

The Greater Light

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'
Message 53:3

Merry Christmas!

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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; Grateful thoughts, Forgiving

**and
 Forgiven for Jesus' sake, Amen!**

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 time 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

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 17:11-13). 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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Thank You!

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 adversary 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 short.*

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 High.

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 Baptisms⁵ 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

TEACH

Jairus Yates

Recently I was asked for suggestions on subjects to teach on. I submit to you what the Angel Messenger has told us we should teach, and what we should not teach, who should teach, and why we should teach. His words are straight from the presence of God. He establishes a pattern for our teaching. Our blessing is in shaping our lives by these teachings.

Message 5:3- “Remember, satan in times past has led men away from the teachings of Christ and His Church, but let it not be so with you. Others have been led away by adultery because of following the whisperings of satan, but let it not be so with you. Some have been led by pride and the love of the praise of men, but let it not be so with you. All these things and many more come from the whisperings of satan. Let not your hearts be tempted neither by the praise of men nor by the love of money, because it will rob you of the Spirit and goodness of God.”

Message 8:8- “Teach the law of the Lord that the millennium may come, for great shall be the joy in heaven and angels shall sing aloud at that day. Hearken! The Lord has chosen His servants to proclaim the message. Then hasten, and do not delay His work. The Lord will bless you that labor, and the people you shall labor among, for your sake. Labor in love; be harsh with no one; qualify to be leaders; go to the rich and poor alike. Be not puffed up; be humble, and inasmuch as you will do this God will be with you.”

Message 9:4- “But remember, this work is sacred, the work that you shall do. Therefore, be humble in all that you do and say, for God looks upon the heart, and only the pure in heart are acceptable to Him. By your lives and by your teaching you must prepare a people who shall be worthy to meet Christ at His coming.”

Message 16:3- “The greater your love, the greater your work shall be before the Lord. Preach the gospel, teach the people repentance, that they may live in all righteousness before God, and that the Temple must be built by people whose hearts are filled with love, and whose hearts are pure

and their hands clean. God will not accept the work of men who are filled with evil, selfishness, and strife; this is an abomination before Him.”

Message 21:13- “Read the Messages I have brought from time to time, study them, heed ye the warning that is given, teach it to all people, be ye united in your work, for nations are in distress and sorrow is in the hearts of many, and people and Nations shall yet cry unto the Lord for help.”

Message 24:12- “I am again establishing My Church in its fullness, with twelve apostles and authority as in the days of old. And Mine elders shall preach the gospel and teach the people as in former days. I will bless those that shall take the Message I have sent and warn the people, and I will again manifest My power in healing, and My Spirit shall comfort their hearts.”

Message 26:5- “See that all speak the same thing. Let no one preach and teach the traditions of men.”

Message 34:3- “Hearken, hearken: this is a day of haste! Will My servants do My bidding? Lo, I have waited, yet many are slow to heed, while many there be that have a desire to put on the whole armor of Christ,” saith the master of men. “Take to them the Message, for Christ’s coming is near. Preach and teach the written words and My Spirit will be with you as in the days of yore, for My Gospel must be taken to all nations, for a mighty shaking will come, then an awakening, and many that hear will obey.”

Message 37:14,17, 19, 20- “The Lord calls those that are willing to hear Him, the humble and the unlearned, to bring about His wise purpose. Teach men the way of Truth and Justice. Be not proud, heady or

high-minded, but be humble, meek, wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Use boldness but not overbearance. Yea, let all bridle their passions and unruly tongues, and you shall be delightful in the sight of the Lord.

17. Let the priest's duty be to teach the law, preach the word, expound, exhort, admonish, and baptize: and also to administer bread and wine as sacrament unto the flocks; and visiting the homes of the members; teach all to pray in service and in the secret closets, pouring out the heart to God. Teach members to attend to all family duties.

