

# St. Timothy's Banner

*Christmas 2017*



*The light shines in the darkness, but the  
darkness has not understood it.*

*John 1:5*

**Jn. 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

### **The True Light**

By Do Fox

How basic is light and darkness.  
It can be seen and understood by children,  
Even the animals respond to each.  
But My Light is of a different kind.  
It shines within, in your spirit,  
And is freely offered to all,  
But is not received by all.  
My Father freely lets it shine,  
But the desire to receive it  
Must be there, within your heart.  
As My Light is desired within,  
Then My Image slowly unfolds within you,  
And My Glory unfolds around you.  
You grow in the Grace and Beauty of My Kingdom.  
There, every need is met,  
And real security is experienced by you.  
Love lies at the heart of this Light of Mine.  
Love, that lifts you above the darkness of this world,  
Love, that no darkness can quench!  
Let My Love heal, and bless you,  
Then you, too, will shine this blessing  
Into the hearts of others!



# Christmas is about....

By Rev Dan Endresen

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:4-5).*

Well, it's almost Christmas, and what am I thinking about? Everything I must get done before Christmas. That's usually how it is, I think, for everyone. I consider myself privileged that at least part of my job, as pastor, compels me to think about Christmas before Christmas (I must prepare a Christmas sermon beforehand). But for most of my life it was rush, rush, rush, and then finally,...ah ..it's Christmas, ...listen to the Christmas story, sing the Christmas carols, relax with family, and eat, relishing the laid back week between Christmas and the New Year. This year in my planning, I forgot how important that week between Christmas and New Year's Day is for family, and did not consider my extended family in my plans for that week. For this I was severely reprimanded by family members. You see, as I've gotten older winter seems to bother me more and more. So two years ago I decided that my winter must be shortened and that I should delay it a few weeks by going to Florida, ...right after Christmas. It went so well the first time that I thought I'd try and do that annually. But then last year I had to cancel my plans as I needed emergency surgery on a bothersome hernia. This year I was once again healthy and booked places to stay in Florida very early, beginning the day after Christmas. It was only after I let my family know about the schedule that I unexpectedly got an earful from both my kids and my brother. "Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus with family and friends – spending time with them. What is this running off to Florida stuff?" I said, "Wait a minute. I'm doing all that on Christmas Eve (along with a lot of travelling) and Christmas day (along with a lot of travelling). And anyone who wants can come along with me". They didn't buy it. And they were right not to. But, in fact, it was already too late to change.

Yes ... plans should be made to be with family over the Christmas holiday – and not just Christmas day. But ah, that old thing, selfishness, took over again. Selfishness is the opposite of Christmas. What happened at Christmas (actually nine months before Christmas)? Jesus left paradise, to be with us in a cold, dark place. And he stayed with us, even sometimes, with no place to lay his head. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). "... though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil.2:6-8) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17). "...you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him" (Col. 1:21-22).



What's that say about me and my escaping a cold dark place, as soon as I can after Christmas, for a worldly paradise (by myself if need be, but with whoever cares to follow along)? Not much. Yes, my kids and brother were right. I'm sorry. I promise to do better next year.



## WHY DO I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST?



By Harn Yawnghwe

When the Burma Army shot and killed my 17-year older brother and took away my 65-year old father to die in Insein prison like a criminal, I was angry and indignant. I also felt humiliated when the soldier cocked his Bren gun and pointed it, shouting for me to put up my hands. When we were then ordered to sit in a row on the lawn in front of the house, with our hands on our heads, I thought that they would shoot and kill us all that night. I thought, *How dare they do such a thing? Did they not know who we were?*

I wanted to hit back, to do anything to show that I was defiant and not cowed. Maybe that was why my older sister and I later risked our lives to move corroded World War II grenades and ammunition that the Army's munition experts had refused to touch. With a friend, we put them in a basket and drove in a jeep to the outskirts of the town where we delivered them to a contact who was going to take the materiel to my 24-year older brother who had joined the resistance. I am not sure if the grenades and ammunition ever got to him.

