

The End Time Messenger

“... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them.”



The Greater Light

O God, Our Loving Father

William A. Draves

O God, our Loving Father, Help us rightly to remember The Birth of Jesus. That we may share in The Song of The Angels, The Gladness of The Shepherds, And The Worship of the Wise Men.

May *The Christmas Morning*, Make us happy to be Your Children, and *The Christmas Evening* bring Us to our best Soul; Great-ful thoughts, Forgiving and Forgiven for Jesus' sake, Amen!

**Help Us To Put
CHRIST
Back Into
CHRISTmas!**

Will You Help?

The Church Of Christ With The Elijah Message
THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God The Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the Universe; Ruler and Judge of all; Unchangeable and without Respect to persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ The Manifestation of God in the flesh, who lived, suffered and died for all mankind; whom we own as our Leader, Witness and Commander.
3. We believe in The Holy Ghost, The Spirit of Truth, The Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, Reveals things to come, and is the medium by which we Receive Revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of The Atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without The Law. For The Power of Redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)
5. We believe that through The Atonement of Christ all men may be Saved by Obedience to The Laws and Ordinances of The Gospel; viz. : Faith in God and in The Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination, (b) Blessing of Children, (c) Confirmation and The Gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17), (d) Healing of the sick.
6. We believe in the literal second coming and Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ; in The Resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.
7. We believe in The Powers and Gifts of The Everlasting Gospel: viz: The Word of Wisdom; The Word of Knowledge; The Gift of Faith; The Gift of Healing; Working of Miracles; Prophecy; Discerning of Spirits; Divers kinds of Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues.
8. We believe The Fruits of The Spirit to be Love, Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance.
9. We believe that in The Bible is contained The Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is an added Witness for Christ, and that these contain 'The Fullness of The Gospel.'
10. We believe in the principle of Continuous Revelation; that The Canon of Scripture is not full, that God Inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom he may choose.
11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly Baptized members, one of whom is an Elder, there The Church exists with Full Power of Church extension when acting in Harmony with The Law of God.
12. We believe that a man must be Called of God by Revelation and Ordained by those having Authority, to enable him to Preach The Gospel and Administer The Ordinances thereof.
13. We believe in the same Church Organization as existed in the of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in The Church is that of an Apostle, of whom there are Twelve who constitute Special Witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have The Missionary Supervision and The General Watch care of all The Churches.

14. The primary function of The General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is Missionary and the building up and extension of The Kingdom of God in all the world.

15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to The Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.

16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends The True Brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein The Divine Command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.

17. We believe that all men are Stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of Stewardship is not the increase of Church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of The Common Fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy The Bounty and Gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.

18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of The Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when Chosen or Appointed by The Church to devote their entire time to Missionary Work, their families are to be provided for out of General Church fund. The Admonition of Christ that The Ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but go Trusting in God and the people, is applicable.

19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by The General Bishopric under the supervision and direction of the general conferences of The Church. The temporal affairs of The Local Churches shall be Administered by local Bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.

20. We believe that marriage is Ordained of God, and that The Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.

21. We are opposed to war. Men are not justified in taking up arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.

22. We believe in The Literal gathering of Israel, and in The Restoration of The Ten Lost Tribes.

23. We believe a Temple will be Built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will Reveal Himself and Endow His Servants whom He Chooses with Power to Preach The Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that The Promise of God to Israel may be Fulfilled.

24. We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be Built upon this land 'unto The Remnant' of The Seed of Joseph. (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city be Built, beginning at The Temple Lot.

25. We believe The Ministry and Membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics and should not affiliate with any society which administer Oaths or Covenants in conflict with The Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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If you do not have means to read *The Greater Light* from a computer or make a hard copy to read, then let The Headquarter Office know and a hard copy will be made and mailed to you.

Message 53:3, 'Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them.'

Message 53:10, 'Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful

even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men.'

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It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of This Church*, that no Minister is to ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart

and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve
Apostle Leonard H. Draves

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH THE ELIJAH MESSAGE, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of the Hope we have in Christ.

In its pages are found the thoughts and expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is a history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The American Indians. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work

given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17:11). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority Of The Son Of God*, that *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word Of The Lord* that *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride Of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People Of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgment* has come. Awake thou that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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Please make all checks for Tithes and Offerings, payable to *THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH THE ELIJAH MESSAGE*. Please notify any change of address by the 1st fifth of the month, if possible. We would like to keep our records up to date. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Thank You!

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THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY *To All People*

Ninety-Second Message

The Angel Messenger of The Lord came to me at 4:45 a.m. July 4, 1973, in my home at Independence, Missouri, and gave the following Message. The room was filled with Light. He spoke calmly and slowly, as I wrote the words he gave. He left at five o'clock.

W. A. Draves

1. 'Behold, I come to you at this time. Arise and Write the words I shall give you. I am John The Baptist, a Resur-rected Being. I am The Elias. My Mis-sion is one of Love and Peace. The powers of the adversary¹ cannot hinder my Work.

2. I come from The Lord's Presence. Look to The Lord, this is His Work. I bring a Message from His Voice and His Will.

3. The Lord's People have seen trials and afflictions but let all Arise to a Closer Walk with The Lord. Come away from contentions and bring Love and Obedience in you Lives. Continue in Good Works. The Lord has Heard the Prayers that are of the Heart, and this Assembly. And I bring Peace and an answer to the problems when it becometh a need.

