

The people who
walked in darkness
have seen a great light,
those who dwelt
in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

-Isaiah 9:2



The Apostolic Faith Report

November - December 2009

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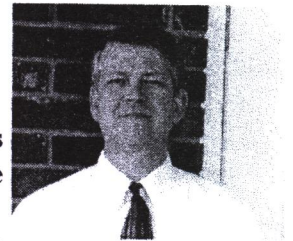
BY LAWS OF THE Apostolic Faith Bible College, Inc. Article VII Doctrine

It is recognized that the true church of Jesus Christ consists of all believers who believe in the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and who have accepted Him as their personal Savior. It is recognized and agreed that no organization or man has been granted authority by the Lord to exclude from or accept anyone into the Kingdom of Heaven, as this is done by Jesus Christ only. It is further recognized and agreed that we as Christians are to love all members of the Body of Christ (Christians), and this love and fellowship derives from the unity instilled by the Holy Spirit. Although differences in doctrinal beliefs and interpretations should not influence our love for one another, adherence to similar doctrinal beliefs and modes of worship have bonded together those of the Apostolic Faith Movement as founded by Charles F. Parham in the early 1900's. The scripture teaches us to adhere to the truth and proper doctrine. The common doctrinal beliefs are essentially as follows.

- * Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- * Creation and Formation
- * Man is basically sinful and in need of salvation
- * Salvation by Grace upon repentance toward God and acceptance of Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior, which is the conception of Spiritual Life
- * Sanctification of the Spirit, Soul, and Body, A second definite work of Grace by the Lord Jesus Christ
- * Baptism of the Holy Spirit; evidenced by the speaking in other languages.
- * Water Baptism (of all believers) by immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit
- * Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- * Washing of feet
- * Divine Healing through Jesus Christ for all believers
- * Do not condone divorce and remarriage
- * Destruction of the wicked
- * Conditional Immortality
- * Rapture of the Man Child Class
- * Return of Jesus Christ to earth again; bodily and visibly
- * A ministry supported by tithes and offerings

These doctrines shall be adhered to in the teachings of the Apostolic Faith Bible College, which in addition to other doctrinal teaching approved by the Board from time to time if the are not inconsistent with the above listed basic doctrines.

From The Superintendent's Office



To Those of Like Precious Faith,

Thank you for your prayer and financial support of AFBC. The Spirit of the Lord is continually moving among us with inspiration and anointing. Praise the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We have completed our Fall 2009 Choir Tour ministering to 11 congregations in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. Our concert was entitled "O The Blood of Jesus" and featured songs such as "Nothing But The Blood", "There's Power in the Blood", "O the Blood of Jesus", "There is a Fountain", and several others with similar messages. There is also a men's quartet singing, "I'm Winging My Way back Home." Two of the songs are original compositions; Choir Director Cheryl Moser wrote the words and music to "My Hero is Here" and student Baldomero Campos of Hereford, Texas wrote the words to "The Weight of the Cross" and the music was written with the assistance of Director Cheryl Moser. The instruments included lead, rhythm and bass guitars, harmonica, tambourine, drums, djembe (a drum played with the palm of the hand), keyboard, alto and tenor saxophone and a violin. Since we traveled through different pollen areas many of the students suffered discomfort with cold and sniffles, but everyone performed wonderfully every time. It was a joy to pray with those that responded to the invitation at the conclusion of each service.

We are indebted to Brother Randall Bensch for sacrificing his time and effort to drive the bus and we are grateful to the Lord for His hand of protection over the bus. Everywhere we went the people were welcoming and were generous.

Our Evangelism instructor, Shari Cook, is putting together ministry teams to conduct services in the area churches (which some have already gone to Southside Apostolic Faith Church in Joplin, MO, the Spring Grove Apostolic Faith Church in Galena, KS and Silver Moon Full Gospel Church in Granby, MO). Last year this effort proved a valuable training tool for students to put to practice many things they have learned in the classroom and it was a valuable promotional tool for the Bible College.

Student ministry teams are being formed to work in youth camps and to conduct summer VBS. If your congregation would be interested in one of these teams this summer please contact our office as soon as possible. The number of teams is limited so it will be a first-come, first-serve basis.