I would have happily joined my brother in the Shan State Army and perhaps even died in action fighting the Burma Army. But instead, my mother, two sisters and I escaped to Thailand. I was told to study and make something of my life. I was given the opportunity to finish high school in Chiang Mai at the prestigious Montfort College, although I had no identity papers. On graduating (again with no identity papers), I sat for the university entrance exam and was accepted by the top-rated Chulalongkorn University. I was even given a scholarship by the John F Kennedy Foundation, chaired by the Thai Foreign Minister. But I was not really motivated and wasted 3 years, having a good time instead of studying. Then, I was given a second chance. We had been granted political asylum and were to be resettled in Canada.

In spite of my low marks, I was surprisingly accepted

by McGill, a well-known university in Canada. I was still not motivated. I was glad to be in Canada but I hated the assumption that Western civilization was supreme. It was also the time of *flower power*, so I embraced it and at the same time got involved in student activism. I allied with left-wing students and joined protests. In a short time, I became president of the McGill International Students Association and the Engineering Representative on the University's Students Council. I organized the Anti-Fee Hike Coalition for foreign students and led protests. I also tried to raise awareness about Burma but no one really cared. To be different and to promote Eastern civilization, I also tried to practice and teach Buddhism as an alternative to Christianity. But the more I studied Buddhism, I became more and more convinced that it was not really for me, as I would have to renounce the pleasures of this world. I was not yet ready to become a hermit.

I instead decided that I would become rich – a self-made man like the typical American dream. To do that, I felt I needed to go to business school. But I had not studied in university and my grades were not good enough for graduate studies. However, I found out that I could sit for the GMAT exams. If I did well, business schools would take me in spite of my grades. Again, miraculously, I made the tenth percentile in the exams and got accepted by McGill and was even wait-listed by Harvard, reputedly the best business school in the world.

I now had a goal and studied diligently for my Masters in Business Administration. I specialized in finance since I was good in mathematics, and that, combined with an engineering degree, was the hottest selling MBA in those days. MBAs were so hot then that my class of about 20 got hired before we graduated, even a student from Hong Kong who could not speak English fluently. I had good English, a B.Eng. from McGill, and solid Canadian experience as an engineer. I was confident and I had a very

good grasp of finance. But for some strange reason no one wanted to employ me. The cruelest stroke was when my white Australian friend called me and told me he had been offered a job by the company I had applied to. He did not know I had applied for the same job. What angered me was that, as a foreigner, he could not legally be offered the job if there was a Canadian with the equivalent experience and qualifications. I felt it was a blatant case of racial discrimination and could have complained to Immigration authorities. The company would have got into trouble and my friend would not get the job. But I felt I did not want to work for a company that did not want me, for whatever reasons, and instead congratulated my friend and wished him well. But I felt humiliated and rejected by my new adopted country.

I must have been unemployed for about 3-4 months when as I walked near the university campus, I ran into this beautiful girl that I knew slightly. She was wearing a batik skirt with a black T-shirt and her long brown hair flowed down almost to her waist. She was from a missionary family and they were known for their hospitality and welcome for foreign students. But since I had, in the past, wanted nothing to do with Christianity, I kept as far away as I could from that family. But right then, feeling depressed and unwanted, the friendly smile and genuine concern that the girl expressed, touched a soft spot. I also thought that it could not hurt to get to know her, since I had nothing better to do being unemployed.

Her parents were then in Japan, and she was living with a sister and two brothers who were all studying at McGill. She had already graduated but was back on campus doing a one-year certification to become a teacher. So I started visiting the four of them in their apartment. One day, I thought I should try to ask the girl out on a date since she seemed to enjoy my company. But to my surprise, she said, "No." She explained that she was not rejecting me as a person but that she would not date anyone she was not serious about marrying. And according to the Bible, she could not marry anyone who was not a Christian. It would be equivalent to being unequally yoked like a mismatch pair of oxen. Her answer shocked me. In this era of *free love*, how could any-

one be serious about marriage? And how could anyone live according to a book written by mortal men? How stupid it sounded. It was preposterous and seemed totally misguided to me. I was angry too. But her rejection got me thinking. Given the morals of the day, I had already decided that I would not get married since I could not see how anyone could remain faithful to one partner all their life. But here was somebody who took marriage seriously. But what was this Bible that claims her obedience? How could it be?