4. There is none that have done right in all things. They have fallen short².

5. Where is that Great Love and The Spirit that Mellows the Heart, is it still among you? I say unto you, yea, let it do Greater Work. Qualify to be Leaders of men. Do Good to all mankind. Love always, hate and bitterness is not our Mission.

6. He that Loveth the brethren, Loveth God also. The Lord will uphold him and make him a Blessing

7. Follow The Pattern. Let all that come This Way be Baptized into One Spirit. Teach and Preach the same things in The Way I have given you and it will be well.

8. The Church of Christ will never again be destroyed but will move on Her Mission until Zion is established and the people redeemed from their sins-and The Lord come. The Kingdom and The Dominion shall be for The Saints of The Most High³.

9. A deception has gone out among the people and churches of mankind with doctrines of men with a cry to speak in tongues of unknown words. Such has no meaning but to harden the hearts of those that do so-making The Authority I bring of none effect and will not be a part of

them, neither will they receive nor obtain it.

10. There Is no Greater Authority or Gift, or Gifts given to man than that which I bring of The Lord God, after The Order of His Son.

11. Who is mankind to claim more than This? He that will not recognize The Authority and Power I bring. Faileth, and his works will not stand the test in the end. Let this evil not be among you for it will not calm the soul nor will it save you.

12. There will come a day when a True Gift will be given. With Great Wisdom will it work a Work and convince, moreover convict, but as yet is not among you in Measures of Saving Grace.

13. Turn away from those things that divide and separate you one from another. The Lord Knoweth the hearts and wherein powers of man and deception lies. Except such repent and cleanse their minds of these things they have no part of This Work.

14. I have brought and bring a Message for mankind-that he may heed and conform to it; that he might be a part of The Lamb's Bride when He comes to make up His Jewels. I speak to fulfill The Word of God, to bring all The Faithful in Christendom together to One Fold⁴, One Shepherd, One Spirit of God, One Baptism⁵ with Power for Remission of sins and traditions of man that cannot save.

15. The Lord will Call many into This Way.

16. Be firm, fret not, hold The Peace and your reward will be sure.

17. In time The Quorum of Twelve Apostles will be filled. There are those in The Lord's Preserve. Some will fail,

others will take their Calling when The Lord speaks.

18. Peace I leave with you and The Church. Lift your Faith-The Way of The Lord is Sure. I will come again. Amen!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. 1 Peter 5:8 | 3. Daniel 7:22 |
| 2. Psalms 14:1-3
Romans 3:23 | 4. 1 Nephi 22:25 (RN)
5. Ephesians 4:25 |

From The Apostles

*Apostle Donald Thompson
Missouri*

T'was The Night Before Christmas

'T'was the night before Christmas and all through the town Not a Sign of Baby Jesus was anywhere to be found.

The people were all busy with Christmas time chores like decorating, and baking, and shopping in stores.

No one say 'Away in a Manger, no crib for a bed'. Instead, they say of Santa dressed-up in bright red.

Mama watched Martha Stewart, Papa drank beer from a tap. As hour upon hour the presents they'd wrap.

Then what from the T.V. did they suddenly hear? 'Crept an ad . . . which told of a big sale at Sears.

So away to the mall they all flew like a flash . . . buying things on credit . . . and others with cash!

And, as they made their way home from their trip to the mall, did they think about Jesus? Oh, no . . . not at all.

Their lives were so busy with their Christmas time things, no time to remember, Christ Jesus, The King. There were presents to wrap and cookies to bake. How could they stop and remember who died for their

sake?

To Pray to The Savior . . . they had no time to stop. Because they needed more time to 'Shop till they dropped!'

On Wal-mart! On K-Mart! On Target! On Penney's! On Hallmark! On Zales! A quick lunch at Denny's.

From the big stores downtown to the stores at the mall, they would dash away, dash away, and visit them all!

And up on the roof, there arose such a clatter, as grandpa hung icicle lights up on his brand new step ladder.

He hung lights that would flash. He hung lights what would twirl. Yet, he never once Prayed to Jesus . . . Light of The World.

Christ's Eyes . . . how they twinkle! Christ's Spirit . . . how Merry! Christ's Love . . . how Enormous! All our burdens . . . He'll Carry!

So instead of being busy, overworked, and uptight. Let's put Christ back into Christmas and enjoy the season (not some good brights!)

From The Bishops

Submitted by Editor

Paying Tithes

Tithes are Holy to The Lord and He won't require something of us that we cannot do.

If you are Willing to Trust your whole being to God, why can't you Trust Him with 10% of what you have? After all, He gave it all to you.

Message 22:19, '***There are those that have robbed The Lord of one-tenth of that which was The Lord's. They have taken it for their pleasure, and have said in their hearts, 'This is mine.'*** Hearken unto Me, says The Lord your God, '***All that thou***

hast I have given thee, and I shall require one-tenth thereof, that the poor that are poor indeed may be fed; that The Gospel may be Preached, and The Kingdom of God might be Established on earth in its Fullness, and The Church set in order in its completeness. ‘

The first way to get out of debt is to be Obedient to God! When we do not pay our Tithes, we handcuff God from Blessing our Lives. *He calls us a thief.*

Message 49: 10, ***‘Let all pay their Tithes that their works may Stand The Test when the trying times come. The Lord will Bless them and they shall not want for The Way of Deliverance shall be theirs.’***

Isaiah 1:19, ***‘If ye be Willing and Obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.’***

Psalms 23:1, ***‘The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.’***

The Scriptures are Full of God begging us to Receive what He has Laid Up for us.