19. Let the Lord's servants hasten for nations must be warned and many righteous are looking with longing hearts in search for truth. Teach them to heed the words I bring from the Lord.

20. Let the Church pray earnestly and often that all will come closer unto the Lord that they may know His Spirit. Follow the Doctrine taught in the Scriptures."

Message 37:24- "Some have been discouraged and their faith weakened. Let them be enlightened of the greatness of this work, that they might be encouraged. For remember, satan has done many things in the past that has led men astray. With enticing words he has led men away from the teachings of Christ and His Church. Listen not to the whisperings of satan. Be not led by pride nor the love for praise of men. Make clean your hearts and humble yourselves more—as conditions will come that will require greater faith. Be kind to all men. Cry repentance. Preach the gospel to the nations for all must be warned. Peace will have place in the hearts that are honest and obey. For salvation only comes from obedience to the words of Him that shall

judge you at the last day."

Message 38:7, 9, 10, 12- "It is the will of the Lord that more be called to labor as bishops that the work will hasten on. Therefore, let J. W. Savage, Maurice Turland and Clarence Dobson be set apart as bishops. Let them remember they are stewards for God and that He requires it of them at the last day. Let them teach the tithing law and abide in all things in the ways of the Lord. It is needful that they work in the field of the Lord. Let the bishops work in unison in this office and calling.

9. Let the elders teach the people to live in peace before God that the works of darkness must be done away for the kingdoms of this world will know that God has spoken.

10. I have come to you. I have come from the presence of the Lord your God. I bring a Message of Love, and a Warning that Christ's coming is near at hand and the destruction that shall be. I have brought and bring instructions for the Church.

12. Let the words I bring be translated in other languages that all nations may be warned. Publish and send abroad the warning, teach the reign of peace. Be at peace for Christ's Kingdom shall be, and He shall rule from sea to sea and all men will then hear His Words."

Message 40:4- "Let those that can go to the fields be at work for the harvest is white and the sheaves ungathered. Let the Message be heard to the ends of the earth. The kingdom of God shall continue on and fill the whole earth and man's follies shall come to naught. Let all teach the gospel in its fullness and God will be with them."

Message 40:5- "Let the apostles and all who can, go into the fields of labor and God will be with them. He will bless their

work; He will bless the people they labor among and their efforts to please Him. Contend not over points of the doctrine of the gospel, but trust in His words and He will make you free. Those that will not labor somewhere in their calling, teaching the Gospel of salvation, will lose and God will call others, for the Message must be taken to the ends of the earth, to all nations.”

Message 41:4- “Teach diligently the doctrine of the Gospel of the kingdom. Pray earnestly, willingly obey and His Spirit shall attend you, that you might be instructed more in the way of peace and principle in all things pertaining to your welfare and salvation.”

Message 41:13- “Blessed art thou that seeketh to bring forth My Zion, for it shall be and the righteous shall have victory over all the oppressors. Therefore, I send the warning, even by My Messenger in the spirit and power of Elias, that ye walk humbly before Me, even all, teaching My law that mankind must come with full purpose of heart. Cleave unto Me and I shall cleave unto you. Reject not My words, quench not My Spirit. Let all the erring repent. Teach men to come partake of the tree of life. Enter in at the strait gate, abide in the way which is narrow and endure unto the end that ye may obtain eternal life,’ saith your Lord. ‘For I am He who speaketh. Bring your sacrifice of a broken heart. Repent in a contrite spirit.”

Message 42:3- “See that all teach and preach the same thing—and wander not off on strange doctrine, for such will not save you.”

Message 43:19- “Let A. C. Pape heed the call as the Lord has felt after him. If he will hear the word of God, peace shall come unto him. Let him be set apart as an

elder. Let him teach the gospel, and if he will be humble he shall take the words of truth to the hearts of many.”

Message 43:23- “Let My servant, Reginald Layzell, come into this work and set him apart as an elder and if he will be humble he shall bring peace to many and his joy shall be full. Let him teach the Gospel of life and his reward shall be sure.”