I mentioned in a previous newsletter the need to replace some of the student beds and have determined that we currently need 10 new twin mattress sets. If we had 20, all the students could have a new bed and some of the mattress now in use would be used for campmeeting, etc. The beds can be purchased from the Edna Mattress Company in Edna, KS for an estimated cost of \$300.00 per set. The beds are of medium quality and would hold up well under the demands of dorm life. Of course, they don't have to be purchased there, it is only a suggestion.

The College hosted the Baxter Springs Men's Prayer Breakfast every Tuesday morning during the month of November. Bro. Howard Whiteley was in charge and did a fine job. We certainly enjoyed all the men that attended the breakfasts of biscuits and gravy, eggs, oatmeal and fruit. The choir usually performs a couple of songs and then we have a speaker that brings a short devotion.

I also want to mention that the Chapel basement drainage system problem is being addressed. During the last few weeks we have experienced flooding on two occasions due to the extensive rains. The Board of Directors have been praying about what steps to take to correct the problem and have hired a company to dig down below the Chapel foundation and install drainage pipe along the sides to drain the water away from the building. This project should be completed soon and an accurate accounting of the cost will be given at a later date.

AFBC is doing good. The students are respectful and have a heart for God. They pray and play well together. I think you will find that this is a fine group of young people. Of course, it is to God that we will ultimately stand before and so it is to Him that we ought to be concerned with pleasing.

Thank you for all that you do for the ministry at AFBC and may God richly and openly reward your every effort. Your support in any way that it's expressed toward the School is much appreciated. Come by to visit or call any time.

Sincerely, Ron Noble

AFBC Choir Tour - A New Perspective

by Matthew Harris - Dean of Men

Choir tour was the pinnacle of my Bible School experience. It was a time when everything I knew and had previously learned was put to the test. It was the application of my faith. On tour, I soon realized how vitally important your daily devotion was and how powerful it could be for your witness. I also came to understand how hard ministry really was, and how physically, spiritually and emotionally tiring it can be. But the most difficult and important lesson I had to learn was that Choir Tour was not all about me. Sure, I was one of the people on stage performing, but still it was not about me, my talents or anyone else up there. It was all about Jesus! No matter how I felt, or what happened right before the concert, or who was at the concert, God could take my humble offering and use it to minister to the church's people. All I had to do was get myself out of the way, and let God work through me.

I liked and learned a lot when I went on choir tour as a student, so when the opportunity arose for me to go again this year as a member of the faculty, I said I would. This time around, however, things were a little bit different. This time I would not be performing. Instead I would be assisting with mixing the sound, and assigning the students with testimonies, devotions and detail. My favorite job, however, was giving the students a short devotion before each of the concerts. Being fresh out of college helped me in these devotions, because I was able to pretty much hand tailor them to the students. I knew what they were going through, what they were struggling with, how they felt and what they needed to be doing. It was great to get to share my experiences with them and hopefully help them learn some of the same lessons I had learned the year before.

We started our tour in the panhandle of Oklahoma with a Sunday morning concert in Guymon. The students were very nervous and excited, but did a great job. That afternoon we traveled to Liberal, Kansas and had another wonderful concert as well. After the concert, Bro. Dee Estes had the church come forward and pray individually for the students, which I know lifted their spirits and encouraged them. We continued on our tour with Texas concerts in Follett, Spearman and Hereford. The students seemed to become more relaxed, and as they did it seemed as though the Holy Spirit was able to move through them easier. As a result, the concerts just got better and better! The students were very good about getting in the altars and praying for people after each concert. If there was no one else praying, the students would go down and pray for each other. I think this played a big part in keeping them unified. Hereford's altar service was encouraging to the students, because they were able to see some of the fruits of their labor. We had a man come forward and rededicate his life to the Lord! The students were excited to see the Lord was using them and what they were doing to touch and change people's lives. Excited and eager to see what God would do next, we continued on to Hardesty, Oklahoma. After that night's concert, an awesome prayer service followed. I sat back and watched as the students were led by the Holy Spirit. Some felt impressed to share a testimony or encouraging word, while others prayed with the church people. A couple of students sat and prayed with some young children and shared with them the importance of being good and reading their Bibles. It was awesome to watch each of them operating in their gifts of the Spirit.