Message 46:4 is perhaps The Strongest Words The Lord has Given us. ***‘Behold, there are those whose hearts are full of evil and selfishness; they have withheld that which is The Lord’s of Tithes and of Offerings. Their hearts are not right before Him, therefore, I say unto you, they cannot have part in This Work, and are not of The Household of Faith, for they have failed to Obey The Word of The Lord.’***

I will leave you with this thought; Every one of us is the product of someone. You could have This Gospel and be Saved in The Kingdom of God.

From The Vineyard The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Rest of The Story

*Submitted by Sister Ellen Draves
Missouri*

When most people hear ‘*The Twelve Days of Christmas*’ they think of the song. This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of The Christian Faith.

Each of the items in the song represents something of Religious Significance. The hidden meaning of each Gift was designed to help young Christians Learn their Faith. The songs foes, ‘*On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . .*’ The ‘*True Love*’ represents God and the ‘*me*’ who receives these presents is The Christian.

Here you go: The ‘*Partridge in a Pear Tree*’ was Jesus Christ who Died on a Tree as a Gift from God.

The ‘*Two Turtle Doves*’ were The Old and New Testaments-another Gift from God.

The ‘*Three French Hens*’ were Faith, Hope and Love-The Three Gifts of The Spirit that Abide (1Corinthians 13).

The ‘*Four Calling Birds*’ were The Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) which Sing The Songs of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

The ‘*Five Golden Rings*’ were The First Five Books of *The Bible* also Called The Books of Moses.

The ‘*Six Geese a-Laying*’ were The Six Days of Creation.

The ‘*Seven Swams’ a Swimming*’ were The Seven Gifts of The Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4. 1 Peter 4:10-11).

The ‘*Eight Maids a Milking*’ were The Eight Beatitudes.

The ‘*Nine Ladies Dancing*’ were The Nine Fruits of The Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The ‘*Ten Lords a Leaping*’ were The Ten Commandments.

The 'Eleven Pipers Piping' were The Eleven Faithful Disciples.

The 'Twelve Drummers Drumming' were The Twelve Points of The Apostle's Creed.

So, the next time you hear 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its Origins in The Christian Faith.

Another Source said that from 1558 to 1829, that Christians in England were not able to practice their Faith openly so they had to find other ways to pass on their Belief.

Look at the date that this ended, '1829', The Beginning of The Restoration.

Stepping Stones

*Submitted by Sister Oladawn Thompson
Missouri*

The Lord Came to me like a dream one day and asked, 'Why do you sorrow?' I answered, 'Lord my life is so full of pain, I can't face one more tomorrow'.

The Lord sat down beside me, and gently took my hand. He said, 'Let Me explain to you and then you'll Understand'.

'Each sorrow is A Stepping Stone you must surmount each day. And every Stepping Stone you climb is a sorrow that's passed away.

The Road of Life is a mountainside, with crevices in which to be caught. But as you struggle on your way, I, The Rock, will lend Support.

Every Stepping Stone you climb, makes Spirit and Heart grow Strong. Exercising Character and Faith this road seems painful and long.

The Way is paved with Stepping Stones, to uplift your Heart and Soul. Though difficult they aid your way, to a City Paved with Gold.

I know that you are tired, for I too have Walked This Way. My Sorrows did they multiply, but I Cleared many Stones Away.

I left My Rock to Lift you up, I left Behind My Story; To give you Strength to make your climb, to that Special Place in Glory.

And never fear, The Rock is here, you'll never climb this mountain alone. Surmount Life's Sorrows, continue on, for they are but Stepping Stones'.

Matthew 2: 1-2,9-10

'Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, Behold, there came Wise Men from the east to Jerusalem.

Saying, 'Where is He that is Born King of The Jews? For we have seen His Star in the east, and are Come to Worship Him.

. . . and, lo The Star which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where The Young Child was.

When they saw The Star, they Rejoiced with Exceeding Great Joy.'

O God, Our Loving Father

William A. Draves

**O God, our Loving Father,
Help us rightly to remember
The Birth of Jesus.**

**That we may share in
The Song of The Angels,
The Gladness of The
Shepherds,
And The Worship of the
Wise Men.**

May The Christmas Morning,

**Make us happy to be
Your Children, and *The
Christmas Evening* bring
Us to our best Soul;
Greatful thoughts,
Forgiving and
Forgiven for
Jesus' sake, Amen!**

CHRISTMAS TIME

*William A. Draves
Reprint*

Galatians 4:4, **'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son . . .'**

Christmas time - a Special Time of the year – all over the world.

It is peculiar, in a way, to see the Christmas decorations in the stores in Tokyo, as well as in many other nations. One hundred fifty three Flags will wave one day over Christian nations.

Decorations are there, even though some are not yet Christian nations.