Message 44:7- “Abide by and fully obey the words I bring, have brought and shall yet bring. Teach the Gospel of the kingdom, take it to all the world, to Israel, and verily, the Lord shall remember His promises, for the righteous shall have victory over oppressors.”

Message 44:8- “Behold, there is a cry of peace, but there is no peace save in the hearts of them that do the Lord’s bidding, those that heed His voice. Nations are in distress and kingdoms are crumbling. Fear not, for the Lord shall proceed to do a marvelous work and the powers of evil shall lose in the end. Study the words I bring, teach them. Study the full word of God and you shall know the truth. Follow the instructions I bring and it will be well with you. As I say to you so say I to all.”

Message 44:14- “Let Warren Nellis, George A. Kaake, Carl Sammis and John Copeland labor as elders as much as they can. Let the elders be out among the people, teaching and leading in love and their reward shall be sure.”

Message 44:17, 18, 19- “Let T. Pyle and Dohn Weaver be set apart as teachers. Let them be humble and let their duty be to persuade men to attend Church, let them look after the Church and care for its needs and teach, expound, persuade, admonish all in all ways to do right before the Lord. The teachers must be kind and remember to be

prayerful.

18... They shall be obedient in all things and in no case the teacher nor deacon have authority to baptize or administer the sacrament, but they are to warn the people, exhort, teach, encourage and invite all to attend church services and duties.

19. Blessed are all they that teach men to repent and lead souls from sin for their reward shall be sure.”

Message 46:5- “There are those that are full of contention. Separate yourselves from them, have no part in their selfish desires. Be humble, be at peace; let love fill your hearts. Heed not the traditions of men, that you may be able to stand when greater things will come to pass and your trials shall be upon you. Teach the Gospel of life, take it to the ends of the earth; to other nations in their own language and tongue. “

Message 47:7- “Teach the doctrine with diligent faith, patience, and boldly, in meekness.”

Message 54:9- “Let all labor that can, that the work may go on in all parts, but see that all preach and teach the same thing as is found in The Bible and Record of the Nephites as I told you.”

Message 56:3- “Read the Messages I have brought from time to time, study them. Moreover, heed the warning that is given, abide by the doctrine of Christ, teach it to all people. Be ye united in your work. He that will heed the warning will gain thereby. Those that heed not will lose in the end. Be at peace with all men, for the Lord will gather His elect and they shall have peace with Him.”

Message 59:16- “Teach men everywhere faith, repentance and baptisms. Let the hands be laid on all that the plan of God may be complete and that they may be fit and worthy for the Spirit to dwell with

them.”

Message 60:3- “Teach the way of the Lord that the millennium may come. Many are honest of heart and some you think to be against this work will be those to labor to the end. Think not that you can labor without faith or the love of God in your hearts for this is a just work of love.”

Message 60:5- “Remember the instructions I have brought. Teach them to all men. All those that are humble and full of love will help, for the Lord will bless them. There are many who yet will carry the Message of life to the ends of the earth. Teach faith in the words of the Lord and the prophets, for satan shall not have hold on all such. There are those that have been true and will not be shaken by satan’s powers in the evils of men. There are those whose hearts are filled with selfishness and greed and who seek to overthrow the Message the Lord has sent.”

Message 64:10- “Teach men everywhere to repent and be baptized. Let the hands be laid on all who come to the Church that they may be humble and that the Lord may fill them with His Spirit.”

Message 66:16- “They that go about teaching pervert things to set in order are not of the Lord, for they bring discord and destroy the faith in subversive teachings. Fear not for such will not save you.”

