



T.E.A.M.

VOICE

Issue #12-2021

MERRY CHRISTMAS

1st Christmas!

by

A Shepherd that got it.

I remember my father telling me the story that was told by his fathers' father and so on back to when Moses directed the generations to come to tell of the love of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1, 1:1) So there we were, keeping watch over our flocks when "An angel of the Lord appeared to (us) them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and (we) they were terrified. But the angel said to (us) them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:9-14). "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1, 1:14)

"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." (Luke 1:30-32)

"When the angels had left (us) them and gone into heaven, (we) the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." (Luke 2:15-20)

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." (John 1, 1:12-13). "But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

.... For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." (John 6:36-40)

"For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.... It is written they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ... But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6:33-51)

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them. From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him." (John 6:61-66)

The terrified shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. Truly the 1st Christmas was grand beyond duplication but more significant was how God as the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. God, in the flesh, as Jesus, announced he brought the Kingdom of heaven to earth when he entered our world as a man. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17) The concept of his love is so moving that it is compared to the faith of a mustard seed moving a mountain. The "Father's will is that everyone ... shall have eternal life." But first "repent" and turn from our ways and look to the Son and believe in him. Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. ... It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened....how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9-13)

As we all know anything given freely won't be appreciated and loses the spirit from which it was given. To realize the true meaning of Christmas is to understand why "many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him". It is our sole (also soul!) responsibility to discover why God gives "the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die." Following the steps for the Bread of Life will unfold the mystery to the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Few will travel the narrow road to find the small gate and that leads to life. I leave you with the words Jesus teaches in the Lords' Prayer (God) "Our Father,thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven....". May you find this place of peace and joy beyond human understanding.

Submitted by
Peter Wong (MA)

THINGS TO CONTEMPLATE

Have you ever grasped a concept but never really thought about it deeply enough to come to grips with the true meanings and implications? Reading Dennis Prager's commentary, what he calls the Rational Bible, on Exodus and Genesis is helping me do just that, delve deep. Here are some of thoughts. (Maybe not word for word though, please excuse my editing Dennis.)

Some of what God revealed about Himself to Moses and to us through the Bible and the firsts that were created in history as opposed to the speculation of gods at the time.

God is beyond nature. All others at the time were part of nature or gods of nature as the Egyptian gods, every plague placed on them were against a certain 'god' of theirs and prove its impotence. Since God created nature, He is not natural but supernatural. Which means there is a supernatural world or spirit world. The physical is not all there is. Genesis 1:9-12 NASB.

God loves and wants to be loved. John 3:16 CJB. Proverbs 8:17 CJB

He created universal human worth for we are created in His image. Nothing was like this at the time and that is where we, as Americans, get the belief in "unalienable' rights" as written into America's Declaration of Independence. Genesis 1:27 CJB.

God is not a sexual being. All other "gods" of the period engaged in sex with other gods or with mortals. Most priestesses of other religions were religious prostitutes and they indulged in orgies as when Aaron made the Israelites that golden calf and a wild party ensued.

There is only one God of humanity, all others were attached to tribes, religions, or nations. There were no concepts of a God of all peoples throughout the known world. Exodus 3:14 The I Am is the God of what is.

God represents order vs. the forces of disorder and chaos which is the norm in human society. As seen in the creation of all things in Genesis, He makes order out of chaos.

God has a special role and purpose for human beings. There is a purpose to life. Ecclesiastes 3:1.

God is moral and has moral laws. All previous at the time and even some today are as changeable as the wind. God changes not, nor does His Word. Which means ultimately justice will prevail, whether in this life or after. Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Psalm 102:25-27, Isaiah 40:8.

God is our "Father in Heaven" therefore we are all brothers and sisters. (Some closer than others with the acceptance of Jesus.) Genesis 1:27, John 1:12

If you had told me just a few years ago I would have enjoyed digging into the Bible I would have said you were insane. But here it is and here I am. Thank You Lord for opening my eyes to see and my ears to hear.

Submitted by George Tamburino (NY)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reminder to put the 2022 Spring Kickoff on your calendars. It will be June 10-12, 2022 in Berlin, Ohio, Holmes County. Further details will be coming.

Hello everyone. Please submit any articles, poems, pictures, favorite verses, thoughts, or ideas they would like to see or have published in the MJM T.E.A.M. Voice newsletter to amber_beckman@hotmail.com or text 614-598-0682.