Frustrated and curious, I started reading the Bible. I started with the Gospels about the life of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. I then realized that I did not actually know anything about Jesus as a person. I also started going to the church where Helen went. Most of the congregation were Cantonese-speaking Chinese students from Hong Kong, but the pastor and his family were Mandarin-speaking from the mainland, so he preached in English. When I first went there, he was just starting to expound the Gospel of Matthew verse by verse. I thought I would be bored since I had attended a mission school as a kid and believed that I knew everything about Christianity. But instead, I found the sermons very interesting, never having heard before, the message that the pastor delivered. Intrigued, I started attending church expectantly and regularly. Helen being there was, of course, an added attraction.

At some point, I felt that maybe, I could accept that there might be a God that created the universe since Gautama Buddha never said that he was God. He said that he could only show people the way to enlightenment. But how could Jesus Christ be God? If he was God, why did he suffer and die? Surely, God could not die. It seemed so unlikely and impossible. Also, if I did decide to accept the Christian God but Jesus was not God or did not have any power, what would happen to me? After all, I knew for a fact that in Burma, there were many evil spirits and guardian spirits of trees, fields, rivers and mountains that one had to respect. Would they not be angry with me and how could I protect myself if Jesus Christ turned out not to be God? It was a very serious question since I was very superstitious and terribly afraid of the dark.

One afternoon, as I was sitting in my apartment, a young boy approached me. It was strange since my apartment door was locked. But he was cute, so I stretched out my arm to touch him. Just then, I heard a voice say, *"Don't. It is evil"*. But it was too late, a dark form pushed me down on my couch as I struggled to get away. It was like being in a nightmare and I was terrified. I did not know what to do. Then the sermon the pastor had preached the previous Sunday came to mind. It was about Jesus Christ casting out a legion of evil spirits from a demoniac on the eastern shores of Lake Galilee. So, in desperation, I cried out, *"In the name of Jesus Christ, go away,"* and immediately, it was gone. I was surprised and came to the tentative conclusion that Jesus Christ really did have power over evil spirits, maybe he was God after all. But if I accepted Christ as God, would I get a job? Did he have power over evil spirits as well as the world? I decided that if I got a job, I would believe in Jesus Christ. But nothing happened. And when I complained about it to friends in the church, they asked me if that was the way I would talk to the Prime Minister, *"Give me a job and I will obey you."* I thought about it, agreed that it was not the right attitude towards the creator of the universe.

One night I prayed, *"God, I want to know if you really exist. If you do, I want to know you. I do not care if I get a job, or if you send me back to Burma, or if I never see Helen again. I want to know you and serve you. I will do anything you want me to do."* And I went to bed.

The next morning, the telephone rang. It was for a job interview and I knew at once that it was an answer from God since I was willing to surrender unconditionally to him. By this time, I had been unemployed for about six months and was no longer realistically expecting to be employed. I was only applying for jobs, any job, in order to prove to the Unemployment Insurance people that I was actively looking for jobs, in order to continue to receive my unemployment benefits. I did not have the exact qualifications for the job I was being interviewed for. But unbeknownst to me, God had been preparing me for the interview long before I became a Christian.

When I went to the interview, I recognized the key man conducting the interview and he also recognized me. In the final year of the MBA course, we had to actually do consulting work with real companies to get some experience. I had partnered with a friend from the Caribbean but somehow our project never got off the ground. As the year ended, in desperation, I searched for another partner and was invited by the Australian friend mentioned previously to join him. Together we had written a report for the man now interviewing me. The man thought we had done a good job and that I had a real interest in the topic, when in actual fact, my friend had done all the work and I had only joined the project when we were interviewing the man to get some final data for the report.

In any case, the company was a very big well-known company and they had all sorts of procedures to follow to hire a new employee. After the interview, they told me that they would inform me in 2 weeks whether or not I would be granted a second interview. But within a week, they called me back for a second interview. After that interview, they said they would let me know in a week if I got the job. But when I got back to my apartment, the phone was ringing, and when I picked it up, it was the man from the Personnel Department of the company offering me the job. Given the unusual way I was given the job and the 'coincidence' with the key man conducting the interview, I knew right away that God was showing me that he was real and that he was in control.

