

Overcomers & Christ

December 2013



"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given ..." Isaiah 9:6

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ



July 28, 2013

Matthew 2:10
When they saw the star, they
rejoiced exceedingly with
great joy.



Acts 5:31
Him hath God exalted with his
right hand to be a Prince and
a Saviour, for to give
repentance to Israel, and
forgiveness of sins.



August 4, 2013

Luke 2:15-16
When the angels went away
from them into heaven, the
shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go over to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has
happened, which the Lord has
made known to us." And they
went with haste and found
Mary and Joseph, and the
baby lying in a manger.



James 1:17
Every good gift and every
perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father
of lights with whom there is
no variation or shadow due to
change.



THE MIRACLE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH – Part II

By Wade Anderson

In **Matthew 1:1-16**, we find the lineage of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. As scripture reveals it was only through marriage that Joseph was Jesus' father. When we read these records of lineage keep in mind that Matthew, a Jew himself, was writing to the Jews so he felt it important to present Jesus not only as the Messiah but as, "... **the Son of David, the Son of Abraham ...**" (**Matthew 1:1**). However in the **Book of Luke**, we find Jesus' lineage being traced through Mary, His mother. Luke, a Greek and a physician, was writing to the Gentile audience and records Mary's lineage from a much different aspect than Matthew's account. Luke travels all the way back through time to Adam, the son of God. (**Luke 3:23-38**)

Luke gives us the most detailed accounts of Jesus' birth. Luke records that many have come before him as "... **eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word ...**" (**Luke 1:2**) and goes on to record in **Luke 1:3**, "**With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decide to write an orderly account ...**" Tradition reveals that Luke talked and inquired of Mary of these personal accounts of her Son's birth so this would be Mary's story and not some fictional invention.

We find both Joseph and Mary as being in the royal lineage of David. However, in Joseph's family tree we see a descendent by the name of Jeconiah, also called Coniah. As I mentioned last month, this is where we will begin to understand why it is recorded in **Genesis 3:15** as "**her Seed**" instead of the seed of Adam, or man. The answer lies in reading **Jeremiah 22:30**, "**Thus says the Lord: 'Write this man down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendents shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.'**" Being born of David's lineage there would be a new king, but as this scripture reveals, there would be no cursed blood in this King. This is why Jesus was to be born of a virgin "her seed" and of the Holy Spirit, not man's seed.

The birth of Jesus was not one of natural events but of supernatural events so we must look at Mary, the mother of Jesus. There is nothing in scripture that tells us of Mary being anyone of some grandiose wealthy family but she is in the royal lineage of David. Hopefully you've followed along in your Bibles, and already read of this account in **Luke 3:23-38**. At the earliest recording of Mary, she is found to be a humble young girl, barely out of her teens, and crossing the threshold of womanhood while living in the village of Nazareth. Like every other young woman her age living in that area, she was more than likely accustomed to her everyday domestic activities and duties and probably didn't perceive much outside of her immediate surroundings. We know from history that it was custom in the East for the young women to be pledged by their family to be married at an early age.

We first find Mary in scripture in the midst of being spoken to by the angel Gabriel. His opening statement to her was, "**Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!**" (**Luke 1:28**) Remember that Mary was of a humble upbringing and couldn't even imagine what this announcement would mean to her. Possibly trembling, confused and overwhelmed Mary stood in dismay of what Gabriel went on to proclaim. "... **Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.**" (**Luke 1:31**) We can only imagine what Mary was about to experience both in the natural from man, and through the supernatural hand of God. These events would be more than overwhelming to say the least. Mary's first response to Gabriel's message from God was, "**How could this be, since I do not know a man?**" (**Luke 1:34**) This seems to be very appropriate ground to stand on for anyone thinking of natural child birth. The angel went on to further assure her in **Luke 1:35** that this was by no means a natural but supernatural event that was about to take place, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.**" Mary's second response to Gabriel brought forth with it nothing of doubt or unbelief but one filled with humbled faith and obedience as she replied, "**Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be done to me according to your word.**" (**Luke 1:38**) All in all, I'm sure you all would agree that Mary handled her encounter with Gabriel and her coming pregnancy, quite well.

