

GOOSE CREEK  
ALMANAC FOR  
JUNE

ALMANAC FOR  
JUNE, 1937





SARAH HOPKINS

# The Birth of John the Baptist

By SARAH HOPKINS

"There was, in the days of Herod the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

"And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord, blameless.

"And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

"And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

"According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

"And the whole multitude of the people were praying without, at the time of incense.

"And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

"And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

"But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

"And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

"And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God."

Luke 1:5-16.

Renan, a French skeptic, called the Gospel of Luke "The most beautiful book ever written." If such a man as this skeptic can give such a testimony of this wonderful book, how eager ought we to be to read and study its chapters!

We don't know a great deal about Luke personally, but what we do know is certainly interesting to us. You know, he wasn't an apostle, nor was he a Jew. He was believed to have been a Greek. We know that he was a physician. He was called "The beloved physician." Nor was he personally acquainted with our Lord—that is, he wasn't a witness to any of His great deeds while here on earth. But, he said in Luke 1:2 that he weighed carefully the things that eye witnesses had said about what Jesus had said and done, and he traced all the information to its source concerning Jesus.

We owe what we know of the parentage and early life of

John the Baptist to St. Luke. John was the son of Zacharias and Elisabeth. Both parents belonged to the priestly tribe, and the name of that tribe was Levi. The Bible says that "they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord, blameless."

It certainly wasn't mere chance that John the Baptist came from a home where both parents "walked in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord, blameless." No, God had an eye on that home!

Did you notice, neighbors, that an angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias while he was about his duty as priest? You see, his duty was to burn incense when he went into the Temple of the Lord. And notice—while he was doing that, the whole multitude of the people were praying on the outside while the incense was burning. No wonder poor old Zacharias was scared and troubled when he saw the angel! You see, right while he was lighting the candles, the angel appeared, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

I've often wondered if that was not Gabriel. You know, God seemed to use Gabriel as a messenger to the earth a lot of times in the Bible. Of course, all the angels stand ready, at a second's notice to do the will of God.

And, as Zacharias was standing there trembling, the angel said, "Fear not, Zacharias, thy prayer is heard, and thy wife, Elisabeth, shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness, and many shall rejoice at his birth!"

It's wonderful to know that we were really born into this world for a great purpose! Yes, men and women like you and me. And how sad when we don't fulfill that purpose! Well, thank God, John the Baptist fulfilled his! We know that he did, for Jesus Himself said that "among men born of women a greater than he had not appeared among men." What a privilege! Think of it—the Saviour of the world giving a testimony like that about a man!

John the Baptist mastered that fine art of being second. His whole life was spent preparing the way for a greater who should come after him. To do this required a peculiar consecration that very few men possessed.

John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus is a mighty good example of what you and I ought to be today. It has

been truly said that in this world God has no hands except yours and mine, and no feet except yours and mine. What if John the Baptist had proved faithless! It is wonderful to know that through our efforts, it is a little bit easier for Christ to do His work and to establish His kingdom among men!

“Thou must be true thyself,  
If thou the truth would'st teach;  
Thy soul must overflow, if thou  
Another's soul would'st reach!  
It needs the overflow of heart  
To give the lips full speech.  
Think truly and thy thoughts  
Shall the world's famine feed.  
Speak truly and each word of thine  
Shall be a faithful seed.  
Live truly and thy life shall be  
A great and noble creed.”



“The Lord God planted a garden  
In the first white days of the world,  
And He set there an angel warden  
In a garment of light enfurled.

“So near to the peace of Heaven  
That the hawk might nest with the wren  
For there in the cool of the even  
God walked with the first of men.

“And I dream of gardens of posies  
With their shade and their sunflecked sod,  
And their lilies and bowers of roses  
There laid by the hand of God.

“The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
And the song of the birds for mirth—  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.”

# The Almanac's Schedule of Services and Broadcasts . . . . in the Country Church of Hollywood

▼▼▼▼▼

## Services:

### SUNDAY—

10:30 A.M.—Morning Service.

2:30 P.M.—Afternoon Service.

7:30 P.M.—Evening Service.

### WEDNESDAY—

7:30 P.M.—Evening Service.

Neighbors, you will be glad to know that at the above services, we have with us DR. JOHN MATTHEWS, world-famous Radio Minister. You can hear Dr. Matthews and his wonderful messages by attending these services in the little Country Church.

## Broadcasts—KFAC:

8:00-8:45 A.M., daily, except Monday.

7:15-7:45 P.M., every Thursday evening.

8:00-9:00 P.M., every Sunday evening—broadcasting the evening service in the little Country Church.