Later, after working for the key man who conducted the interview and getting to know him better, I asked him why he had not followed company procedure and had decided to hire me so quickly. He said that they had about 50 candidates to interview. I was the third person to be interviewed. But as soon as I stepped in the room and he saw me, he just felt certain that I was the person he should hire. He felt so certain that they did not interview the remaining candidates. He could not explain why. I could not rationally explain what had happened either. I could not empirically prove that God existed and that he was active in the world. But I was certain that I had experienced God. From that time on, I was determined to get to know him better and serve him as I

had prayed before the job interview. After all, if there is a supreme God would you not want to serve him?

I studied the Bible even more to get to know this God who took an interest in the lives of humans whom he had created. I learnt that he cared so much about his creation that he came to earth as a man, Jesus Christ. He took responsibility for all the wrongs that had taken place (including the deaths of my brother and father). He had died in the place of the perpetrators to pay for their transgressions. This enabled the people he redeemed to also be forgiven for their sins since he had paid the ultimate penalty. Not only that, being God, he conquered death and rose again. His resurrection enables his redeemed people to live life fully as it was meant to be before sin came into the world, and after death, live in heaven with him. Since that time, I have not regretted making the decision to serve the living God.



## THE CHURCH AND CANADIAN VALUE

By Harn Yanghwe

On 6 June 2017, Chrystia Freeland, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, addressed the House of Commons. She equated women's rights with the right to abortion and sexual reproductive rights. She also said that these rights are at the **core** of Canadian foreign policy.

How many of us care about what she said? We think that it is just politics. But what this means is that for example, if a country does not allow abortion, that country may not get humanitarian aid from Canada when they need it. Canada's political ideology will

override compassion and common sense.

The Catholic Bishop of Hamilton, Douglas Crosby, wrote on 29 June 2017 to Freeland. He pointed out to her that *for a considerable population (both within Canada and abroad) the unborn child is regarded as a human being created by God and worthy of life and love*. He also pointed out that the Supreme Court of Canada in 1988 in the Morgentaler case, unanimously acknowledged that the state has a legitimate interest in protecting the unborn.

On 19 June 2017, **Bill C-16** received royal assent after it was passed by the Parliament of Canada. This Act amends the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code. It adds gender identity and gender expression to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination and extends the protection against hate crimes to members of the groups distinguished by gender identity or expression.

Again, since we feel that all people must always be treated with compassion, respect and love, we do not see a problem. In fact, some of us may even feel that the Act is a good thing. Regardless of how they identify themselves, or the manner in which they choose to live their lives, including those who identify as transgender, all possess an inherent dignity bestowed on them by God.

What is of concern is some of the principles behind the legislation. The most serious is the claim that gender is separable from biological sexuality and it is to be determined by the individual. Based on Genesis 1:26 (God created humans, male and female, in the image of God) both Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI rejected the tenet. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have also made their views known. Whether or not we agree with the Catholic Church, they engage with Canadian society. Do we? Or do we try to avoid controversy. Jesus said, *You are the salt of the earth, and You are the light of the world*. Are we fulfilling those functions?





## Synod 2017 – Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

By Do Fox

Was a wonderful 4 day celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ANiC!

Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, began with a special day for the clergy. You can ask Dan about that, since we took that day to drive the 7 hours to Burlington, ON.

On Wednesday, we left the Sandman Hotel, where most of us were staying, and drove to the Crossroads building where Wednesday's activities were held. Morning Prayer was held in the sunlit chapel with glorious singing by hundreds of voices. Rev. Aaron Roberts did strong Biblical teaching, pointing out 3 dramatic contrasts in the scenes of the crucifixion, presented in John's Gospel. He went on to show we need clarity on the problem of sin, or it robs Christianity of its power. Since it is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, the history behind the Reformation, and how it affected the church was looked at. Sin and its solution was made clear to us.



Bishop Charlie welcomed us all, and then the six workshops were introduced. Each person could take 2 workshops, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The first was from 11:00 to 12:30 and I can only tell you about the 2 that Barrie and I went to. Our morning one was given by a woman deacon from Keith Ganzers Church, Christ the King in Toronto. The workshop was called 'Soli Deo Gloria' – Glory to God alone. The Reformation was again examined. Five Solas encapsulate the Reformation. The word Sola mean alone. Each Sola was looked at, i.e. 1) The Bible alone, 2) Christ alone, 3)

Faith alone, 4) Grace alone, and 5) Glory to God alone. The focus of this workshop was on this last one. We looked at various passages in the Anglican liturgy that give Glory to God. Working in pairs we had to guess where each was from.