Pampa, Texas was probably one of my favorite concerts on this tour. The concert itself was not better or worse than any of the rest, but the whole experience was new and different for me. When I was a student, it never worked out for us to go to Pampa, so when I stepped off of the bus onto the Stokes' Ranch, I was slightly taken back. The ranch was quite a sight to see. It was like one of those places you see in movies or in your dreams. There were pens with horses, calves and goats and a pasture with cattle. There was an old train caboosie sitting at the edge of the pasture that was decorated with Christmas lights. It had two reclined chairs sitting on top of it, overlooking the miles of green cattle pasture. There was also a children's playground complete with slide, merry-go-round, spaceship and playhouse. The students had a blast playing at the ranch that day. That night the concert took place on a country stage inside one of the barns. It was not your traditional barn. It had a full kitchen, electricity, heat lamps and a light system for the stage. The place was completely decorated with antiques and country decor. The change of scenery excited the students and the concert went very well.

Saturday morning, we traveled on to Balko, Oklahoma where we set up our equipment for the next morning. We then went to the Laverne, Oklahoma campground where we would be staying the night. The students enjoyed their time at the camp and the time spent at the Laverne youth center, The SPOT. Even though the students were up late that night, they were still able to not only effectively minister and perform, but some of

of them even taught Sunday School as well. That night we were at the Apostolic Faith Church in Laverne. Many of the students were familiar with the people at that church and enjoyed the opportunity to minister to them. We had another good altar service there as well.

Somewhere along the way, several of the students began to feel sick. Many of the students had their days when they did not feel very well, but some of them seemed to stay ill for most of the tour. Many times they didn't feel like they could sing, much less want to. However, like I had when I was on tour, they learned that as long as they gave all they could and did their best despite the way they felt, God would honor that and use them to minister to the people's needs. They discovered that when they didn't feel like they had much to offer, it was easier to give God control and let the Holy Spirit use them. Needless to say, the students

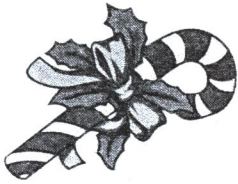


stood on II Corinthians 12:9 which says, "And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." This rang true, because we had some of our best concerts during these times.

We arrived at the Midway Country Church on Monday afternoon and spent the day around the church as usual. Everything was going good, until we heard that the bus had broken down on a back road about six miles from the church. The problem was serious enough to seek professional help, which would not be possible until the next day. Fearing that they would miss their last concert and be delayed getting home, the students started to worry. We prayed over the bus and trusted that the Lord would work in the situation. A peace came over us and we ministered that night like any other night. The bus didn't return to the church until around two the next day. The Midway church was very accommodating and made us feel welcome to stay as long as we needed. We had lunch and then headed for Kingman, Kansas for our final concert. The concert went smoothly and with feelings of relief and remorse the students packed the bus for the last time on tour.

Choir tour is a time to give back to all the churches that have faithfully supported the Bible College and kept it open. It is also a way of saying "Thank You" to the people of those churches. It is a time when students with different gifts, talents and levels of spiritual maturity are given a chance to share the love of Jesus Christ and apply the things that they have learned in the first few months of Bible College. Choir tour is about learning about ministry and people and gaining ministry experience in a somewhat safe environment. The students are given the opportunity to minister through songs, testimonies and short devotions and the churches get the opportunity to see the work that has been started at the school for the year. The students are not perfect. They have not completed their homiletics, hermeneutics and evangelism classes and they have only been in choir for two months. Many of them are not ready to preach full sermons or lead hours of worship music, but choir tour is a step towards that. Choir tour is a time when some students experience for the first time what it is like to share a word that you feel like God has given you for the moment. Some have never felt the Holy Spirit working through them and get to, while others get to experience the joy of leading someone to Christ for the first time. Choir tour is just as much about the students training, growth and experience as it is about the churches they minister to.

Thank you for giving the students the opportunity of experiencing the AFBC Choir Tour!



