

# BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS  
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

December 15, 1955

## THE CHRISTMAS CHALK TREE By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

Linda, the mayor's little girl, looked out the window. It had snowed and snowed and snowed, for several days. This morning many of the things she knew best had taken queer shapes because they were covered with such heavy snow.

Suddenly there was a knock at the door. Linda ran to answer it. There stood Dan, the woodcutter's little boy.

"Hello, Dan," cried Linda. "Come on in and get warm. You must be almost frozen."

"Hello," said Dan, and he stepped into the nice warm room.

"My father sends word to the mayor, he can't go to the woods to cut the Christmas tree, today. The snow is too deep. And besides the horses couldn't bring it home because there are no roads through the snow, as yet. The only roads open are those here in town and the one that leads to the castle.

"Do you mean there won't be any Christmas tree in the town square!" Linda was shocked.

Knock! knock! knock! Someone else was at the door.

Linda ran to answer. There stood Cathy, the music master's little girl.

"My daddy says it will be too cold to stand out at night, and sing carols," she said.

"Oh, dear!" Linda exclaimed. "No tree and no carols. It won't be like Christmas. Last year we went to the castle on Christmas Eve to sing carols. Remember?"

"Yes," said Dan. "And the three little princes came out to sing with us."

Suddenly Linda exclaimed, "I know! We could have people come to my daddy's big barn. We could sing carols there."

"That would be nice," Cathy agreed.

"But we wouldn't have a tree," said Dan.

"I have an idea," said Linda. "How would it do to draw a Christmas tree on the back wall? We could do it with chalk, so we could wash it off later."

"We can't draw a very tall tree," said Dan, "because we can't reach very high on the wall."

"Maybe Big Brother will help us."

Big Brother got a tall step-ladder, and climbed to the very top. There he tacked up a lovely silver star. Then he drew the outline of a Christmas tree with the star at the top.

"I'll draw the tree part way down," he said. "Then when it gets down to where you can reach, you can finish it." He filled in between the outlines with green chalk. He drew yellow candles on the limbs, and red, blue and yellow balls for ornaments. Soon he had the tree down within the children's reach.

Now the three children really had fun! They finished the limbs and the ornaments. Then they made a tree trunk at the bottom with brown chalk. They were sure it was the most wonderful Christmas tree they'd ever seen.

That evening Big Brother lighted lanterns in the barn, and placed one so it would shine on the star. At dusk the people came to sing Christmas carols and tell stories in the barn.

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As they sang, the barn door opened. In came three men walking in a line. Each man had a big bag on his shoulder. They set the bags near the chalk tree. On each bag was a small picture of a golden crown. The three bags had come from the castle!

Now the door opened again, and in came the three little princes. They had heard about the Christmas in the barn, and had come to have a part in it.

Soon the princes ordered the bags opened. The first bag was full of candy canes. The second bag held nuts. And the third bag was bulging with small toys.

When the presents were given out, the old preacher got up. He thanked the young princes for their gifts. Then he went on to tell about the Wise Men and the gifts they took Jesus.

It was the happiest Christmas Eve the people of the village could remember.

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AT CHRISTMAS

By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

May we all feel:

The beauty of the Christ Child's way,  
The glory of the midnight ray,  
The awakening where shepherds lay,

The harmony of the angel's call,  
The humbleness of Mary in the stall,

The solicitude of Joseph's feeling,  
The adoration of wisemen kneeling,  
The faith and love in Christ's great healing.

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POPCORN KERNELS

By Mae M. Vander Boom

Popcorn kernels in the pan  
Wearing glossy suits of tan,

Hot and filling up with steam,  
They are bursting every seam.

Pop, pop, popping, there they go!  
Now they're out, and white as snow.

Dancing hopping, full of glee,  
Gone that tight suit, they are free!

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CHRISTMAS-GRAMS

By Reuben S. De Long

Fill in the blank spaces with the missing word.

S.... he had a broad face and a little round belly that .....  
..A... More rapid than ..... his coursers they came, (sing.)  
..N.. A ..... of his eye, (plu.)  
...T. and the bread on his chin was as ..... as the snow.  
....A and ..... in her kerchief.

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..S... Now, .....! Now, Dancer!  
..A... As dry ..... that before the wild hurricane fly.  
..N... Away to the ..... I flew like a flash.  
..T...with a ..... old driver.  
..A...had just settled out ..... for a long winter's nap.

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...C.. Now, .....!  
...L.. and ..... all the stockings;  
...A.. He ..... to his sleigh,  
...U.. and was turning .....  
...S.. when all through the ..... not a creature was stirring, (plu.)

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S... Hark, The Herald Angels ....  
 A... ....In A Manger  
 N... The First ....  
 T... .... glorious song of old, It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, 1st. v.  
 A... Glories stream from heaven .... Silent Night, 2nd. v.

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S.. How still we ... thee lie: O Little Town of Bethlehem, 1st. v.  
 A.. ... seated on the ground. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, 1st. v.  
 N.. Glory to the ...-born King; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, 1st. v.  
 T.. Yet in ... dark streets shineth O Little Town of Bethlehem, 1st. v.  
 A.. ... met in thee tonight. O Little Town of Bethlehem, 1st. v.

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ANSWERS:

SHOOK	DASHER	DANCER	SING	SEE
EAGLE	LEAVES	FILLED	AWAY	ALL
WINKS	WINDOW	SPRANG	NOEL	NEW
WHITE	LITTLE	AROUND	THAT	THY
MAMMA	BRAINS	HOUSES	AFAR	ARE

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