We discussed the changes that have occurred in society since the Reformation, taking a look at the contemporary church. The shift from seeing God at the center in the past, to seeing ourselves as the center in modern times seems to be a reality. We examined John 17 and what stood out for me was this. The deepest foundation of Love is God's Love for His Son, and the Son's for the Father. God's Love for us is an outworking of this Love. Grace wouldn't be Grace, otherwise. We looked at ways of getting free of our self-focus, and shift it to God as the center of everything. Finally we looked at the difference between the Jihadist and Jesus.

After lunch the second workshop was on Solus Christus, 500 hundred years later in ANiC, given by Rev. Alan Tam, a young priest from St. John's Vancouver. We started with the hymn "Alleluia Sing to Jesus." Then we examined and discussed a picture of Raphael's Transfiguration. We looked back at history, again examining the Reformation in relation to the 5 Solae. (Scripture, Christ, Faith, Grace, and Glory of God). Then we looked inward, exploring the many ties between us and Jesus in Col. 3:3. Dividing into small groups we looked at the 7 I am's that Jesus stated in John's Gospel. We chose the one that meant the most to us and shared on that. Then, looking outward, we explored Christocentric Evangelism and cross cultural challenges to the church, seeing the communal identity offered in the Kenyan Holy Communion liturgy. In closing, we all sang "In Christ Alone", pluralizing it. It was a wonderful workshop, full of good teaching and sharing, and I think it strengthened the image of Christ in us all. After the workshop we all went to the chapel and had a beautiful time of corporate prayer for Evange-



lism lead by Rev. Canon George Sinclair.

Thursday started with Morning Prayer, held at St Georges Church, which is large, 3 years old, and well-lit with lots of windows. Then Bishop Charlie did some teaching on 2 Timothy 2:8-10. Second Timothy is the Gospel on trial. Paul stands at his own grave, and can shout Hurrah! Paul glories in the fact that he is forgiven, not by works, but by faith in Jesus who came into time and space, died and rose again. In reality the Gospel works in us, and we need to focus on what God has done for us, not on anything else. From 10:00 to 10:30 we had a coffee break where we all mingled in a large glass lined area outside the Sanctuary. Then from 10:30 – 12:00, Bishop Charlie read out the Bishops Charge. On Oct.31 the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation will be celebrated. The 5 foundations of the Faith were laid down, which in the early 1900's were called the 5 Solas. In 2007, at the Crossroads Center, where we were yesterday, ANiC was started with 1 Bishop, 2 priests and 2 congregations. One diocese was formed with 12 more congregations joining. In 2009 A.C.N.A. formed. In 2014 Bishop Charlie Masters replaced Bishop Don Harvey. Foley Beach became the primate of ACNA, (of which we are a part) in 2014.

There are 5 national committees to help implement the 5 priorities in our churches; these being 1) mission, 2) planting and growing churches, 3) Biblically grounded, 4) Loving children, and 5) bold witness. A new website has been created by Allister Stern and was presented and described by him. We also learned that in England, a group called Anglican Main Stream exists, that is equivalent to our ANiC, and in June of this year, an English man, Andy Lyons, was made a bishop to Europe by Foley Beach. Another group that seeks communion with ANiC, is a group called Via Apostolica, and its leader was present at our synod. A speaker from G.F.A. also spoke to us at this time, showing their awareness of who we are, and their solidarity with us.

Next year's synod will be in Abbotsford, B.C.

Thursday afternoon was taken up with business and finance, and then 3 speakers spoke on the first 3 of

the 5 priorities.

On Thursday evening, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held at the church, with a very full Eucharist service, and cake and coffee afterwards.