Each year, when November is over, much of the world gears up to or for the festival of Jesus' Birthday Celebration. He was Born the 25th of the month in the warm growing season climate of Palestine. Eight days hence He was taken to The Temple to be registered as all other Hebrew babies were accustomed too. And some there gave Prophecy to His Position in the world. Thus, Render to Ceaser the things that are Caesar's and to God The Things which are God's. So this became the first day, first month, first year of date and time after Christ. We count it (B.C.) before Christ and (A.D.) after. Thus our calendar registers time from The Birth Registration of Christ. So each year, beginning at the start of the month in which

He was Born we begin The Celebration of His Birth. *That is Christmas.*

He came in the Meridian of time, four thousand years after Adam, and nearly 2000 years will pass ere the folding in of The Millennium Reign. The Day of Rest from the toil and sin tried time of mankind.

We like The Time and Season because we all sail into The Celebration and Respect of *Good Will Towards All Mankind*, in a Greater Love than at most times of the year. All alike we Respect The Christ, as well as Recognize His death and Resurrection in keeping Sunday as our Day of Rest and Sabbath.

All men's natures are alike; it is their habits that carry them far apart. Isaiah 9:6, **'For unto us a Child is Born . . . and His Name shall be Called . . . Everlasting Father . . . The Prince of Peace.'**

Gift bearing, heart touching, joy bringing Christmas Day of grand memories, King of the year. He Teaches us to forget our own heartaches and ease others.

The fact that most of us celebrate Christmas like this, even some who do not consider themselves Christ's followers, show how much we are Creatures of Love. We all sail cheerfully into Christmas Time appreciating Good Will towards all men. It is time when families get together. We need Christmas Time to get reacquainted with our families, with mankind. Goodwill: Our attitude and actions speak louder than words. Life would be pretty dull without Christmas Time, seeing Loved Ones again in reunion, families, home, and Church members.

Thus all of us are affected by Christmas, by arranging our lives, or rearranging our attitudes toward mankind. Christ Like, Love one another, bear each others burdens. If it is

not *The Qualities of Jesus* which compel us to engage in this annual round of Love, fun and games, it must be the sheer pressure of The Time of the year itself. Yes, that must be it. The time itself has its own significance. And, when The Time rolls around once more for us to get the Christmas Spirit, few of us can resist. That is not far wrong, actually, it is good. There is something very Special about Christmas Time, *God's Time of Remembrance, Praise and Love*.

There are different kinds of time. Sometimes, when one of our children come home after an evening out we say, 'Did you have a good time?' They may have only been gone for two or three hours and we know that those two or three hours could have been a good time, a bad time, or just a so-so time. Often, time can be a drag, and one has to be busy to get the time to move along. A factory worker on an assembly line may have to do that. A jogger who is determined to run for 30 minutes may find that 30 minutes is a mini-eternity.

Christ Time, Point of Determination has its own Special Quality, a Quality that builds up hundreds of elements get funneled into The Christmas Season.

For some of us it is the nip in the air and snow flurries. For others, it is decorations, giving of gifts, or working harder to do good for some family: clothing them, or helping.

There are Scenes of Christ's Nativity that get placed in the oddest place's where we stumble over them. There are The Carols that trigger memories and emotions. There are disgusting things that crop up too . . . like the frantic sales that run wild of unwanted gifts, exchange, but we care not for the unpleasant subject. It is enough to note how *The Time of Christmas* affects us

all, how it works its way beneath our skin and finds its way into our hearts, our beliefs in God, The Christ and His Purpose of Coming about to Redeem and Ransom mankind. *Thus Christmas is something we must understand what it really is*, that is a big thing: The Time itself. It is not just The Festival of Jesus Birth; it is a Profound Effect on our schedules and on our Spirits, on everything. If Christmas was just a one day affair, we would not make so much preparation for it. Remember it is an entire month of planning and programming.

Many other things center around the thought of Christmas, it is The Celebration of something that happened to Time.

Perhaps you do not think that much about Time, though, it is *the flow of our lives, the flow of history*, and it just seems to go on and on and on. Some people have described the continuation of time as a circular thing so that *The Flow of Time* never ceases. We may not know or be able to explain it, but we do know that The Scriptures say, '**the day comes, when TIME shall be no more, when Eternity breaks forth**'.

It is the very best thing that has happened for all of us, we are living in Time. We are experiencing pulsating movement and we are propelled along with it. Time is the great overriding element in our common environment. We swim through Time as a fish swims through water. Occasionally Time can be indescribably bad. Some Times can be very pleasant.

Christmas is about Time. It is The Celebration of something that happened to Time. A Special Time, we talk about war time, spring time, our own time, the company's time – now there is Christmas Time, too, and it is *The Best Time of all*.

It does not just endure only throughout

the month of December, it is The Celebration of the existing fact that because of The Birth of Jesus Christ all time, all centering, has become Christmas Time. Galatians 4:4, **‘But when The Fullness of Time to come, God sent forth His Son . . .’**

To some this may appear as a simple, offhand statement is in fact very profound, and *The Fullness of Time* is a phrase like that. It is worth considering closely, because when we do, we can begin to understand how all of Time has become Christ, Christmas Time through Jesus' Birth, and because all Time has been affected by Christmas there is HOPE for all of us.

