

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



December 1, 2014 - Vol. 18

A star is born in Bethlehem! O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!



What is the significance of the Star?



The Star is significant to Christians know where to find King Jesus and kill around the world, as it heralds the birth of Jesus. When King Herod heard that there was going to be born a King superior to him he wanted that child dead, so he sent out wise men with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to look for him saying that he wanted to worship him. The three wise men from the East were led by a Star to Bethlehem and it stood still over the manger where Jesus was born. They worshipped him, and gave him the gifts, but they were instructed by God not to return to Herod so that he will

know where to find King Jesus and kill him, so they went home instead by another way. The Star to us is a signal of new birth, new direction, new life in Christ, that those who follow him will never be lost, that he will lead them where they should go. We are all stars in God's crown and he wants us to shine for him each day, to be a beacon for others who are lost. God positions us just like he positioned that star over the manger where Jesus laid. All we need to do is to be willing to go where he send us and to do what he asks us to do, so that we may shine in his crown.

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Are you clothed with the Spirit of Christmas?

The Christmas Spirit should be more than just carols, food and presents, but most importantly about how much love we are able to give to one another at Christmas time. Christmas should remind us of the most precious gift that we could have ever received in the true spirit of Christmas —Jesus. This is the gift that keeps on giving, this is the gift that never gets old, but gets sweeter and sweeter as the days go by. If we could only try to be a little more loving this Christmas, the world will be a happier place. Love is kind, love is giving, love is not boastful, love is not rude, love is tender and so much more. Let us put on love in its various forms and watch it spread like wild-fire. The Christmas Spirit is contagious and I would not mind catching it, because once you catch it, you can't help but share it with everyone you come into contact with. So go on, go spread some Christmas cheer.



Put on Christ this Christmas!

I could live the Christmas Spirit the whole year through. Are you willing to try it too?

If you should give your heart to God this Christmas Season, you could be assured that you would be able to live the Christmas Spirit the whole year through. Your Christmas would be merry and bright and your New Year will overflow with blessings. You would be filled with so much joy, and peace, and love, as you would know the real reason for the season, Jesus. When we come to know God in an intimate way, he will be to us the friend like no other, the father like no other, the provider like no other, the healer and confidant like no other, he will cheer you up and put a song in your heart always. So, why not give him your heart and enjoy a Merry Christmas? It is never too late to begin living the abundant life in Christ. It is never too late to come to Jesus. So long ago God gave his only son for you and for me, what better way to thank him, but to give our hearts to him especially this Christmas. It's the season of healing and new beginnings. Won't you accept the healing from all the hurts of the past, the disappointments, struggles, pains and the heartaches? I am sure that you would welcome a fresh start. God is waiting, he has been patient with you and with me. Will you refuse this awesome gift? Won't you like to experience what it really means to live the Christmas Spirit the whole year through? The time of acceptance is now, the place to begin is here if you want to truly live the Christmas Spirit the whole year through.



Be Happy, Be Joyful, Be Truly Blessed this Christmas!

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Christmas—just isn't Christmas without the ones you love. Let us put Christ whom we say we love back into Christmas.

What changed, how did we manage to take Christ out of Christmas? Too many of us get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas and some are even referring to Christmas as the Holidays, but whatever name they might want to call it, the real reason for the season is Jesus. He is the reason why we celebrate Christmas. Let us be mindful of the most precious gift that we could have ever received at Christmas, in that God gave his son, his only son Jesus, to be our Savior. How could we thank him? Let us worship him in song, let the sound of carols fill the air as we sing—Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King, Away in a manger, Hark the herald angels sing, It came upon the midnight clear, Angels we have heard on high, O, come let us adore him; and instead of saying Happy Holidays, wish everyone you meet a Merry Christmas, lend a hand, and share. And, as we celebrate with food and family, let us also invite God into our homes and our hearts. Let us offer to God much thanks and praise, because he did not have to give us King Jesus but he did. So, just as we are looking forward to spending time with family and friends this Christmas, so too should we be looking forward to the second coming of Christ. I am also preparing a home for God in my heart where he may be welcomed. Who knows, he may just show up this Christmas and I want to be ready to receive him. Let us put Christ back into Christmas, Jesus is the reason for the season!

Invite strangers home for Christmas, you may just be inviting God into your home.

While many of us look forward to Christmas, many are dreading the approaching season. Without jobs and the means to buy food for the family or gifts for the children, for many it will pass just like any other day. But, it need not be like this, each one of us could adopt a family this Christmas invite them into our homes. Remember, if we do it to the least of them, we are doing it unto God. But, if we do not do it to the least of them, we are not doing it unto God. He said, and let us not forget to welcome strangers for we may be unknowingly entertaining angels. So, let each one of us look for opportunities to lend a hand and to share with the less fortunate; and to all those who are sad this Christmas for whatever the reason, do not lose heart, the comforter draws nigh, if you are discouraged, hold on, help is on the way. Instead of thinking about what you don't have, think more about what you do have—Jesus. Many have houses filled to the brim and are not happy, because Jesus does not dwell there, but, you may have nothing in the world but Jesus, and you have it all for Jesus is the world. So, with this in mind, be Happy, be Merry this Christmas! For, in a heart where God dwells, is a home where God lives, let him reign there this Christmas.



