



Merry

Christmas



EXPERIENCE THE "JOY" OF CHRISTMAS



The Year 2013 races to an end and it seem at times that what was is missing the most this year was Joy. We have endured government shut downs, housing slumps, and for some a disastrous job market. Thankfully, at the end of each year we celebrate Christmas, no matter how tough the year we can always find joy in Christmas. For the Christian Joy is not a missing element at Christmas; because we understand that Joy came to the world as a baby called Christ. Christmas is the time of year we celebrate the coming our Savior to this world, to bring peace between God and man. Christmas is really a most wonderful time of year because our GOD the eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient God who inhabits the heaven and yet came inhabiting the form of an infant baby into this world on our behalf. Our Savior was not born to a king or prince or priest, or prophet but to a lowly peasant carpenter and a virgin young girl name Mary. Our savior was not laid in a jeweled crib but rather borrowed a manger in a stable. Born without royalties and gold on earth, yet this is Emmanuel, God with us, Prince of Peace, the mighty God. The first to hear of this joy coming to earth were not kings or prince or priest or even prophet but again the lowest of the low in that day, the shepherds. What is so wonderful was the message they heard that blessed night, it was full of Hope, Love, Peace and JOY. Our world received a message to lowest of the low from the highest of the high we are told "JOY TO THE WORLD THE KING HAS COME." It is important that this Christmas season we do not miss the experience of Joy which can only be experienced by relationship with Christ.

I want to suggest three key to experiencing the Joy of Christmas, the first is if we are to experience joy we must worship only the king.

Presents and gifts are nice, so is good food and family time but only true worship of the king will bring real Christmas Joy. We should learn a lesson from the wise men that search for the baby. "Where is He who was born King of the Jews? For we have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him." (Matt 2:2). The Psalm writer reminds us that there is Joy in the presence of the king, "In your presence is fullness of Joy." (Psalm 16:11)

Secondly, we must spend time with the King this Christmas, if we expect to experience the Joy of Christmas. It is joyful indeed, when you know that God is with us. The God that cures sickness, opens doors, and changes things to work in our favor. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God is with us." (Matt 1:23) When God is with us, he speaks to us though His word, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing... If you abide in Me and my words abide in you, the you can ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you... These things are spoken to you, that My Joy may remain in you, and that your JOY may be full." (John 15:5, 7,11).

Finally, this Christmas we can experience joy if we submit to the king. We needed a savior and a remedy for our dying souls so our Savior came to bring Joy to our

Inside the Spirit

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS • 1; KUDOS/HEARTS OF LOVE/ALLSTATE • 2; THE GOLD WRAPPING PAPER – AN INSPIRATIONAL SHORT CHRISTMAS STORY/WELCOME NEW MEMBERS • 3; A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN • 4; CHRISTMAS: THE ADVENT SEASON, THE PROCLAMATION OF THE SAVIOR AND THE WORD OF THE LORD • 5; MERRY CHRISTMAS • 6

situation. Jesus became our savior and we who believe in Him was given eternal life and freedom from the penalty of death; that is the reason for our Joy. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matt 1:21). This Christmas before you gather to open gifts or dine with family, let's experience the Joy of Christmas by submitting to our King. We submit to Him by obeying his word, and rejoicing in Him for the great and marvelous ways He has given us Joy this year.

In spite of the many difficulties that of 2013, we the people of God, are thankful for the Joy He was delivered to us, this Joy has spared us the horrors of this world. One of the beauties of Jesus is that He does not change, no matter what situation we may be in we can experience the Joy of Christmas if we will worship the king, spend time with the King, and submit to the king. Starts today renew your Joy in Christ; ***He is the real Joy of Christmas.***

Mylon L Burwell



Kudos

Congratulations to Deacon Walter Cordule! Walter has been honored for working 25 consecutive years at the Madison County Mental Health Center! Walter was also recognized for working countless hours and being a model employee at the Madison County Mental Health Center.

Hearts of Love

Mt. Zion, thanks to you the Hearts of Love, Family Christmas Assistance Program was a huge success. After only 2 weeks, all of the hearts were taken with toys or supplies to return. A couple of people adopted a heart's entire list, so they had to try to buy all or most of the items on the child's wish list. All sponsors that took a heart brought back their items in 2 to 3 weeks. With the special offerings collected, the committee bought toys, shoes and clothes. The Christmas Assistance Committee did a great job gathering the gifts for the kids. It was a job trying to get toys, shoes and clothes for the children but everyone pulled through and finished

their task. There were 11 children, ages 10 months to 15 years. The committee fought through crowds to get these things for the kids. They might have made a few mistakes like, a wrong size, or forgot to get an outfit or toy. They went from store to store, and they even did it over again. It was a good thing for Mt. Zion to put together this organization to help some kids. This year's committee was Sis. Marsha Love, Sis. Berdell White, Sis. Christine Lawson, Bro. Jimmy Matthews and myself. It was a great experience to be on the committee I have had a great time helping.