Friday began with Morning Prayer, with more Bible teaching by Bishop Charlie, and also Bishop Trevor Walters. The topic of suffering was explored. Flesh and Spirit are in opposition. Bishop Trevor shared about his wife's suffering, and the spirit with which she bravely encountered it. Following a coffee break, more business was accomplished involving council nominations and motions from the floor. From 11:00 to 12:00 we had more speakers. Rev. Jeremy Graham, in charge of children in a Vancouver church spoke about the need to reach children in a multi-ethnic society. He shared about what they do in Vancouver. "We need to stop being self-conscious about who we are". Then the topic of Bold Witness was explored and spoken about by Rev. Ray David Glenn, rector of St Georges. He explained Rom. 1:16-17. Luther was affected by this verse. "The righteousness that God gives us is revealed in the gospel." Because of what Jesus did, God can look at us and see the righteousness of His Son! Then we watched a video which showed Bishop Charlie and Ray David discussing what Jesus means to them. Bishop Charlie shared how he came to Christ in the video. Being a bold witness means sharing our personal experience of Jesus. Scott Hunt, who is ANiC's communications director spoke next. He claimed that the Gospel is the best news in the history of humanity. We need to become saturated with the goodness of Jesus. The delight in knowing we are loved by God is what makes us want to share His Love, and the truth about who Jesus is, and what He has done. Then Bishop Don Harvey spoke about the legacy fund. \$14,000 was raised to setup a ministry to children, but no one used it at first. Then two parishes used \$3000 each. Fr. Mike McKinnen from the Mass. Branch of ANiC used his money to feed poor children during the summer, when they were not in school. They fed 1,697 children. A 'Young Life' ministry was formed which is trying to get the gospel into the schools in this region. "Young Life' also runs a camp in the summer.

The other \$3000 grant was given to Rev. Alan Tam at the church of the Good Shepherd in Vancouver. He runs retreats to which 20 youth come and learn how to love and serve each other. Alan teaches them that God is relational through a kind of card game. Three teams form, the Father team, the Son team and the Holy Spirit team. Each has a task, and the teams learn to work together. He tries to give the kids creative challenges.

Rev. Mike Stewart, rector at St. Matthews in Abbotsford, spoke on church development and revealed that there is now a committee in place, in ANiC, whose mandate is to encourage and equip ANiC parishes for the work of ministry, and for building up the body of Christ through relationships and resources. We were each given a folder describing and explaining what this group can do.

As everyone departed for lunch, we left in order to get a better start on our long journey home. I hated to miss the closing Eucharist and Bishop Charlie and Bishop Stephen Leung's sermon, but it had to be.

The whole synod was very uplifting, enlightening, filled with good teaching and wonderful music, and is essentially a life changing event, drawing us all nearer to God and His Love, in whatever way we serve Him.



Mt. 18:3 And I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## ON GROWTH

By Do Fox

Before I can discipline you  
You must be assured of My Love,  
In the depths, within you.  
This is the basis of our relationship,  
This Love, that gives you freedom to grow.  
It is in the growing that discipline is needed.  
Is this not so for a human child?  
So it is in your spiritual growth.  
Seek then, to accept My Love  
My delight in you.  
Taste it, thrive on it  
Receive it as a little child,  
For is it not written  
That one must be like a child,  
To enter the Kingdom?  
Your distrust hurts your own growth  
And grieves My Spirit.  
Grow strong in the knowledge  
Of My Love for you,  
Then I can train you  
To carry on My work,  
For I need yielding, trusted servants,  
Bonded to My Heart,  
Moving in unison with Me  
To bring Light to the dark places.  
You shall topple kingdoms of ignorance and evil,  
But only as you hear My instructions  
And are obedient to My Spirit.  
Come then, and let your love for me mature,  
Great joy awaits you in this.



## Humour



A ten year old was watching TV with her grandma. The newscaster interrupted the program to announce the outcome of a political election. "More on candidates at 11pm," he said. The child exclaimed, "I didn't know they could call politicians 'morons' on national television!"

Sunday School Teacher – Now, Jimmy, I want you to memorize today's motto, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Jimmy – "Yes'm, but I know it now. My father says he has always used that as his motto in his business."

Teacher – "Oh, how noble of him! And what is his business?" Jimmy – "He's a prize-fighter, ma'am."

In reply to the query, "Who brought gifts to the Infant Jesus?" which appeared on the Scripture examination paper of a Sunday school, one pupil replied: "Mr. Frankincense and Mr. Myrrh.

Sunday School Teacher – "Robert, who were the Pharisees?"

Bobby – "The Pharisees were people who fasted in public and in secret devoured windows' houses."