**Share, Lend, Give love at
Christmas time!**

Merry Christmas!

Let us know how this issue helped you, please [click here](#)

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Songs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song:

JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD IS COME!

Written by: Isaac Watts — 1719

Joy to the World , the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove;
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

I will live the Christmas Spirit the whole year through by allowing God to live in me.

In a heart where God dwells, is a home where God lives.

Let us put on love in its various forms and watch it spread like wildfire.

Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving.

The Christmas Spirit is contagious and I won't mind catching it.

Let us celebrate Jesus in a big way. He is the reason for the season.

I am preparing a home for God in my heart where he would be welcomed.

I am clothed with Christmas Spirit and I am spreading Christmas cheer.



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Our spotlight is on you. My memories of Christmas.

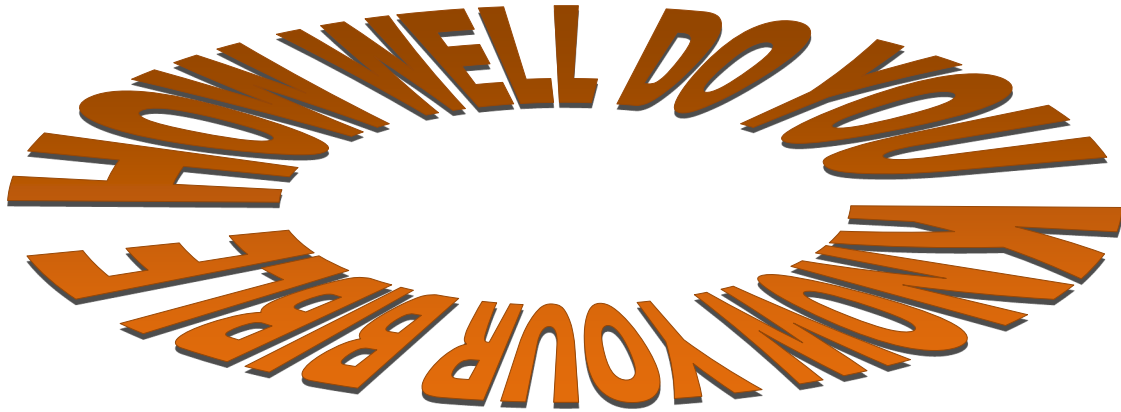
As a child growing up, the highlight of my Christmas was going from door to door caroling. Sometimes, we would be rewarded with food, sometimes money, but the best reward was the candy that we would collect, to see who got the most for the day. Another highlight of my Christmas was helping my grandmother make cassava bread. It was an exciting process, from harvesting the cassava, peeling it, taking it to the stand to grate it, it was referred to as “shacking the cassava”, and sometimes I would be given the chance to shack the cassava; then came the amazing part, to see the skilled women create the cassava bread. They would prepare the grill, then they would spread the cassava inside a tin rim to bake, and my favorite was when coconut was added to the cassava. When the cassava is baked it is golden brown, then it would have to be dried, but I loved it best when it was not dried. Oh, the memories of my childhood! Another highlight was catching bees from the white Christmas flowers. We would put them in a bottle and wait to see if they would make honey. Too bad we never got any honey from that that adventure. I loved the cleaning of the yard, and putting out the decorations. I really loved to smell the baking of tarts, cakes and breads, watch the setting up the sorrel drink and ginger beer; the house was smelling good. Then, opening my gifts. Oh, Christmas, the way it was meant to be! Christmas what it meant to me!

Children’s Corner: “Mandy’s Christmas wish.”

All Mandy wanted for Christmas was a bicycle and it had to be a red one. Her mother went all around trying to find the red bicycle for Mandy, but could not find one. With three days left before Christmas, Mandy’s mom was in a panic, she had gifts for all the other children, but could not find the red bicycle for Mandy. She decided to posted a message on her Facebook page about her need to purchase a red bicycle for her daughter. Surprisingly, she got an answer. This man a few towns away replied saying that he had a slightly used red bicycle that he was willing to sell. Mandy’s mom quickly made the arrangement to pick up the bicycle, and after bringing it home, she cleaned it to a shine and wrapped a beautiful big red bow on the handles before putting it under the Christmas tree. Mandy was overjoyed when she saw it. She squealed with delight. Mommy, she said, “You have made me so very happy, thank you.” Now, Mandy, her mother said, you must promise me that you won’t ride your new bicycle without a helmet and that you will take care of it. “I will, Mandy said. I don’t think that I could be happier than I am now. I can’t wait to show my new bicycle to my friends, I am hoping their Christmas wish also came through.”



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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
How many wise men traveled to see Jesus?	A manger
There was no room in this place for Mary and Joseph to stay. What was this?	Gold
Who was the King who wanted to find and kill Jesus?	A star
Jesus was born in this place in Bethlehem.	Shepherds
This was one of the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus.	Mary
They were watching their flocks by night. Who were they?	Three
What led the wise men to where Jesus was?	Inn
What was the name of Jesus' mother?	Herod



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Childhood songs that we have learned have been passed on for generations. Let's keep it going. If you have a song that you would like to share, email it. Here is one of my favorites as our featured children's song:

AWAY IN A MANGER

Written by James R. Murray—1884

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little lord Jesus asleep in the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and take us to Heaven to live with Thee there.



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