Few Will Believe And Enter

(Foot-Prints In The Sands Of Time, page 56-57)

It is a different Message that the world is used to hearing as John The Baptist Preaching Repentance in the wilderness of Judea was so very different, that **‘Few will Believe and Enter’** in. We read *The Plan and Decree in God's Blessed Word* and we know it to be True; for today *The Angel Messenger* continues to come and brings Words and Instruction to those that will Heed and Obey, and it is *Life to The Obedient*. He brings a Valuable Message to us, that we may have Hope and Salvation. Paul says, *‘For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patient and comfort of The Scriptures might have hope’* (Romans 15:4). No real Comfort or Hope, apart from learning, Believing and doing all The Lord has seen Fit to Unfold for our Instruction as a Church, His Church. So *The Good Book* is Written for our Learning and that through Understanding it we may have Hope. With *The Bible* we have a chart, and

in The Instructions and Light brought by The Messenger we have a Compass to Direct us. Thus we can sing, *‘Chart and Compass Come from Thee’*. We are fully persuaded that it is Worth everything to us and Convinces us that *‘Elias must first come’*.

The Blessed *Holy Bible* is Divine and The Teachings of The Lord are True. The Master says, **‘Enter ye in at The Strait Gate; for wide is The Gate, and Broad is The Way, that Leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because Strait is The Gate, and Narrow is The Way, which Leadeth unto Life, and few there be that find it’** (Matthew 7:13-14).

Most of this lack of entering is because the nations are enveloped in midnight darkness, as to This Message, and only a few find *The Way of Life*.

Therefore, only a few will be Fully Convinced that The Elijah, Elias, must come and his coming Preceded The Coming of our Lord and Saviour. Apart from its Truthfulness, and having God for its Author, no one could have Foretold these events, and have them verily Fulfilled before one's very eyes, just at The Closing Time in The Latter Days, as we see the 6000 years nearly completed.

To be with the masses is to be on the wrong road, for few there be that find the ‘Right Way; few there be that really Believe or Care anything about The Truth. Jesus said, **‘Not every one that Saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall Enter into The Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth The Will of My Father which is in Heaven’** (Matthew 7:21).

Many will Endeavor to tell The Lord in that day, all the wonderful things they have done in His Name but He will say, **‘I never**

knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity' (Matthew 7:23). *Why do they fail to be Recognized of The Lord?* It is because they fail to Recognize His Perfect, Simple Plan. ***'For many, I say unto you, you will Seek to enter in, but shall not be able.'***

The reason for all this 'not be able' to enter will be because they Seek to enter in their own way and not *The Way of The Lord*. It is too different for them, too different from what they have been taught.

They make void The Word of The Lord by their traditions. They do not take it to be God Speaking nor that He Means what He Says, so consequently they go along carelessly with-out Learning what God has sent for The Specific Purpose of Redeeming mankind and that The Message of Life may be Applied to us in our day.

His Way is that we Study His Words and Plans and Conduct our lives Accordingly; that we may become fit and worthy subjects to inherit Life Eternal, and eat from The Tree of Life.

Thus we will be Able to enter into The Gates to The City where *'The Lamb is The Light thereof.'*

Jesus says, ***'If you Love Me, keep My Commandments.'*** Unless we Show by our Lives and Actions that we Love Him, we are not keeping His Commandments. We must Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh, and by *The Spirit of The Truth* perfecting *Holiness* in The Fear of God, do His Will. Anything apart from all He has Commanded will not Save us. Christ said, ***'Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say'*** (Luke 6:46).

God's Garden

Apostle Leonard H. Draves
Missouri

There is so much beauty in the world around us. We as Christians can see God's Hand everywhere. The beauty fills me with Joy. But The Concept of God's Garden set my mind imagining what God Liked in His Garden.

God must Love variety. Even plants of the same species are different-some tall, some leafy, others with a profusion of flowers. He is not The God of an assembly line creation, but One who Loves and Appreciates the differences. Cloning is distinctly of man.

We often feel insecure when we perceive difference between ourselves and others. We feel that we may be somehow irregular and not quite right. The Truth is, God Loves variety, in all things but *His Gospel Plan*. This He has Laid out in His Simple Way for mankind to Learn and Follow through. All His Plants are different. That's the way He likes it. God made us this way and Loves us for our uniqueness. He created our uniqueness for His own Purpose. There is a beautiful verse in Zephaniah 3:17.

'The Lord Thy God in the midst of thee is Mighty, He will Save, He will Rejoice over thee with Joy. He will Rest in His Love, He will Joy over thee with Singing.'

Just as my Heart is thrilled and filled with Joy from the beauty of the earth, I am sure that, in the same way, God Longs to Rejoice, Sing for Joy, over *His People, His Church and His Gospel*.

Message 37:4-5, ***'Behold, Saith The Lord, 'Those that have and will Profess My Name and Diligently Seek Me, yea, I will Open and no man will Close The Door before thee, for I will Give unto thee Power to Overcome, and he that Over Cometh shall have Right to The Tree of Life, to Eternity. Lo, there will you have Place with***

your Lord whom ye Seek and Desire to Please, Then The Righteousness of The Righteous shall be your Joy.

Ye, that are Called to Edify My Bride,' Saith The Lord, 'Keep ye My Sayings and The Ways of Righteousness in your Hearts. Sin not, but be ye Holy Vessels, and lo, I will quicken your Under-standing. Keep the thoughts of kindness in a willing manner toward your fellowmen. Fall not in the hands of the adversary, that is a thorn unto My Body. Hold High The Banner of Righteousness, and Zion's Cause shall be The Millennium Reign.'

We are God's Garden, The Planning of The Lord. Singularly we are unique flowers, together a Garden. I Pray that He Enjoys Visiting His Garden on Sunday Mornings, and I Hope He Whistles in His Heart to The Songs we are Singing to Him.