"Moses had indigestion like you have, mother," announced small Elinor at the Sunday dinner table. "Why, what makes you think so?" questioned her astonished mother. "Because our Sunday School teacher said, 'God gave Moses two tablets.'"

"Well, my son, what did you learn in Sunday School today?"

"We learned all about a cross-eyed bear."

"About a what?"

"Yes, sir, named Gladly. We learned a song about him: all about 'Gladly the cross I'd bear.'"

Professor – "Tell me one or two things about John Milton."

Student – "Well, he got married and he wrote 'Paradise Lost.' Then his wife died, and he wrote 'Paradise Regained.'"

A Farmer visited his son's college. Watching students in a chemistry class, he was told they were looking for a universal solvent.

"What's that?" asked the farmer.

"A liquid that will dissolve anything."

"That's a great idea" agreed the farmer. "When you find it, what are you going to keep it in?"

Prof. – "Before we begin the examinations, are there any questions?"

Frosh – "What's the name of this course?"

Pickpocket (visiting friend in jail) – "I hired a lawyer for you this morning, Slim, but I had to hand him my watch as a retainer."

Pal – "And did he keep it?"

Pickpocket- "He thinks he did."

Patient- "My wife, tells me I talk in my sleep, doctor. What should I do?"

Doctor- "Nothing that you shouldn't."

"Mummy, that dentist wasn't painless like he advertised."

"Why, did he hurt you?"

"No! but he yelled just like any other dentist when I bit his finger."

A surgeon was invited to Thanksgiving dinner at a friend's house. The host deftly carved the turkey and said, "I'd make a pretty good surgeon, don't you think?"

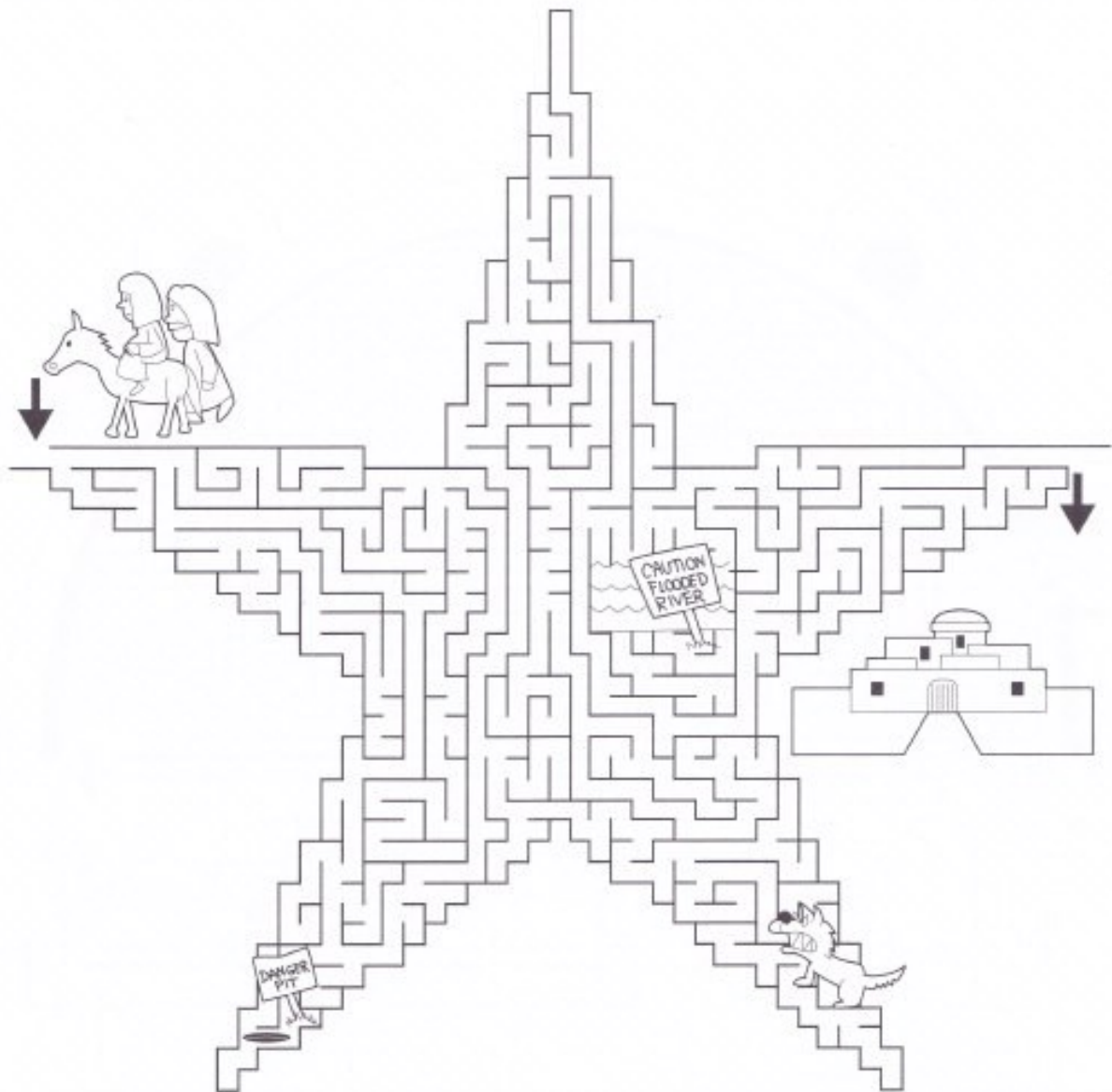
The surgeon replied, "Anyone can take it apart. Let's see you put it back together again."