## Other Services:

### THURSDAY—

7:45 P.M., Young People's Service.

### SUNDAY—

9:15 A.M., Personal Workers' Class.

## THE LIFE THAT COUNTS

“The life that counts must toil and fight;  
Must hate the wrong and love the right;  
Must stand for truth, by day, by night—  
This is the life that counts.

“The life that counts must hopeful be;  
In darkest night make melody;  
Must wail the dawn on bended knee—  
This is the life that counts.

“The life that counts must aim to rise  
Above the earth to sunlit skies;  
Must fix its gaze on Paradise—  
This is the life that counts.

“The life that counts is linked with God;  
And turns not from the cross—the rod;  
But walks with joy where Jesus trod—  
This is the life that counts.”





RUDY SIMMONS

# « Follow Me »

By RUDY SIMMONS

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."—Matthew 4:19.

These words were spoken by Jesus to a couple of simple fishermen, toiling over their nets. Had they chosen to ignore His call, we would never have heard of them. But, "they straightway left their nets, and followed him," and in so doing took the first step on the road to greatness.

It took courage for these men to leave their nets. They made their living as fishermen. They did not know where Jesus would ask them to go.

No man ever followed Jesus without leaving something behind. I have been trying to figure out how much the world would have lost had these two men been afraid to leave their nets. Suppose they had given the Master the answer we hear so often today, "But, Lord—I'm afraid I can't hold out!" Can't folks think of the silliest excuses to keep from following Christ? This "can't hold out" excuse, for instance. Who ever said you could hold out? After you accept the Lord, it is Christ in you—the hope of glory! Again, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature!"

Peter and Andrew didn't stop to figure out how much they might have to give up if they followed Christ. They just followed! You can talk about following Christ from now until judgment day, but if you never do anything about it, you will be lost. It is truly said that he who hesitates, is lost. Lot's wife was not quite certain that she wanted to leave Sodom, but you know what happened when she looked back!

God wants men who will act. There are plenty of folks who are able to theorize about Christianity, but so few who are able to live a Christlike life.

Notice that Christ's call was a call to service. There is no such thing as a lazy Christian. God's people are the busiest folks on earth. They have the biggest job on earth. No wonder Peter and Andrew left their nets!

Every man, at some time in his life, hears the Master's

call. He must either accept and follow, or he must reject. To make excuse is but to reject Him.

No one would have ever suspected that these humble fishermen would ever amount to much. You would not have looked at them twice had you seen them on the street. That is the amazing thing about God. He takes a rough, horny-handed fisherman, and makes him the preacher of Pentecost. Or, He takes a man eighty years old, a fugitive with the stain of murder on his hands, and lets Moses lead the children of Israel to the Promised Land. Or, He takes a Jewish captive in Babylon and reveals to him the prophetic secrets of the ages, and causes him to become great in the Kingdom. There is just no way of telling what God is going to do with a man He can use.

Invariably, the Lord picks men who are busy doing something. We are not told, but I daresay Peter and Andrew were good fishermen. Dwight L. Moody was an excellent salesman before God called him to preach. But, he caught the greater vision. Perhaps, had he stayed in the selling business, we might have read his name in the stories of successful business men. As it was, he carved himself a niche in God's hall of fame, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, soul-winner of all time.

The other day, I saw a book entitled, "Life Begins at Forty." I would like to write a book entitled, "Life Begins When We Begin to Follow Christ." Up until then we are just marking time. We are just a part of the great world-system. But, the moment Christ enters, things begin to happen. Life takes on new meaning. The soul has become aware of God, and beats in rhythm to the Divine will.

The Master calls us to a life of self-denial and sacrifice. To those who are willing to go all the way, there are great spiritual rewards. There are not always material, but there are always spiritual rewards. Days of discouragement will come, along with the days of victory. At times the way will seem dark and the waters deep. But, "though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death," we need fear no evil, for even in the darkest hour, we can know the Savior's presence.

There came a time when Peter became discouraged. He decided to go back to fishing—"and that night they caught nothing." No one is as miserable as the man who, having

begun to follow Christ, turns back to the old nets. I wonder what Peter thought about that night as they toiled? I believe he must have remembered that day when they left these very same nets to follow Jesus. Peter, who had seen all the wonderful miracles of the Master, who had heard the words of life from the lips of Jesus—Peter had gone back to his nets!

This would be a discouraging picture, if I did not complete it. After a night of fruitless toil, they found Jesus waiting for them on the shore, with a hot breakfast of fish and bread. Peter was so anxious to get back to the Lord that he dived into the water and swam to shore. Peter had failed, but Jesus, with infinite patience, was waiting for him.