The Night Before Christmas At AFBC

Revamped by Matthew Harris and Brian Harris

T'was the night before Christmas, when all
through the school
Not a student was sleeping, in spite of the rule;
The stockings and ties and nice clothes they wear,
Were tossed about with nary a care.

The boys playing video games neglected their beds,
While the girls had the boys running through their
heads;

Dean Darla in her dorm, and I in my own
Tried to get some rest before our long trips home.

When out on the street, there arose such a clatter
Darla sprang from her bed to see what was the
matter.

Tired I staggered to the window unwilling
Wondering which of the boys I might have to be
killing!

The street seemed serene like any other night
Just the usual ramblings of a man on a bike.
When, what to my sleep-filled eyes should appear
A little black Lexus, carrying a man with a beard!

The little old driver, was so quick and lively.
I knew in a moment - it was *Bro. Whiteley!*
The 200 horses that powered his ride,
With a flick of his wrist, were turned off and died.

He DASHED out his door and DANCED to his trunk,
And PRANCED t'ward the dorms with a bag full of
Junk!

"Michael!" and "Joy!" each name he did call.
"Baldy!" and "Ashley!" He remembered them all.

Everyone outside" I said to the boys,
But my voice wasn't heard over the Playstation's
noise.

The girl's rushed out with their faces aglow,
And huddled tightly together to witness the show.

Fearing the boys would miss the display
I blocked the TV, standing right in the way!
"Hey!" they exclaimed. "Hey" I yelled back,
"Santa's outside with a gift filled sack!"

Dropping controllers, the boys raced outside
And encountered a spectacle that left them
wide-eyed.

The cheery little man was heading for the gym
And all of the girls were following him.

The boys didn't waste one moments time,
But quickly took their places at the end of the line.
Once inside, now the students could see
That our Bible School Santa was Bro. Whiteley.

O! Bro. Howard was dressed all in red
From the pants he wore to the hat on his head.
Under the glasses he wore, his eyes seemed to
twinkle!
And the smile he bore, stretched from wrinkle to
wrinkle.

His beard was held by a small elastic band
We knew it wasn't real, not even a strand.
His belly was flat, he could still see his toes
He hadn't taken time to stuff his Santa clothes.

He unloaded each gift with extreme care and
prudence
And delivered them to each of the students.

The students were grateful and didn't complain
Though all they received was a lonely candy cane.

He waved goodbye as he walked outside'
Rolled down his car window, once seated inside.
I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"



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The Directory is provided for convenience. Any Minister or Gospel Worker upon request, may have their address published.

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St. Luke 2:1-20

1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3. And all went to be taxed, every one unto his own city.

4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea unto the city called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David;)

5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her first son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

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

9. 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.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

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

12. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all men.

15. 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 see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

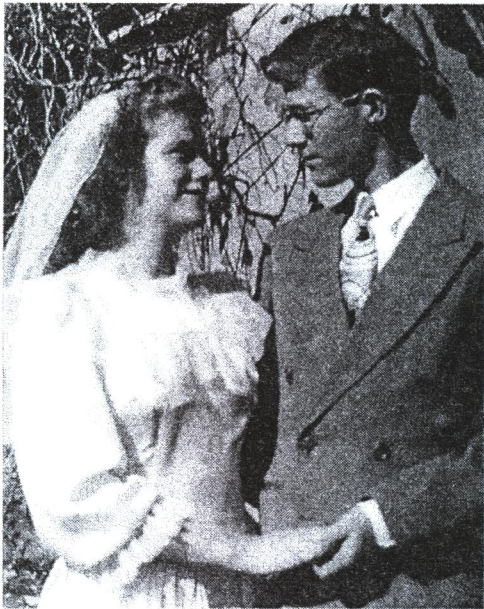
20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



**His name shall be called...
Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6

60th Anniversary



*Max and Dorothy were teenagers
When they met at Bible School.
And Max though young, was smart
When he asked her to share his heart
And stay with him all his life through.*

*On the 10th day of October 1949
Max said to Dorothy, "Will you be mine?"
Dorothy said "Yes I will"
And after 60 years, they are together still.*