Sister Malea Love



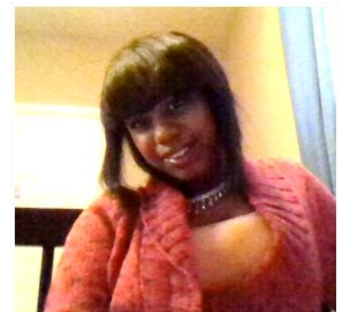
Allstate

Craig Wiggins Agencies
Allstate Insurance Company
4040 Balmoral Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801

Phone 256-881-1100
Fax 256-881-1102

Some of you know me as Queena or Sister Merrimon. Recently I have started working at Craig Wiggins Allstate Insurance Agency. We sell auto, home and life insurance. We offer great rates and cover ages at a great price. If you or someone you know is interested please call us to find out more information. Upon calling please let them know that you heard

about it from me, Queena. And if you refer someone to Allstate to show our appreciation you will receive a complimentary visa gift card.



"I did not write this article and am not asking for any kind of credit. I found this writing online and deem it inspirational and beautiful. I thought it was suitable for the season. Please enjoy."

-Devan Davis



The Gold Wrapping Paper - An Inspirational Short Christmas Story

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

<http://www.wanttoknow.info/goldwrappingpaper>



Everyone is Encouraged to Join us for New Members Classes!

Darlene Lewis Regina Smith

Ashleigh Lewis Angela Jones

Laurie Duncan Tamarian Foster

Patrick and Gloria Turner

"A Christmas to Believe In"

A Mount Zion Production



*The Mount Zion Youth Council would like to Say Thank you to Everyone for a wonderful Christmas Production. A special **Thank You** to our Cast, Praise Dancers, Stagehands, Wardrobe and Costumes Assistants, Our Food Committee and to everyone that came out for our performance. A Special Thank you to A&G Photography for our Photos (Sister Regina Smith). It was a wonderful evening and we are truly thankful to God for all He has done. Thank you Again and Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year*

*The Mount Zion Youth Council
Sister LaShon Jefferson, Chairperson*





CHRISTMAS:
The Advent Season
The Proclamation of the Savior
and
The Word of the Lord



The advent season, lets us share with one another the birth of the Christ child. Advent is a season observed in many Western Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming". The Lord, God himself became man, to live, breath and experience the things we do in our daily lives. With His birth provided for the fulfillment of the scriptures. The announcement by the angels to all, the tidings of great joy and the celebration of those that witness the birth must have been a wondrous sight to behold. "And the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2: 10-11. NASB Revised Ed. 2008.

With all these things, we share the belief that God had so much love for His creations (Mankind) that he sent His only begotten Son to live among us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him." John 3:16-17. NASB Revised Ed. 2008.

Sharing His wisdom and love so that we might learn from His examples and teachings we have gained salvation through His Grace and everlasting life through His death and resurrection as well as rebirth in our Baptizing. Some thirty or so years after this majestic birth, Jesus gives Himself over and claims His rightful place on His throne. "So, then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at

the right hand of God." Mark 16:19 NASB Revised Ed. 2008.

Fulfilling the prophets and scripture with the following commission to all that follow and believe in Him: "An Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20, NASB Revised Ed. 2008.

Not only should we celebrate the advent of the Lord Jesus during this time but the all of His teaching and the commission given to all that believe. Go forth, into the entire world and proclaim His birth, His Life, and His resurrection; proclaim the Word of the Lord.



I wish all a very blessed filled new year.
 God Bless

Dr. Jeffrey David Lehman, Chaplain
 Mt Zion Spirit Newsletter





Merry Christmas



Christmas, I think has a special meaning to me this year. I have heard the name of Jesus long before I knew how to spell, J-E-S-U-S. This year for me was a test of patience and endurance. This year has been a test of patience and endurance for a lot of people I know. There have been changes, additions, and subtractions of all kinds throughout this year. One thing remains the same, which is the story of Jesus' birth. I am truly glad about that. The story about a child born in a lowly manger to a virgin named Mary. The story is indeed about the promised Messiah, hope for our future. Only Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus' birth. However, Luke preserves the now-famous Christmastime reading but both versions describe Jesus as the world's Savior sent from God. The story is beautifully told by two points of view, one of Joseph in book of Matthew and the other from Mary in the book of Luke. Matthew recalls it from Joseph's dreams advising him to go ahead with the marriage and later to take his family to Egypt to escape the Bethlehem slaughter. ¹⁸, Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 1:18-20. NKJV edition. The book of Luke from Mary's reporting her visit from the angel Gabriel. ²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee name Nazareth. ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women,!" Luke 1:26-28. NKJV edition. This is a wonderful season of love, hope and peace. So while you are visiting with your family and friends this Christmas season remember why this season exist; to bring us hope, and have a future with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ from Bethlehem.

Nikita Buckner Lehman



The 2014 Mount Zion Spirit Staff

Sister Nikita Lehman, Chair
Sister Queena Merrimon, Co Chair
Deacon Thomas Haygood, Advisor
Sister Pricilla Horton

Sister Wilhemina Burwell
Sister Ardean Green
Sister Aleese Tyes
Brother Jeffery Lehman

Sister Malea Love
Brother Devan Davis
Sister Angela Saxton
Pastor Mylon L. Burwell

www.mountzionpbchurch.org / <https://www.facebook.com/MountZion1>