Sometimes the Lord lets us exhaust our own efforts, just to show us our need of Him. Perhaps that is why you have had financial reverses; it might be why you have been disappointed so many times.

Jesus is still calling us to follow Him in the path of service. Some of us have started; some have strayed from the way; others have never started to follow Christ. To all He calls, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."



## PATIENCE

"Not now, my child—a little more rough tossing;  
A little longer on the billow's foam;  
A few more journeyings in the desert darkness,  
And then, the sunshine of the Father's Home!

"Not now; for I have wanderers in the distance,  
And thou must call them with patient love;  
Not now; for I have sheep upon the mountains,  
And thou must follow them where'er they rove.

"Not now; for I have loved ones sad and weary;  
Wilt thou not cheer them with a kindly smile?  
Sick ones, who need thee in their lonely sorrow;  
Wilt thou not tend them yet a little while?"



**THE GOOSE CREEK QUARTET**

# Of Vital Interest to Goose Creek Neighbors



## Mailing Address for Country Church:

COUNTRY CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD  
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

## Mailing Address for Memorial Fund:

COUNTRY CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD MEMORIAL  
FUND  
BOX 1070  
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

## Office Address:

1757 N. Argyle (2nd Floor)  
Hollywood, California

Office Telephone Number: HO. 5824

Church Telephone Number: HI. 5569

## Location of Country Church:

1 Block East and 1 Block North of Hollywood and Vine

## How to Reach Country Church by Street Car:

Get off "Red Car" on 6100-6200 Block, Hollywood Blvd.

## When Church Is Open:

Country Church is Open Daily from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
Visitors Are Welcome at All Times—Particularly During  
Broadcasts.

## Weddings:

The Country Church Is Available for Weddings of All  
Denominations. Fees: \$5.00—Informal; \$10.00—  
Formal (Including Rehearsal). For other informa-  
tion concerning Weddings, call Mrs. Davey, hostess  
of the Country Church, at HI. 5569.

## Bookstore:

Open from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Daily. Bibles and  
Books of All Descriptions. Many Books by Josiah  
Hopkins, and many Pictures.

## ANOTHER DAY

Another day—  
To toil along life's way;  
Another day—  
To sing a song and pray;  
Another day—  
To help a falt-ring brother  
To lift the heavy burden of another;  
Another day—  
The wily foe to fight,  
To trust—to walk by faith and not by sight.

But not alone  
I face another day;  
No, not alone  
I walk the narrow way;  
No, not alone  
I gird the armor on,  
Contend with wily foe, till vict'ry's won.  
No, not alone  
I trudge the rugged road,  
Or stagger underneath the aching load.

Beside me  
Walks a Counselor and Friend;  
Beside me  
One who can my soul defend;  
Beside me  
One whose feet have pressed before  
The weary way that I must travel o'er.  
Beside me  
One who's met the wily foe,  
Who to the dregs has drunk the cup of woe.

With confidence I'll greet another day,  
Press joyful along my pilgrim way,  
Content to know His ways are always best,  
Until He giveth His beloved rest;  
Until shall dawn that perfect day of peace  
When toil and conflict here below shall cease.

—Mrs. L. H. Booth.

## Available Books By Parson Josiah Hopkins



"Talks on the Book of Numbers".....	\$1.00
"Talk on the Book of Genesis" (Vol. I).....	1.00
"Talks on the Book of Daniel".....	1.00
"Talks on the Book of Revelation".....	.50
"How Old Are You".....	.25
"Armistice Day Memories".....	.25
"Leaves From a Chaplain's Diary".....	.25
"Peter" .....	.25
"Andrew" .....	.25
"John" .....	.25
"Back to Bethel".....	.25
"Stars and Stripes Forever".....	.25
"Thumbin' Yo' Way".....	.25
"Eternal Springtime" .....	.25
"Christmas Angels" .....	.25
"Forgettin' Yo' Self".....	.25
"Following the Star".....	.25
"Mother" .....	.25
"Comments on the Bible".....	.25



"The Memorial Album" of Josiah Hopkins.....	.50
"The Real Josiah Hopkins" by Dr. A. P. Gouthey.....	.25
"Josiah Hopkins, The Railroad Man" by O. O. Carr.....	1.00
A Phonograph Record of "We Shall Rise".....	1.00



THE LATE PARSON JOSIAH HOPKINS

## PARSON HOPKINS ENTERS HEAVEN

“Git up there, Dan!” the parson cried,  
“The hour is growing late.  
What’s that which glimmers through the dark?  
Why, Dan, it must be Heaven’s gate.”