Remember The Beauty of God's Garden. Remember, we are God's Garden. Remember to Study and Show yourself Approved, so your Beauty will Shine Forth to the world.

Message 102:52, *'I speak that all Christendom may Flow together and Abide by 'The Bible', Revealing Great Truths; The Coming Forth of 'The Record Of The Nephites', The Book, and 'The Word Of The Lord': Behold The Books that will Lead all mankind to Eternal Hope and Salvation, Deliverance in The Lord.'*

Eternity has a Place for all that Look for The Lord and View Him as their Saviour, Lord and King.

Mormon 9:21, *'Behold, I say unto you, that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask The Father in The Name of Christ, it shall be granted them; and This Promise is unto all even unto the ends of the earth.'*

What a Beautiful Garden, God has Prepared for us. We are a Blessed and Favored People of The Lord. Let us all Work Together to Bring about *The Lord's Plan* in its *Plain and Precious Parts*. God Bless all!

Primary Department

*Editor: Sister Joy Ellen Draves
New York*

What Christmas Really Means

Christmas has taken on so many other things over the years. We have the story of Santa. We have the gift giving. These things aren't bad in themselves, as the gift giving started with *The Wise Men*. But it can take away from The Real Meaning of Christmas.

What happened that First Christmas? Why do we celebrate it? The Bible Answers all these questions in Luke 2:6-18: *'And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.'*

And she brought forth her Firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a Manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country Shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, The Angel of The Lord came upon them, and The Glory of The Lord Shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 'Fear not: for, Behold, I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is Born this day in The City of David a Savior, which is Christ The

Lord.

And this shall be a Sign unto you; Ye shall find The Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a Manger.

And suddenly there was with The Angel a multitude of The Heavenly Host Praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in The Highest, and on earth Peace, Good Will toward men.

And it came to pass, as The Angels were gone away from them into Heaven, The Shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which The Lord hath made Known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and The Babe lying in a Manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them Concerning This Child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by The Shepherds.'

As we read here, Jesus, The Savior of the world, was Born. He came as a Baby, then grew to be a man that gave His Life for you and me, so we could Live with Him forever when we die. We Celebrate His Birth because of our Faith in Him, and His Birth was The Beginning of a Life-changing Event - The Cross. So let us Celebrate Jesus' Birthday together, and remember why He Came.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:1-7

Joseph was a carpenter in Nazareth. He was soon to be Mary's husband. One night he had a dream. In it an Angel spoke: 'Joseph take Mary as your wife. The Child

in her is from The Holy Spirit. When He is born call Him Jesus. He will Save His People from their sins'.

In those days Emperor Augustus Caesar commanded that his people be counted. To do this everyone went to their hometown. For Mary and Joseph this was Bethlehem. Bethlehem was also King David's hometown.

It was a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary, who was almost ready to have her Baby, traveled with Joseph. They went down the hills in Galilee to the Jordan River. Then they followed the river to Judea. Up in the Judean hills they came to Bethlehem. The town was full of people who had come to be counted. An inn was there, but it was full of people.

Suddenly, Mary had to give Birth. So they went into a Stable. Here Mary had her Child, Jesus. She wrapped Him in a blanket and put Him to sleep in a Manger.

Junior Department

*Editor: Sister Thresa Ray
Missouri*

Merry Christmas to each of you! *When you think of Christmas, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?* Is it that great Christmas dinner, or spending special time with your Loved Ones and Friends? Is it a Special Gift you want to give to someone? OR do you first think of The Reason we celebrate Christmas? Jesus Christ! It is Jesus Birthday!

This is the most Special Day that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world!

John 3:16,17, '**For God so Loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever Believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.**

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be Saved.'

Read The Beautiful Story of The Birth of Christ in *The Holy Bible*, Luke, Chapters one and two and in Matthew, Chapters one and two. You can also read about The Signs of His Birth in *The Record of The Nephites*; 3 Nephi 1:9-21.

There is no harm in enjoying the other things we talked about, and in having a Christmas Tree and giving Gifts to each other. In fact, Jesus said what we do to others we do to Him also. So when we show Kindness and Love to others we are showing Love and Kindness to Jesus.

Matthew 25:40, '*. . . Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to Me*'.

Be sure to have The True Reason we celebrate Christmas be what is most important to you! ***Jesus is The Reason for The Season!***

I Pray that you are Filled with God's Great Love, Inner Peace and Joy this Christmas Season! May we each show His Mercies and Kindness to others!

Christmas Story

A general Introduction

The Christmas Story is The Story of The Birth of Jesus Christ in the town of Bethlehem, Israel. 'Jesus Christ' is known as The Founder or Central Figure of 'Christianity.' Christmas is a Christian Holiday on December 25 that Commemorates The Birth of Jesus. Ancient Romans also commemorated Jesus' Birth by marking a division of the calendar still in use today. The years before Jesus' Birth are marked as

B.C. (Before Christ), and the years after Jesus' Birth are marked A.D. Anno Domini, which means, in the year of our Lord).