Message 68:4- “The Lord has spared you. The Lord has preserved many and He heareth the prayers of the humble and faithful. There are many honest that will yet heed my coming. Be firm, be true. Let humility be your mantle. Be not discouraged. Let all take faith and be lifted in gladness. Let not confusion come among you, the Lord your God is the author of peace. Be calm and sedate. Heed repentance. Teach it to all men; baptizing them. Let the hands be

laid on them for the authority is given and this is The Church of Christ that shall be His Bride at His coming.”

Message 70:5- “Let all be in the field as the way opens. Let all speak and teach the same things. Heed diligently and it will be well with the faithful and to all who obey and defend this cause.”

Message 70:8- “Let those with the responsibility of preaching and teaching of the gospel in all the world consider deeply their calling and choosing in this work. For the work is great that lies before you.”

Message 71:10- “Teach the whole truth and let not man have his way, except it be the way of the Lord. Worry not over things you have no control.

Message 72:15- “Teach baptisms, faith, and repentance towards God. Let the hands be laid on their heads for the gift, and gifts of God on men.”

Message 77:8- “Let those come in by the door whom the Lord has touched by His Spirit. Let them be humble, teaching the truth as it is written and the words I bring.”

Message 80:1- “Behold! I come from the presence of the Lord to bring instructions and directions for the Church, the people of His elect. I am the servant come to call others to work a work, to bring the restitution and restoration of all things. To the wise a warning, to those that look for it—the fulfilling and bringing in the assured way of salvation, all else will not save you. It must be the Christ and His teachings, His words, for salvation only comes by Him.”

Message 80:13- “Establish peace and power will dwell with you. Sanctify the people in holiness and good works, obedient to the words I bring. Let the work of preaching and teaching continue every-

where and the Lord will be your strength and stay.”

Message 82:11- “Teach diligently the doctrine of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Let your conversations be in humility, for this shall be your power in winning your brother—whose mind is in the dark.”

Message 82:35- “Heed my words today—repent in humility and save yourselves. Teach repentance and salvation through the baptisms—and the Spirit will work to save souls of men.”

Message 83:4- “Teach the reign of peace. Teach faith in God and His plan and decrees. Proclaim the word commanding all mankind everywhere to repent and obey for the time has come when the way of truth alone shall stand. All else will come to naught.”

Message 83:15- “Teach the decrees of the Lord that all shall be converted to salvation and the gospel. The way of life in the kingdom of God to eternity shall be their reward.”

Message 84:12- “Seek out, acquire and restore with meekness those that are humble, repentant and full of love. If they will come to doctrine and truth and refrain from teaching of men and traditions that will not save you but the Gospel of Christ of redemption and salvation unto eternity of eternal hope with God—preaching Christ and Him crucified and resurrected.”

Message 84:21- “You will see many fall on the one hand and many more on the left because of the works of satan. They will not hear because of the teachings and pride of men, the traditions of men,” saith the Lord.”

Message 84:45- “Keep peace in the Church and unfold the mysteries as God gives to you. Teach the decrees. Hold the standard high. Do all that you can. Many

souls will learn life and obedience through your good works. As I speak to you I speak to all. I will come again. I will direct the work of the Lord.”

Message 85:17, 18- “Mankind has been scattered abroad, and the earth, she is defiled, it is empty. And it shall be, as with the people, so with they that teach, until now I come, the priest, as with the servant, so with the master. Those that labor, lend and borrow as though they were one.

18. All alike, all faileth and are empty, because of sin and transgression, changing the ordinances and destroying the teaching of the Lord’s covenant. The teaching of my coming and proclaiming of the hour of God’s judgment has come, the time of the end, the end time, the Lord’s return in like manner as He ascended.”

Message 86:30- “Let the apostles lead the Church and carry the work on: preaching and teaching the same things, in the way of peace, in Christ Jesus—the Gospel of life and salvation.”

Message 86:59, 60, 61- “There are those that place themselves upon the altar of service for the Lord’s work: teach the decrees and help in this way of life.