Written by Dorothy



*Max and Dorothy observed their
60th Anniversary with a reunion
in Wichita, Kansas where 40
members of their family gathered
to help them celebrate. Max
looked at Dorothy and said,
"Look what we started - Aw-
esome"*

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

**WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF
OUR WONDERFUL BABY BOY, ADRIAN JAMES (A.J.). HE
MADE HIS APPEARANCE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009
AT 4:34 A.M. - A BIRTHDAY HE WILL SHARE WITH HIS
DADDY! HE'S TINY (TO US) WEIGHING IN AT 7 LB.15 OZ.
AND MEASURING 19 INCHES LONG., BUT HE'S A HAND-
SOME BUNDLE OF JOY! HE POSSESSES ALL TEN FINGERS
AND TEN TOES AND IS IN EVERY WAY WE CAN PERCEIVE,
PERFECT! HE IS DEFINITELY A MIRACLE SENT FROM GOD.**



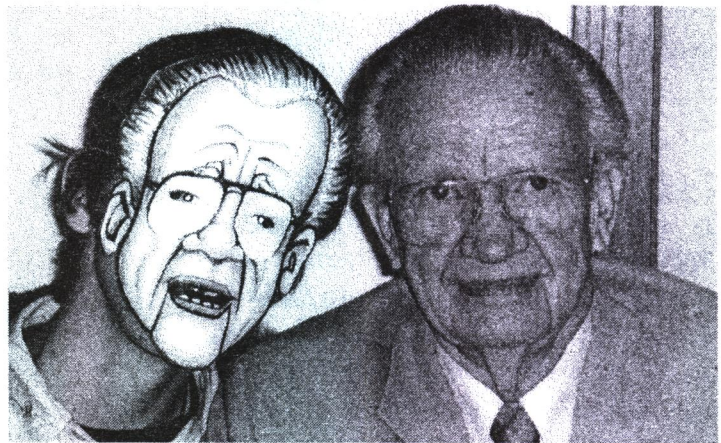
PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAISING HIM FOR ADRIAN!

**CELEBRATING GOD'S MIRACLE OF LIFE,
BRADY & WHITNEY OAKES
DYLAN, MACEE, & JUDAH
JOPLIN, MO**

From The Archives



Will the
“*REAL*”
Howard Whiteley
please stand up?



Helen Maker, Caldwell, TX called and identified the “Young Quartet” featured in the Archives section of the June-Oct. issue of The Apostolic Faith Report as Ted Barker, Woodward, OK, Jack Cornell, Midway, OK, Truman Summerford, Hardesty, OK and Edwin Modrick, Amarillo, TX.

The picture of the “*Gospel Tones Quartet*” was taken at Midway, OK in 1958 during a revival conducted by Rev. Otto Busch. Pastors at Midway at that time were Rev. & Mrs. G.K. Kerr.

Thank you Helen for your call, and a special “THANKS” to those men for their faithful years of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Isaiah 52: 7

Meditation of My Heart

by James Coble - AFBC Student - Topical Bible Analysis Class

*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord... Psalm 19:14*

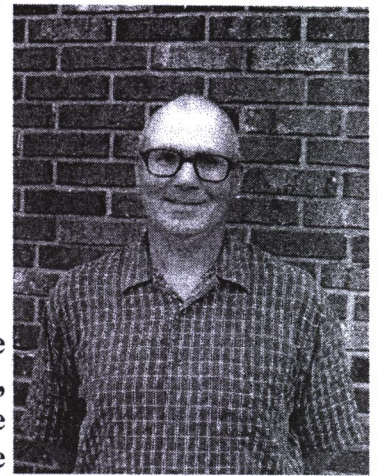
In the above verse the psalmist prays for the meditation of his heart to be acceptable to the Lord. In this context 'meditation' refers to his thoughts, ponderings and imaginings. If he is praying for his thoughts to be acceptable it logically follows that some thoughts are unacceptable. What might those thoughts be?

In Philippians 4:8 we read, "whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report: if there be any virtue...praise...(to) think on these things. These are good things to think on. So by extension it stands to reason that we should not think on things that are false, dishonest, unjust, impure, unlovely, of a bad report, non-virtuous or unpraiseworthy. What might some of these things be?

