente A. Zambra*

In the language of Saint Luke it says that "there were shepherds keeping their flock by night, when, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone upon them," and to their happy ears were uttered the good tidings of great joy, that unto them were born that day in the city of David a Savior, which was Christ the Lord.

The place in which the Lord was born was associated with poverty and humbleness. A man must work hard if he wanted to live. The entire country and the whole world was corrupt. Kings and rulers were cruel. They were thirsty for blood and having no moral standard, they practiced slavery and treated men as beasts of burden. It was a very sinful world. That God could destroy it but because of the rainbow it was not done. Instead he sent His only begotten son here on earth, born as flesh to live on earth as man, tempted in all points as ordinary man will be, tempted, yet committed no sin. . . . It was a perfect example. If a man will follow Him, he could be perfect and live in this world a

perfect life.

The city of Sacramento completed its decorations a day before December 1st. That is ahead of time. And the city looks like a fairy land. It is beautiful wherever you turn in the business section of Kay and Jay Streets . . . this is the most happy Christmas . . . daily people the streaming on the sidewalks from store to store, shopping like ants. They wanted to buy gifts to be presented to their loved ones, as the Wise Men from the East almost 2000 years ago brought their precious gifts to the manger, to be presented to the Savior of the world. The Wise Men from the East came to worship the Savior. They were wise men . . . they all knew the secrets and knowledge of the world yet they came to worship the Lord. These men wanted to be wiser and better men. That is the reason why they came from a distant place, just to be at the insignificant little town of Bethlehem.

Later in the life of Christ not only kings and queens worshiped Him but also masses of people who were poor and ignorant. For they wanted to be wise and good. They have salvation the minute they accepted Christ as the Lord of their lives.

This applies to all nations of the whole world. If they embrace and accept Christ and make the teachings of Christ the foundation of their governments, they will be a great country . . . the most progressive for the teachings of Christ is the most dynamic and progressive. It is evolutionary and revolutionary religion. He said to His disciples that the new wine needs a new skin and old wine needs old skin. That means to say that new spirit of Christianity is only fit to a new world . . . a new social order. That is the complete brotherhood of men and nations. That, they must go together as brothers are doing for they belong to one house and one Father and that they are all brothers.

Why, men today do not think they are all brothers for the other is white and the other is brown, the other is yellow and the other is black. But they are all  
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mistaken for they are all brothers . . . they all came from the same Father . . . only geography separated them and the climate made them change externally. But they are brothers. They will find it out later for they really do not know that today. The United Nations today is trying to put them together. The time comes when they all get together and form just one World Government. Then and only then the song of the angel 2000 years ago on the plain of Judea will come to a reality, when men consider each other as brothers. Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace: goodwill toward men!

### THANKSGIVING WITH GOD

November 28th is set aside here in the United States of America by the proclamation of President Truman as a day of Thanksgiving. The proclamation includes that there will be appropriate ceremony and that the flags be displayed in all public places.

The most appropriate is the church. That is the place of the true Thanksgiving. There should be reading of the Holy Scriptures concerning the care of God to His children, singing of hymns, prayers and sermon on the significance of the day. That is the true ceremony and the true thanksgiving, before eating turkey have a word of prayer . . . prayer of thanks. Pray like this:

"Our Father, Thou hast abundantly blessed this earth on which we live with great harvests. Thou hast provided for mankind all things needful. Bless those who labor in the fields. May we ever rejoice in Thy goodness to us. Help us not to forget all thy benefits. This is a good land in which we live. On this day of thanksgiving we thank thee for our food, our schools, books and many churches, above all we thank Thee for Thy Son, Jesus. May the word of the Psalmist be our prayer: 'Bless the Lord O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.' Amen."

The great majority of Filipinos in the United States are coming back to paganism. They do not attend church! Their wives are as bad. Few children would attend if you pick them up with a car or taxi. The love of God is not supreme anymore in their hearts. They have gone too far in the worldly things and they are forever lost. It seems there is no hope for their redemption.

They only strive to attend to the church services if they need something. That is if they ask a favor from the preacher or help from the few that are in the church but after that they forget. That is not the normal Christianity.

Several years ago here in Sacramento Filipinos had a funeral and they invited a Catholic priest to preach the funeral sermon. The priest looked first at the good crowd and then began to talk. The priest told them that "you have forgotten to attend to the Church of your mothers and fathers . . . the Roman Catholic Church." The priest instead of preaching a funeral sermon, for the dead Filipino he devoted time in scolding them. These people came to a Protestant minister telling him of the scolding of the priest in the funeral parlor. That was the last time I heard the priest was called to deliver a funeral oration.

The Protestant minister told a dozen Filipinos who came and reported the funeral story connected with the priest that the "Father was doing fine."

In meeting of the United Nations at Lake Success, New York, the other week, there was no prayer. That is the question that every loving people and people who do not want war to study. There should be prayer offered first before the meeting starts. Protestant clergy, catholic priest, a rabbi or even a Mohamadan should offer prayer first. They all look on God as Father. They all pray, and the meeting should start with prayer, just like when Congress of the United States meets they always open with a prayer of the chaplain . . . a Christian prayer.