60. In The Bible and Record of the Nephites contains the teachings and pattern of the fullness of the gospel in its plain and precious parts. But my words and authority gives the right to set the Church in order—The Church of Christ with the holy priesthood authority and power to act in the establishing the kingdom of God on earth¹⁸ and bringing in the Zion of the Lord. The kingdom and the dominion shall be for the saints of the most high.

61. The honest in heart that hear, that have heard the Spirit in the past, will hear this Message now and in obedience receive of this authority and add my words to their

teaching and training to become joint heirs in the body of Christ and members of the Bride, the Lamb’s Church, for when He comes to claim His jewels. Let them come in by the door, the hands laid on them and take the name: The Church of Christ with the Elijah message.”

Message 88:1- “ ‘Awaken! Arise and write the words I will give you, a Message of hope and peace to all that accept them and follow through. Deliverance is found only in the teachings of Christ through His atoning blood for remission of sins.’”

Message 90:10- “Those that will not come to understanding of my teachings, what I have to say to all ministry—unless they hear and follow through, their works will not stand and in the end they will not be there.”

Message 91:41- “Let the assembly be conducted in peace and teaching the word. Let all learn this way more perfectly that they may give a reason for the hope in them in defending the words I bring.”

Message 92:7- “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.”

Message 93:16- “Teach the ministry and all to preach and teach the same thing. The Lord will direct.”

Message 94:4- “Study the words I bring. Teach and study the full word of God and you shall know the truth. Let all follow the instructions I bring and it will be well.”

Message 98:12- “Teach the whole truth, let not man have his way, unless it be the way of the Lord. Worry not over that which you have no control.”

Message 102:23- “Do not be moved by the necessary evils of the waster, the false teachings of the past of many false doc-

trines: weird and twisted teachings. Even yet some err in all such.”

Message 102:59- “Let the teachers and deacons be ordained as elders; there are many functions of duties but one plan of authority. See that all preach and teach the same things in the precious way of love in haste.”

Message 103:5- “Let all be in the fields of labor as the way opens. See that all speak and teach the same things. Heed diligently and it will be well with the faithful and to all who obey and defend this cause.”

Message 104:1- “Behold! Hearken and write the words I will give you. I bring peace and a Message of hope, to all that accept my coming, with authority I bring from the Lord. Deliverance is found only in the teachings of Christ. Only through His atoning blood can mankind find remission of sins through obedience to the gospel.”

Message 108:14-18- “Let not man’s ideals be taught. The Lord is unchangeable and will not accept the follies, bickering, and ways of mankind.

15. My coming is to guide and hold steady the work of the Church.

16. The works and follies of men destroys hope and brings doubt and mistrust. Some have hardness of heart and will not conform to doctrine and this work. I have relayed the authority that we might destroy the ideals and works of man’s own choosing; setting his own laws.

17. See that all come to the church’s teaching; all preaching the same things.

18. The work is set in pace, the doctrine and program is given; follow through.”

Message 110:15- “Let all that will as they come in this work, be baptized and receive the gifts of the Spirit, and authority to preach and teach salvation to mankind through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ,

for salvation is to all mankind that will hear and obey, all preaching the same truths.”

Message 111:4- “Thus saith the Lord, ‘Where is the house built unto Me? You live in your sealed houses — with sealed set minds — established in your own man made and evil doctrines. Even establishing false teachings of how the God of heaven, creator of the universe is to speak to mankind. Ignoring the plan of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. Therefore your failure is in not hearing the truth as it comes, making The Word of the Lord of none effect.’”

Message 112:5- “Let none take part in this work until they come in by the door of baptism and are repentant of their sins and traditions of men, their manmade doctrines and styles of worship. Let none teach or preach that are not a part of this work. Let all learn the truth and come to this work. Salvation is of the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Let the hands of the faithful carry on. Zion must come forth.”

Message 113:9- “Publish the Messages I bring, let them go to all the world. Teach repentance and salvation. Forgiveness is to all that repent and obey the call of God. Go forth, do the things the Lord says must be done.”