Proverbs 15:26 says "the thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord..." in this verse 'thoughts' mean ones imaginings and 'abomination' means something disgusting or abhorrent. So our thoughts can become abhorrent to God, which will make us become wicked or wrong in God's eyes. Being wrong means in a sense, to be impure or defiled. So what sort of thoughts bring defilement to a man?

Jesus says in Matthew 15:18-20... "those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man." In this verse 'heart' means our mind. Jesus makes it clear that our thoughts can be sinful, evil, defiling and blasphemous (evil thoughts against God). We are actually guilty of the sin in our thoughts not just our deeds. So what are we to do? Beside from abstaining from murder and adultery we are to abstain from the thoughts of murder and adultery. One way to do this is through the psalmist's prayer: "Let the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight O Lord... (Psalm 19:14). Another helpful piece of advice is to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God..rightly dividing the word of truth."(II Timothy 2:15) By studying God's word, we can know God's word. Knowing God's word will help us to "rightly divide"(or correctly dissect and understand) what it is that pleases God. So we need to be aware of how we may not be pleasing to God and to pray for guidance, wisdom, strength, that we may become pleasing to God. One way to do this is to "be transformed (or changed) by the renewing (renovating or restoring) of our mind." (Romans 12:2) We do this by using, studying and meditating on the word of God. By "drawing nigh to God", (James 4:8), by praying and by knowing the will of God in our lives, through studying His word and being led by the Spirit.

So by knowing what is pleasing to God, we also know what is not pleasing to Him. We pray for strength, study God's word, draw close to God and follow the inner prompting of the "still, small voice" within. (I Kings 19:12) We renew our mind and think on those things that are lovely and pure and in so doing, we do not think on those things that we should not.



*Let this mind be in you, which was also in
Christ Jesus. Phillipians 2:6*

HIS STAR

BY THE LATE GAIL W. SCHULTZ

WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST AND HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM. AND, LO, THE STAR WHICH THEY SAW IN THE EAST WENT BEFORE THEM, TIL IT CAME AND STOOD OVER WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD WAS. WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY REJOICED WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY. MATTHEW 2;2,9-10

The star, His star! What significance does this speak to the heart and mind? It cannot be said that the appearing of the star and the birth of Christ was coincidental. It did not just happen, but the star was sent of God as one of the signs and messengers of His arrival.

Much valuable information of the heavenly bodies are unknown to me, because I do not know the science of astronomy. The poet wrote about a star, by which his ship could be guided. God knows all the stars so well that He can call them by name. Job 9:7-9. Psalm 147:4. The evening star and the morning star are spoken of in the Scripture, and are known to almost everybody the world over. Job 38;7. The course of the stars are known, and it's grateful place, but the STAR was different.

How long had it shown? Did God make it, place it and then remove it when its message and mission was fulfilled? how long did it shine? Did it gradually come into view and then slowly withdraw its light? All these things I do not know, but I do know that it was His star, the light that guided the wise men from afar and coaxed them on to the very spot on this big earth where Jesus lay. Their knowledge of prophecy must have been scant, but inspired wisdom always leads aright.

I do not think that it was misleading that took the wise men to Jerusalem, and to the king of that land. Somehow Herod must be informed. The shepherds were too humble to be heard by him, but these wise men gained entrance to his courts and presence and their message was taken seriously. Although Herod had no desire for worship because his concern was for his own world position, yet for evermore he knew that Jesus had arrived. How much like our old world, so many know that Jesus was born, King of the Jews, Saviour of the world, coming judge and king, and there is no other alternative save to admit that He is the One and Only One to serve, yet they shun Him and avoid His presence.

From the pomp of a king's palace the wise men gladly continued their journey, directed by His Star. It, by its light led them from the main roads to the little secluded village of Bethlehem. Perhaps there were a few better homes of the rich. The inn could have been "first class" for its day, but not in such was Jesus found, but in the most humble quarters of this inn the wise men found Jesus. Here they rejoiced with exceeding great joy and worshipped Him. They did not withhold their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What place does he hold in your heart? With how much can you be trusted with spiritual truths and strength?