Submitted by Larry Leach

## Mary – Jesus' A-MAZE-ing Mother

Mary was an A-MAZE-ing young woman of faith. When an angel told her that she would give birth to Jesus, the Son of God, she believed his message. Even though she was afraid, she told the angel, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." Mary never doubted God's plan, and she became a good mother to Jesus. But Jesus was not only her Son—He was her Savior. Mary put her faith in Jesus because she knew God had sent Him to save His people from their sins.

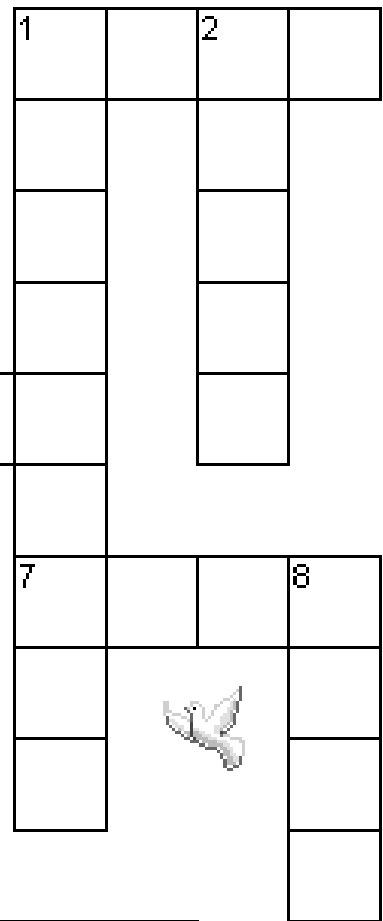
Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem before Jesus was born. Help them find the city, but watch out for dangers along the way!



## Birth of Christ

### DOWN

- 1 Who were tending their flocks by night
- 2 Who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds
- 3 The wise men bowed down to Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ him
- 4 Jesus was born in this town
- 6 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of peace" - one of the titles of Jesus
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 Jesus was born in a \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 The shepherds were in the \_\_\_\_\_ when they saw an angel



10

11

12

### ACROSS

- 1 The wise men followed a \_\_\_\_\_ that led them to Jesus
- 5 human father of Jesus
- 7 There was no \_\_\_\_\_ at the inn for Jesus
- 9 one of the gifts of the three wise men
- 11 Jesus could not stay at the \_\_\_\_\_ because it was full
- 12 and on earth \_\_\_\_\_, goodwill toward men (Luke 2:14)



**JOY**

**Love**

*Peace*

**FORGIVENESS**

*Hope*

**MERCY FAITH**

*Faithfulness*

**GOODNES**

*Believe in Jesus*

**CELEBRATE**

FOR **GOD** SO

*loved the world*

THAT HE **GAVE...**

*See what love the father has given us, that we should*

*be called children of God*

*1 John 3:1*