Message 114:15- “Let all teach faith, repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands and the gifts of the Holy Unction shall be upon them.”

Message 115:14- “Those inquiring of this work, teach them the way of life, and as they come this way, they will bring others to the truth, they shall be in this ministry. This is the Lord’s anointing and appointed way of peace. Finding the truth in The Bible, The Record of the Nephites, and the book, The Word of the Lord, the words I bring and will yet bring. Worship and find

the gifts.”

Message 116:8, 9, 10- “Let all know to come this way. Those that are almost persuaded, come. Be firm, let not satan beguile you. The authority is given in its channels, let it be so. The Lord gives His Spirit to lead and hold the faith. Where is the progress? Why stand ye still when there is much to cover?”

9. Faith, repentance, the baptisms, teaching Jesus Christ and His atoning blood in redemption that salvation will come to all that hear and obey the full plan as taught in The Bible, The Record of the Nephites, and The Word of the Lord, the words I bring as the angel of God. I am His Messenger, a resurrected being. I am John the Baptist, I am the Elias.

10. The pattern and form is placed before you. Who is man to claim to have more than this? Many of the Lord’s people will accept the Message, but remember this is a work of love. It will bring life, happiness and peace to those that accept it, but sorrow to those that reject.

11. Indeed the work is in the hands of the faithful. I give charge that you see that it is directed humbly and in love. The work you do will be recorded in heaven. That which you bind on earth will be bound in heaven. That which you loose shall be loosed in heaven. Those that do or have spoken lightly and bitter of this work, their charge and responsibility they betray, and it is taken from them. Therefore, they cannot work in the sacred work of the Lord, walking in darkness at noonday. They release and destroy themselves.”

In conclusion we are to teach The Law of The Lord and prepare a people. We are to teach a warning and teach faith, repentance, and the baptisms. We are to teach the people as in the former days. Teach the

written word. Teach the way of truth and justice. Teach members to attend to family duties. Teach the tithing law. Teach all to live in peace. Teach the reign of peace. Teach the decrees. Teach the word of God as found in the Bible, Record Of The Nephites and The Word Of The Lord brought to mankind by an Angel. We are to teach the Doctrine with diligent faith, patience, and boldly in meekness, and many other things.

T’was The Night Before Christmas

Donald Thompson

‘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 Walmart! 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 in Christmas and enjoy ‘The Season’.

Merry Christmas my friends!

Articles

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Rest of The Story

Submitted by Ellen Draves

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 goes, ‘*On the first day of Christ-*

mas my true love gave to me . . .’ The ‘*True Love*’ represents God and the ‘*me*’ who receives these presents is The Christian.

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 Swans’ 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.

CHRISTMAS TIME

William A. Draves

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 Truth-fulness, 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 without 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).

Primary

Joy Draves-Dreher

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

Beth-lehem. 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.

Juniors

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

We celebrate Christmas because it is the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You can read the beautiful story of the birth of Christ and his life through childhood in Matthew 1:18-25 and chapter 21-23, and Luke chapters 1 and 2. Please take the time to read this!

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that who-soever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

We are so blessed to have a God that loves us so much that He gave us His only begotten Son. God manifested Himself in the flesh, and walked the earth teaching us how to live, how to love, and how to act in all circumstances. Through believing in Jesus and accepting Him as our Lord and Savior we can have everlasting life in the hereafter. How blessed we are!

John 8:12 "Then Jesus spake unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

There are many titles for Jesus. I thought we would talk about some of them and where to find them.

Jesus and Son of the Highest -- **Luke**

1:31-33 (When the angel Gabrielle appeared to Mary) “And behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS.

32. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David:

33. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”

Jesus and Emmanuel –**Matthew 1:21-23** (When the angel Gabrielle appeared to Joseph in a dream) “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

22. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23. Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

Savior and Christ the Lord – **Luke 2:10-11** “And the angel said unto them (the shepherds), Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Thy Salvation – **Luke 2:30** (Simeon speaking about baby Jesus) “For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.”