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

My husband and I were putting up our Christmas decorations this week and every ornament I placed on the tree would bring back a memory. Some of the ornaments were pre-Tom (my husband), ornaments Tom and I have gotten together, first Christmas for our son, David, first Christmas for our grandson, Dresden, animals past and present, and many other special occasions. As we are putting up decorations I reflect on all of the traditions that have changed over the years and wish I was back in time and still doing them. Such as going up to my grandmother's house on Christmas Eve and watching a holiday movie on her old television that had "snow" on the screen. Or decorating the entire house with my mother's never ending decorations. My grandmother and mother are in heaven now celebrating Christmas with Jesus and I miss them every day. I still have all of my mother's never ending decorations and can't part with them because they represent her. Tom and I did buy my grandmother a new television with a better picture. My mother and I went to my grandmother's house on Christmas Eve from the time I was born until my grandmother went to be with the Lord. My mother never stopped over decorating for Christmas. It never occurred to me those traditions would change. Time has moved on and we are creating new Christmas traditions as the family changes. Christmas is the celebration of Jesus birth. It is a time to rejoice and love. Jesus is love. Give love and cherish those you love during this season. Take the time to say !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thank you my Heavenly Father for guiding me in writing this newsletter. Prayer works!

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:

I always enjoyed making Christmas buckeyes as a little girl with my grandfather.

RECIPE FOR CHRISTMAS

BUCKEYES

INGREDIENTS

5 ½ cups confectioner's sugar
1 2/3 cups peanut butter
1 cup butter, melted
4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
1 teaspoon shortening

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, beat the sugar, peanut butter and butter until smooth. Shape into 1-in. balls, set aside.
2. Microwave chocolate chips and shortening on high until melted; stir until smooth. Dip balls in chocolate, allowing excess to drip off. Place on a wire rack over waxed paper; refrigerate for 15 minutes or until firm. Cover and store in refrigerator.

From: Tasteofhome.com/recipes.com/buckeyes

My grandparents would take me to church on Christmas Eve for the candlelight service

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of Earth
Born to give them second birth
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Christ, the highest heaven adore
Christ, the everlasting Lord
Come, Desire of Nations, come
Fix in us Thy humble home
Come, Desire of Nations, come
Fix in us Thy humble home

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Felix Mendelssohn / Charles Wesley / Traditional

GOD'S CANVAS

CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA



GO ON A TOY RUN



FIND SOME SNOW IN THE SUN



SNOWFLAKES ARE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S CREATION. LIKE SNOWFLAKES EACH PERSON IS UNIQUE AND CAN BE BEAUTIFUL BY GOD'S POWER.

Thank you Thomas Beckman, Gospelway.com

*Psalm 118:24 KJV "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
Thank you, Ken "P.K." Hedden, (NY)*

December 2021 Voice Newsletter Report

November 30, 2021

Years of Service for November

Ralph	Bainbridge	22
Barbara	Bainbridge	22
Kathleen	Cobb	32
Kenneth	Hedden	20
Geralyn	Hedden	20

December Birthdays

Steve	McMahill	12/1
Barbara	Bainbridge	12/5
Gary	Decker	12/8
Charles	Moore Jr.	12/8
Eric	Gilbert	12/11
Robin	Stauffer	12/15
Kathleen	Cobb	12/16
Elaine	Walde	12/20
Theresa	Bankert	12/28

December Anniversaries

Gary and Kathleen	Matson	12/7
George and Janis	Partridge	12/12
Nathan	Brubaker	12/14
Gary and Charlene	Decker	12/18
George and Robin	Tamburino	12/24

New members for November 2021

Sean and Jacqueline Campion	NC
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God Bless

Respectfully Submitted By:

Michael Fields

National Membership Secretary

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

MJM OPERATING ACCOUNT – SEPTEMBER ENDING

BALANCE **\$ 9,304.81**

OCTOBER DEPOSITS

DONATIONS	85.00	
GOODIES	40.00	125.00

OCTOBER EXPENSES

LIFE TIME DUES TRANSFER	450.00
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OCTOBER ENDING

BALANCE *** **\$8,979.81**

***** 2,025.68 GOODIES *****
6,954.13 MJM OPERATING

MJM LIFETIME SAVINGS ACCOUNT - SEPTEMBER ENDING

BALANCE **\$7,408.65**

OCTOBER INTEREST **\$.13**

OCTOBER ENDING

BALANCE **\$7,408.78**

Please let me know if you would like me to send you copies of the excel check journals

Submitted by Linda Hawkins
National Treasurer

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