Christmas literally means The Mass (Celebration) of Christ. 'Christ' is a Greek word and title, meaning 'Anointed' or one Set Apart by God for a Special Purpose. 'Christ' is equivalent to The Hebrew word 'Messiah.' Based on The Words of The Ancient Prophets. The First century Jewish people expected The Arrival of The 'Messiah' Promised by God as a Great Deliver of the people. You can read '*The Christmas Story*' from *The Holy Bible*, Luke, Chapter 2.



Luke's Biography Records how Mary and her husband Joseph left their home in Nazareth to travel to Joseph's ancestral home, Bethlehem, to enroll in the census ordered by the Roman emperor, Augustus. Finding no room in inns in the town, they set up primitive lodgings in a stable. There Mary gave Birth to Jesus in a Manger or stall. Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem, the home of the

house of King David from which was descended, Fulfilled The Prophecy of Isaiah. This is Confirmed to Mary by a visit from Angels and Shepherds.

Matthew, Chapter 1, Matthew's biography begins by recounting The Genealogy and Virgin Birth of Jesus, and then moves to The Coming of The Wise Men from The Orient (likely China) to where Jesus was staying after His Birth in Bethlehem. The Wise Men, or Magi, first arrived in Jerusalem and reported to the king of Judea, Herod the Great, that they had seen a 'Star'

John 12:46, *'I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who Believes in Me should not remain in darkness.'*

Heralding The Birth of a King. Further inquiry led them to Bethlehem of Judea and the location of Mary and Joseph. They presented Jesus with Treasures of *'Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.'*

The Birth of Jesus

Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2

The Angel Visits Mary

One day about 2,000 years ago an Angel Named Gabriel Appeared to a young Jewish woman named Mary. Gabriel told Mary she would have a Son, Jesus, who

would be The Son of God! Mary was confused and worried about this sudden news, but she had Faith in God and said, *'I am The Lord's Servant; let it be as you say.'*

Journey to Bethlehem

Mary and her husband-to-be, Joseph, lived in a town called Nazareth. But they

had to travel to the city of Bethlehem to register for a census ordered by the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus. Both Nazareth and Bethlehem are in the country now called Israel. It is about 65 miles (105 km) from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and the trip probably took them several days.

When Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay because the inn was already full. They ended up spending the night in a stable, a place where animals were kept. There was probably fresh hay on the floor that they used for beds.

That night, Jesus was Born. There was no crib, so they laid Baby Jesus in a Manger, a feeding trough for animals. The Manger probably had fresh hay in it and made a nice bed for The Baby, Jesus.

That night, some Shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks of sheep.

Angel Appeared to them and gave them The Good News that a Savior, The Messiah, had been Born. The Angel told The Shepherds they could find Jesus lying in a Manger. Suddenly a whole group of Angels Appeared Saying, *'Glory to God in The Highest, and on earth Peace, Goodwill toward men!'* Some time later, Wise Men, or *magi*, from eastern countries saw a 'Star' in the sky that Signaled The Birth of a New King. They came to Judea, the region around Jerusalem and Bethlehem, to Worship Jesus, The New King.

A man named Herod was the king of Judea. He called The Wise Men to a meeting and told them to find *'The New King'* so he could go and Worship him, also.

The Wise Men continued on to Bethlehem and followed *'The Star'* until it was directly above The Stable where Jesus

was. They found Mary and Jesus in The Stable and knelt down to Worship Him. They brought Jesus Gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, some of The Finest Things in The Ancient world.

Wise Men Visit Jesus

Frankincense was burned to make a sweet smell, and Myrrh was an expensive perfume.

After visiting Jesus, The Wise Men had a dream that warned them not to go back to see Herod, so they took a different route home.

Journey to Egypt

King Herod lied when he told The Wise Men he wanted to Worship Jesus. He was afraid 'This New King' would replace him as king of Judea. He did not understand that Jesus would grow up to be King of God's Spiritual Kingdom, not king of Judea.

What Herod really wanted was to find Jesus and kill Him! Herod was furious when he realized The Wise Men had not come back to tell him where to find Jesus. He sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to kill all the children under two years old, thinking Jesus would certainly be one of the ones killed.

But God had told Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to live in Egypt where they would be safe from Herod. Joseph, Mary and Jesus stayed in Egypt until Herod had died, and then they returned to Nazareth.

Christmas

I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a Good time; a Kind, Forgiving, Charitable Time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up Hearts freely,

and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. *-Charles Dickens*

There has been only 'One Christmas' – the rest are anniversaries. *–W. J. Cameron*

Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and Love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in Spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time. *-Laura Ingalls Wilder*

Instead of being a time of unusual behavior, Christmas is perhaps the only time in the year when people can obey their natural impulses and express their true sentiments without feeling self-conscious and, perhaps, foolish. Christmas, in short, is about the only chance a man has to be himself. *-Francis C. Farley*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of Peace on earth,
good-will to men.

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The Message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible Spiritual World. *-Unknown*

Young Adults Department

*Editors: Matthew & Ellen Thompson
Missouri*

Dear Young Adults;

I would like to share with you some thoughts I have had on my mind and also my Heart. I would like to express my thoughts on '*Discerning of Spirits*', and also why it is important for us to have '*Discernment*' in the last days.

In the 'Layman's Bible Dictionary', '*Discerning of Spirits*' is defined as distinguishing between Spirits. A Spiritual Gift which Enables certain Believers to tell the difference between TRUE and false teachers and teachings.