Christ and Son of God – **Matthew 16:15-16** “He (Jesus) saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16. And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (also John 3:16-17)

Son of the Highest –**Luke 1:32** “He shall be great and shall be called the Son of

the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father.”

Son of Man – **Matthew 2:27-28** “And He (Jesus) said unto them, the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

28. Therefore the Son of Man is Lord also of the sabbath.”

Master and Lord – **John 13:13** (Jesus speaking) “Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.”

The Good Shepherd – **John 10:11** (Jesus speaking) “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.”

Psalm 23:1 “The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.” (shall not be in need for anything)

Light of the world – **John 8:12** “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying. I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

Bread of Life – **John 6:35** “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

The living bread – **John 6:51** “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

The vine – **John 15:5** (Jesus speaking) “I am the vine ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

Friend –**John 15:12-14** “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13. Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatso-

ever I command you.

Message 119:6 “Thus saith the Lord, ‘Ye are My friends, I have tested you as Job has been tested; yet he loved me, your Lord, The testing has served its purpose,’ saith the Lord.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The prince of Peace.”

Jesus Christ, also means the Messiah, the Anointed One, or the Holy One.

Jesus and God are One—**John 10:30** “I and my Father are one.”

Message 84:16-20 “I am He that is call I AM. I am the Great White Spirit. I am He that is called Shiloh, I am all in all. I am the only Living God, Creator of the universe, Ruler and Judge of all. I am the Chief Corner stone. I am the stone the builders rejected. I am the Christ the Son of Man

17. I am God. I change not. I am He that was called Jehovah. I am Jesus Christ. I am the Beginning and the End. I am alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. I am the Lord. I am He that was manifested in the flesh, in the flesh-death and resurrection. I am He that is risen. I am the Lord God.

18. All they that hear Me and learn of Me, hearing My Decrees and obey, shall have the right to eternity with Me, your Lord God Christ forever

19. I am He that formed the Heavens and the earth and all things that in them are. I am He that placed man in the garden and preserved Noah over the flood. I am He that chose Abraham for his great faith. His seed is as the sands of the sea-shores, innumerable. I am He that led Israel through

the Red Sea and over Jordan and I will deliver My people today, if they will watch, pray and serve Me, your Master and Lord God.

20. When mankind will learn of Me, he shall be lifted from darkness unto Light and Power—and hearing Me I will hear him and heal your souls and your lands.”

I love the song, “Mary Did You Know?”. It talks about Mary holding her tiny, precious baby Jesus and asks Mary if she knew that her baby would one day save the world? So beautiful! We are so very, very blessed to have a wonderful God, Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that loves us so much. To show us the way, that sacrificed all for us, that we may have everlasting life!

As you celebrate the birth of Jesus, think about all that He is, all that He means to us.

John 4:16-17 ... “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

17. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.”

Merry Christmas!
Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

Thanksgiving to the Lord

Every day you wake up is truly a gift from God. It means God has opened more opportunities for you to be a blessing to someone else and be blessed. Each day of life is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God, help others and store up

more treasures in heaven.

If we do not take time to express Thanksgiving to the Lord for all of His blessings, then we end up just taking it all for granted. None of us want to be guilty of that. Expressing Thanksgiving daily is also exhibiting Humility before the Lord. God inhabits our Praise, appreciation and gratitude for all the blessings He bestows upon us.

There is a little song that I really love to sing. The words go like this. "Give Thanks with a grateful heart, give Thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich because of what the Lord has done, give thanks." Prayer is another good way to give Thanks. We can name our blessings one by one and not only does it show the Lord how thankful we are, but it is a good reminder to us of what He has done today.