A song arose within the walls  
And seemed to swell up to the skies,  
“We shall rise, hallelujah, we shall rise! Amen!  
We shall rise, hallelujah, we shall rise.”

The parson smiled, “Git up, old horse!  
It looks as if these folks must know  
Our journey here is almost done—  
Our race is finished here below.”

Josiah’s face was beaming now—  
He stood, and smiling, waved his hand,  
For lo! a host of shining ones  
Was coming forth—an angel band.

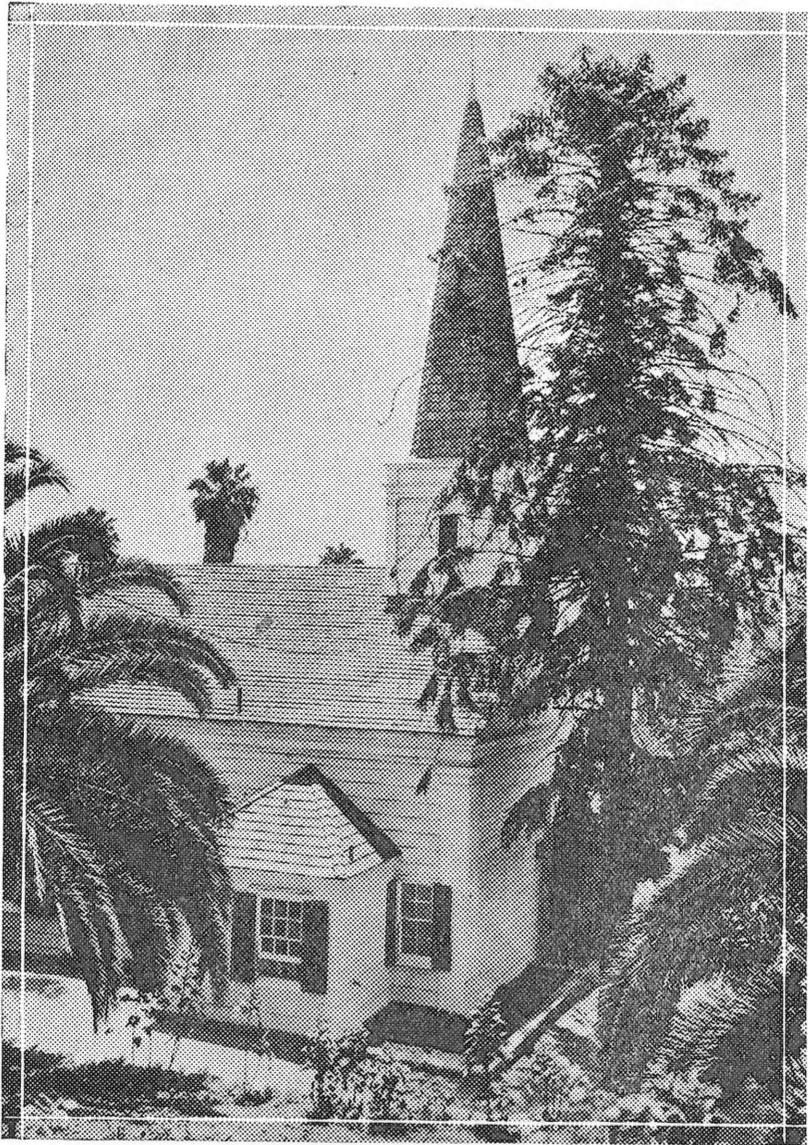
Who greeted him with shouts of praise  
That echoed down the golden street  
While Dan stood still—too much surprised  
To even move his weary feet.

Then one approached from out the throng,  
Whose face was radiant as light—  
He held aloft a golden crown,  
Which gleamed with jewels fair and bright.

“Welcome, Josiah, thou art come  
To claim at last thy true reward,  
To dwell forever in the home  
Prepared for those that love the Lord!”

“But stay—bow down thy head, my child—  
This golden crown was meant for thee.  
It shall be thine to wear henceforth  
Through all the long eternity.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



THE COUNTRY CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD

Along the golden streets of Heaven  
The parson drove with loosened rein  
While all around the angels sang  
Exultingly this glad refrain,  
"We shall rise, hallelujah, we shall rise! Amen!  
We shall rise, hallelujah, we shall rise!"

—Thomas Kimber, A.M.,  
Professor of English,  
Los Angeles Pacific College.



A PRODUCT OF



5540 MELROSE AVE.  
OPPOSITE N.B.C. STUDIO  
HOLLYWOOD