In Corinthians, it talks about Spiritual Gifts. It reads, '*Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts, brethren I would not have you ignorant.*

Ye know that ye were Gentiles carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

Wherefore, I give you to Understand that no man Speaking by The Spirit of God Called Jesus Accursed and that no man can say that Jesus is The Lord, but by The Holy Ghost.

Now, there are Diversities of Gifts, but by The Same Spirit.

And there are differences of Administrations, but The Same Lord.

And there are Diversities of Operations, but it is The Same God which Worketh all in all.

But The Manifestation of The Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by The Spirit, The Word of Wisdom, to another The Word of Knowledge by The Same Spirit;

To another Faith by The Same Spirit; to another The Gifts of Healing by The Same Spirit;

To another The Working of Miracles; to another Prophecy; to another Discerning of Spirits; to another Divers kinds of Tongues; to another The Interpretation of Tongues.'

If we have Discernment or The Discerning of Spirits, we would be Able to understand and tell the difference of who and what The True Teachings of Christ are.

It will be so important to have Discernment in these, the latter days. The reason for this is because satan will try his hardest to deceive The Children of The Lord into false teachings of Christ. We need to have Discernment to be able to distinguish between what is True and what is not. *Discernment is a Vital Tool* that we need to have in Order to remain Strong in The Lord's Church and also in His Gospel.

If we do not know The Lord's Gospel, then we can easily be deceived by false doctrines. In order to not be deceived we need to have our own Strong Relationship with our Father in Heaven. We also need to Study His Words which are Found in The Three Books, *The Bible, The Word of The Lord, Brought To Mankind by An Angel, and The Record of The Nephites.*

The more we Study and Know our Lord's Gospel that is less leverage the devil can use against us in trying to deceive us. Satan knows that these are The Latter Days and that The End Days are Coming soon. He is trying his hardest to work on The Lord's People, and The Lord's Church. he wants us to get discouraged and distract us from the Important

Things in our Lives. He will do anything to disrupt our Lives so that we forget what our Priorities in Life are.

Our Priority and Goal that he does not want us to Achieve is to once again be in our Father's Presence someday. We all long to Walk with our Lord and to be with Him.

Satan does not want us to Achieve this Goal. He wants to see us fail because he wants us to be miserable like him.

If we are not Strong and Know The Lord's Gospel, then satan will try to deceive us. We need to Pray to The Lord to Give us Discernment so that we may tell the

difference between what is True and what is not whenever the devil tries to deceive *The Followers of Christ and His Church*. Satan WILL NOT WIN and we WILL NOT let him deceive us!

It is my Prayer that as we Study and Grow in our Lord's Gospel, that we will all have Discernment in these The Latter Days, so that we will Conquer satan as he tries to deceive *The Followers of The Lord's Church*.

May God Bless each of you as you Grow in The Savior's Gospel. Remember to Pray often to The Lord and Continue to strengthen your Personal Relationship with Him daily.

As we Discern The Lord's Gospel, we Celebrate The Birth of Christ. This Christmas Season may you and your family be Blessed in The Knowledge that our God Came into the world to Save all mankind. As He Grew to Manhood, He Proclaimed His Doctrine and Set up His Kingdom and Established His Church. We are Thankful to Represent our Lord and His Church. Merry Christmas and God Bless you all. Amen!

Remember, HE LOVES YOU!

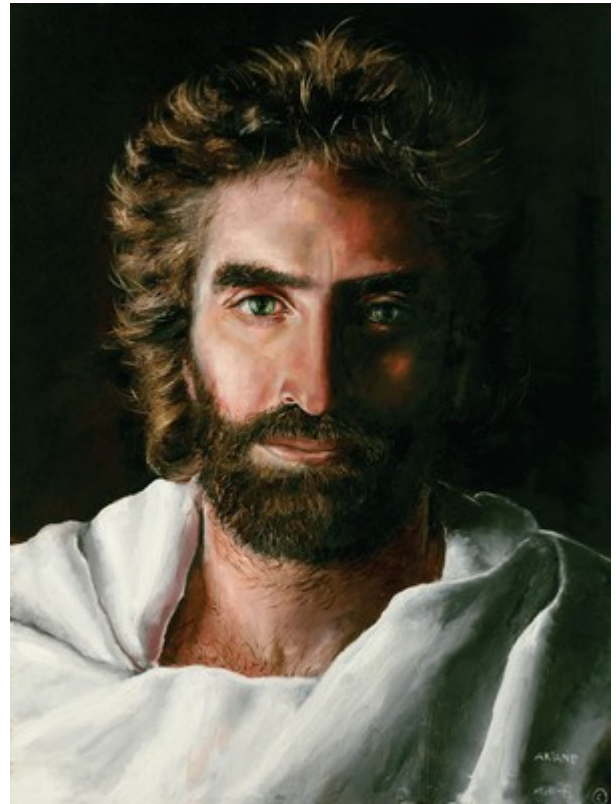
Special Notices

The staff of 'The Greater Light' would like to dedicate This Issue of our Paper to our Dear Brother Apostle George and Dear Sister Karen Wilkin of Missouri.

We send our Love, Cares and Prayers to you. May God Bless! The Editor

The Church has a CD available of 'The Testimony of William A. Draves' spoken by himself, for \$5.00. Please contact The General Headquarters Office.

Prince of Peace



Painted by Akiane Kramarik



***God Bess Our
Military Women
And Men.***

Merry Christmas to All!