Understanding your Gifts and Talents from the Lord

1 Peter 4:10-11; "As every man that received the Gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Cor 12:1, 4-11; "Now concerning Spiritual Gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant

4. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the Same Spirit.

5. And there are Differences of admini-

strations, but the Same Lord.

6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the Same God which worketh all in all.

7. But the Manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

Verses (8-11)

A. For to one is given by the Spirit the Word of Wisdom;

B. To another the Word of Knowledge by the same Spirit

C. To another Faith by the Same Spirit

D. To another the Gifts of Healing by the Same Spirit

E. To another the Working of Miracles

F. To another Prophecy

G. To another Discerning of Spirits

H. To another Divers kinds of tongues

I. To another The Interpretation of Tongues."

Those are the Spiritual gifts God blesses people with through the gift of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't require a "talent" to have one of these gifts, they are God given. Then you have the Personal, Natural gifts/talents that God has granted to you to use for Him throughout your life. It could be to play a musical instrument, or write stories, befriend the kid who no one else wants to accept, it could be helping your neighbor or helping the less fortunate people. Some are math genius's and some are computer whiz's. There are so many diverse talents/gifts God gives to each individual and sometimes it is hard to determine what gifts He has actually given you. Some talents are passed down from generation to generation. For example, there are groups of people who have been blessed with the talent to Sing. The talent may go way back for genera-

tions of a family having beautiful talented voices to sing. I met one family who has 10 children and every one of their children can sing and play one or more musical instruments. They chose to use these talents to glorify the Lord singing to audiences and performing in concerts.

God gives each person some sort of “talent” to use in this lifetime. While Matt 25:15 talks about basically “financial talents” it is also stating how God works with people according to their abilities to do certain things. Read Ch 25 through verse 30 to get a general idea of what the lesson is about using the talents. The Lord deals with each person in what he/she is capable of achieving or doing at that time in their life. What talents do you have? Do you recognize it as a talent? Does it inspire you to do something good with it? Maybe you aren’t really that good at something but you really are intrigued by it and would like to be able to do more with that particular inspiration. If that’s the case, then you should try to pursue it and see what happens. Sometimes you just don’t know until you try.

Proverbs 16:3; “Commit thy works to the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” Whatever you do, if you do it unto the Lord, to His Honor and Glory, it will spring forth as a blessing, not only for you but for others also. If you put your trust in God to lead, guide and direct your paths, He will do just that.

The Gifts God was referring to in 1 Cor are mainly very Spiritual gifts, but the more personal gifts are very rewarding and can be very unique in their own way, depending on what it is and how you can use it. The Spiritual gifts are extremely valuable because they are used to benefit a person who is in need or for the church. If you could receive one of the Spiritual Gifts which one do you think you would hope for or feel comfortable with? I guess if I could do that, I would ask for the gift of “Discernment.” Why? Because in this day and time there are so many false preachers, teachers and other people who are renown, yet there

is nothing Christian about them and they are exclaiming very serious facts that are totally fake. If we do not have discernment to some degree, then we could go down the wrong path, make wrong choices and end up going against God’s word. We could end up believing in something false and without merit. All of God’s Gifts are virtuous and vital in our walk with the Lord. It is a fact that many people use their God given talents for things other than to serve the Lord.

Romans 12:2-3, 9-10 ; “And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God.

3. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of his faith.

9. Let love be without simulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.”

May the Lord open your understanding and heart to what your Gifts and Talents are so you might be a blessing to others. If you don’t know yet, seek Him with an open mind to show you, and as promised, “seek and ye shall find”. **Matt 6:1**; “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them, otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.” Always remain HUMBLE before the Lord, sharing and blessing others with your talents. Always treat others with the same dignity and respect you want for yourself. If you feel your talents make you much better than another person, you become conceited and stuck up, then you have forgotten why God granted your gifts and talents to you.”

Remember your gifts and talents are your Gifts from God, Using them to His honor and glory, is your gift back to Him. Amen.