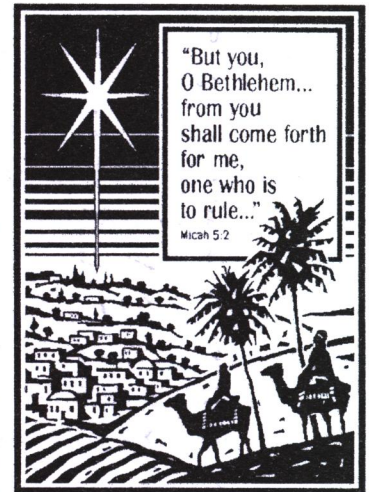
By the large majority (outside of a very brief Christmas season) the Star that led the wise men is forgotten. Worst and far more dangerous is the fact that Jesus, Star of David, Son of David is forgotten also. If the right gift is presented to the right person in the right spirit, to me, it is representation of God's love and great gift to the world.

But to give in thoughtless pride or for advantageous reasons does not advance the Deity of Christ. My heart grows sad and weary when I feel that Christ is forgotten. I think I hate sin more as the years go by.

That Star, now a Star of faith, must shine in our hearts in order to reflect His purpose. When faith diminishes and sacred trusts give way to the practices of men, whose idea is commerce alone, then the true worth of Christmas has vanished. I know that we do not know the exact day of the birth of Christ, for that matter, perhaps the month or year has not been fully established, yet there is a season, a day which permits me as a Christian to worship in recognition of His Divine birth. For we who do keep that day in faith and magnify our Christ, it does have worth.

Star of Hope shine on! The earth is groaning under present day pressures. many nations are in trouble and war and want. The burden of sin and misery and distress are comrades. Sickness and suffering, wounded and dying mount high. This cannot go on forever. We who know Jesus, as the Light of the world, have a hope. Why should I let Satan destroy my soul? Why should a few short years of earthly abiding lure me to its flashing vanishing wares? A Christian has a broader scope than this, his hope is steadfast unmovable waiting until Jesus shall appear again.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do dwell that ye take heed, as unto alight that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. II Peter 1:19. As the Star of David, Lord Jesus come quickly, but until that day may you be blessed with loads of spiritual gifts and treasures that will make you rich in Him.



About this time every year I look back over the year that is soon to be gone, and this year is no exception. Is it just me, or didn't it seem to whiz by? When I was a lot younger I always heard that the older you get the faster time flies. Could be I guess, but I do know this one thing, *God's been faithful*. But then, should we be surprised by Him



keeping His word? He promised to never leave nor forsake us and didn't put any stipulations except that we trust and serve Him.

I am reminded of all that He has been to me and to all of you. He's been *Jehovah - Jireh*, our provider of all things emotionally, spiritually and physically. As he provided the sacrificial ram for Abraham when it seemed impossible, hasn't He provided for all of us when it seemed bleak?

Jehovah -Nissi was with the children of Israel when the enemy in Rephidim came against them. Has not that same Banner covered you when the enemy attacked?

Have there been times this past year that you have needed *Jehovah - Shalom* when you seemingly were beat down by the enemy and you needed peace spoken to you. Remember Gideon's encounter with the Lord while God's people hid in caves? The Lord's words were, "Peace be unto thee; fear not; thou shalt not die." There is nothing like the Peace of God to settle down over you in the midst of the battle.

Perhaps there have been times this year that you just needed to know that God was with you. *Jehovah -Shammah* never leaves us alone but is with us. I am reminded of a time in my life that His word to me was "When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." We did pass through the waters and we did walk through the fire, but we were not alone, His presence was with us all the time, just as He has been and will be with you.

This past year, we have all needed *Jehovah - Tsidkenu* to walk with us through this dark sinful world. He has been our guide. The Psalmist David writes that, "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." We have all needed clear vision so we can see where He is leading and keen hearing to hear His "still, small voice" saying "this is the way, walk ye in it."

2009 will soon be over. There have been mountains to climb and valleys to go through and we do not know what the days ahead hold for each of us, but we can be assured that *HE* will be there with us and for us. May we all keep our faith and confidence in the *ONE* who is faithful and trustworthy and above all. His Blessings Be Yours.

Karen Oakes

Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

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