

# DECISION

December 1967

## Contents:

HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL	1	Billy Graham
PEACE ON EARTH	2	Editorial
GIVE ME A DRUM	2	Charles A. Waugaman
INDONESIA: SLUMBER TO REVIVAL	3	Stanley Mooneyham
WHAT ARE YOU READING?	4	The Editor
BIBLE STUDY	5	Esther; John
COME TO THE FEAST!	6	T. DeWitt Talmage
WHAT I THINK ABOUT GOD	8	Correspondence
BANZAI JESUS!	10	Gil A. Stricklin
MESSAGE IN THE MAKING	14	Christmas Basket



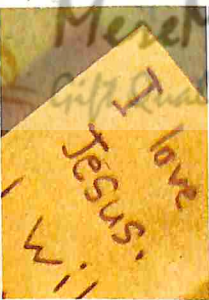
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When the shepherds watching  
by their folds ere the dawn  
Heard music in the fields  
and marveling could not tell  
Whether it were angels  
or the bright stars singing.

Now blessed be the tow'rs  
that crown England so fair,  
That stand up strong in prayer  
unto God for our souls:  
Blessed be their founders  
(said I) an' our country folk  
Who are ringing for Christ  
in the belfries tonight  
With arms lifted to clutch  
the rattling ropes that race  
Into the dark above  
and the mad romping din.

But to me heard afar  
it was starry music,  
Angels' song, comforting  
as the comfort of Christ. . . .  
The old words came to me,  
by the riches of time  
Mellow'd and transfigured,  
as I stood on the hill,  
Hearkening in the aspect  
of th' eternal silence.

— ROBERT BRIDGES

"Christmas," by Healey Lucas, from "Later Poems, 1951-1960," Independent Press, London, 1961; "Sticks," by Helga Stoenbergh, from "Songs of Pilgrimage," Cowenall Press, Chicago, 1962; "O Holy Child," by Melba Rorem, from "I Sing of Mary's Child," Augsburg, Minneapolis, 1966; "Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913," by Robert Bridges, British poet laureate, from "The Oxford Book of Christian Verse," ed. Lord Cecil, 1951, The Clarendon Press, Oxford; selection from "Diary of an Old Soul," by George Meredith, Augsburg Publishing House; selection from "Steps to the Temple," by Richard Crashaw, 1646. All by permission.



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"Blessed be he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (John 12:13). Painted for Decision, December 1967, by Robert P. Blewett. Copies of this painting, suitable for framing, may be secured by sending 35c per copy to "His Name Is Wonderful Painting," Box 779, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

The Christian world is waiting with bated breath for the greatest day in our calendar year. Nearly two thousand years ago, on a night the world has been pleased to call Christmas, a Jewish maiden went down into the mysterious depths of motherhood and came back with a child. This child was given a name, a name that blossoms on the pages of history like the flowers

## His Name Is Wonderful

by Billy Graham

of a thousand springtimes, a name that echoes down the corridors of time like an anthem sung by a thousand choirs, a name that adorns the records of the centuries more than the splendor of a thousand monuments of purest stone. It is a name that after 1,967 years of scrutiny shines in the galaxy of the earth's great souls like the glory of a thousand *continued on page 13*