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Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! Luke 2:8-11



Christmas is celebrated around the world by believers and nonbelievers, by nominal Christians and atheists. It's meant to be a tiding of great joy meant for all people. The Savior of the world has been born, He is Christ the Lord.

In Isaiah 49, Isaiah lets us in on God's intimate conversation with His Son.
Isa 49:6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'** "

Earlier, Isaiah prophesied of His birth. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**" — Isaiah 9:6 ESV

Yet, not all who celebrate Christmas know the Prince of Peace. The peace on earth that the angels proclaimed to the shepherds was not peace between men. It was peace with God as a result of being justified by faith in Christ's full payment for our sin through His death on the cross.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

That's the Christmas message for all people. It's God's prophesied "light to the Gentiles", His salvation proclaimed "to the ends of the earth." It's the reason missionaries leave "houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake... Mat 19:29

It's the reason you and I have a Christmas to celebrate. The angel announcing Christ's birth brought "good tidings of great joy" for "**all people**". It was missionaries who brought that "light to the Gentiles" and "salvation to the ends of the earth." For 2000 years, the "light of the world" has been proclaimed especially at this time of year.

Pray that those in your own family and many around the world will receive the greatest Christmas gift ever
"The Savior.. Christ the Lord."



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Excerpts from a newspaper article dated February 24, 1968...

Missionaries Face Problems on Furlough

Mrs. Kenneth Hibbs, as most women do, likes dishes that match. And she prefers living in a house where the furniture goes together and the silverware matches, she says.

She has these things, of course in Peru where she and her husband are missionaries to 500 Conobi Indians. But it gets a little expensive to bring everything with them when they come to the United States for a yearlong furlough.

The Hibbs, now on their first furlough, didn't have the problems many of their friends did, though. She had known the daughter of the man who runs Cedar Lane Missionary Home, Inc, near Laurel Springs which rents six furnished, 4 bedroom homes to missionaries for \$50 per month. There also are two apartments.

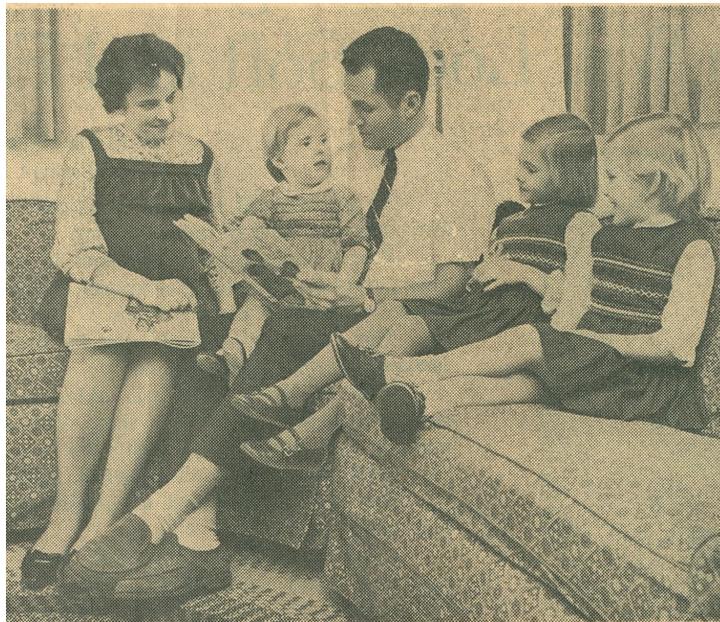
The furnishings include everything from muffin tins to potholders, paper towel racks and radios. Most of the equipment was donated, but the \$10,000 cost of each home usually includes a new washing machine and dryer.

The project was started in 1949 by Rev. and Mrs. Robert Dawson. The Dawsons started out with 378 acres, including a farm to help meet payments on the property. When Cedar Lane became incorporated in 1957, he gave the land to the corporation which sold it in 1957. The money was used for additional buildings. He built most of the stucco houses himself, with assistance from a helper or missionaries living there. "I worked my way through college and seminary as a carpenter and home repairman," he said. "I thought it was an odd way of preparing myself for the ministry at the time."

Although missionaries believe that the Lord will provide for them when they come homes, they say it's much nicer when they know what will be provided. "The last time we were here, some friends helped us find a house in Woodbury," Rev. George Kelsey said. "But we still had to buy or borrow furniture, linen and kitchen utensils."

In addition to the problems any family would face moving somewhere for a year, missionary families often have unique difficulties. Most take from one to six tons of things, ranging from personal clothing to electric generators, medical supplies and printing presses, back with them. Not too many private homes have the facilities to store all this, so Cedar Lanes has a large barn where the equipment can be stored while the missionary is getting it together. There's also a shop where he can make packing crates.

Those from the tropics usually don't have winter clothing, so Cedar Lane has a "shop" of donated clothes where families can help themselves. Another problem is that while most missionaries have adequate libraries overseas, it is too costly to ship books Cedar Lane has a library of over 3000 books for use by missionary translators and their children for school.



READING to their daughters in their home at Cedar Lanes are Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Hibbs, missionaries to Peru. Children (left to right) are Kathleen, 2; Karen, 6, and Kimberly, 4.



*By Jo Murray
Courier Post Staff*



Cedar Lane Missionary Homes

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Praise and Prayer



~Praise the Lord! Most of our missionary families have weathered the COVID storm pretty well.
~Praise God for the major improvements to house 108 and our barns.
~Pray for our missionary families in transition with changing ministries and mission fields.