Although Mary's hand in marriage had been promised to Joseph, she probably figured this wasn't the right time to confide in him, or anyone else there in Nazareth. I'm sure you all can see why it might not have seemed the appropriate time to approach Joseph with this new news. Even though Mary believed and received the message Gabriel had brought to her, she might have felt very isolated from everyone, especially Joseph. Quite possibly, it was while Mary was hurriedly leaving Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, while on her journey to sort these things out, that she may have remembered the message Gabriel revealed to her concerning her cousin Elizabeth, "**Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age ...**" (**Luke 1:36**)

Would Elizabeth be the one Mary would first confide in? Would she receive the wisdom and counsel she would need for what lay ahead of her? As Mary entered the home of Zachariah and Elizabeth, **Luke 1:41** records that, "... **the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.**" As Elizabeth continued to speak, Mary heard these reassuring words of prophesy as the Holy Spirit had revealed them to her, "**Blessed are you among women, and**

blended is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?... Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." (Luke 1:42-45) Reading through these above scriptures, we see that both Mary and Elizabeth were chosen to fulfill Bible prophesy. It's revealed further on in the Scriptures that Elizabeth's child, the one that leaped for joy in Elizabeth belly at the very presence of Mary entering the room, would be none other than the forerunner for Jesus, known as John the Baptist.

Although it's obvious to see that Mary had received the assurance she was in search of, how would she ever be able to comfort Joseph's concern and disbelief of her being with child? For this information, we will be going now to the accounts in the **Book of Matthew** as Matthew spoke more from Joseph's side of this story. Now it's on to Joseph.

Like any other young girl (sadly, maybe not as much in our present day) who finds herself pregnant and unmarried, Mary more than likely thought 'there's a lot of explaining to do'. The Bible doesn't tell us whether Mary had found a way to tell Joseph or not. By now it's quite possible that the time frame of pregnancy itself was revealing the Child. Either way, Matthew only tells us that, **"... she was found with child of the Holy Spirit."** (Matthew 1:18b) Matthew also tells us of Joseph, **"... being a just man ..."** (Matthew 1:19) In the *Strong's Concordance*, 'just' in this verse, is the Greek word *dikaios*(#1342) and means, equitable in character or act, by applying innocent, upright, blameless, and righteous. This one word alone reveals the man that Joseph truly was. Joseph was a very prominent, skillful carpenter and tradesman there in Nazareth. Among the many questions running through his mind, we might easily imagine him thinking, "How will I ever be able to look the people of Nazareth in the eye again?" It's not hard to imagine the feelings of betrayal and disgrace that Joseph **thought** he was about to experience.

Knowing Joseph to be a 'just' man his thoughts are revealed to us in the remainder of **Matthew 1:19**, **"... being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly."** Even though Joseph had uneasiness in his mind, his character is revealed by the word **"secretly"**. I know there have been all these years and different cultures that have lapsed since these accounts of Joseph, but I ask you, "In the same situation, would our character reveal 'secretly' or 'spectacle'?"

In the midst of these thoughts, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph 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. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."** (Matthew 1:20-21) Coming away from this dream Joseph's confusion was now filled with pure joy. With eagerness and no more hesitation, Joseph did as he was commanded and took Mary for his wife. Joseph did not have her to himself until after she had given birth to Jesus. (Matthew 1:25) Although Mary, as a young girl having attended the synagogues, and hearing the Scriptures being taught on the Sabbath, never would have thought the prophesy fulfillment in **Isaiah 7:14** would be accomplished in and through her.

In Rome in the days just prior to Jesus' birth, as we've mentioned last month, Augustus Caesar sat and ruled from the throne of an empire that was greater than any the world had ever known. As his empire grew so did his need for a solution to finance his kingdom. Along with kingdom costs he also had to accommodate the cost of his administration and his great army. As they searched for an answer to his predicament it was soon realized that most of the Provinces were paying tribute to Caesar, but Palestine was not. Having decided that each country must share in its part of the burden he issued a decree for a census to be taken of the entire Roman world. This meant that everyone would have to return to their hometown to register for the census. Even though all of the rugged trails were being transformed into easier traveling roadways, the people still moved about on foot, and in some cases on animals.

Even though Mary was expecting this new Child, Joseph knew that it was necessary to report for the census. Joseph took Mary and leaving Nazareth headed out on the journey towards Bethlehem, the city of David. No sooner than they arrived in Bethlehem, and Mary found herself in the midst of birth pains and about to give birth. As they searched they soon found the inns were full. With nowhere else to turn they resolved to a spot in a nearby stable. Finding refuge there, Mary soon gave birth to Jesus, her first born Son, where she wrapped him in the cloths she had and placed Him in a manger.

In the same area around Bethlehem, there were shepherds watching over their flocks of sheep. While in these fields in the dark of the night, an angel of the Lord appeared to them. With the angel radiating the glory of God and standing in their midst he announced to them, **"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in manger."** (Luke 2:11-12) Startled and even amazed by this heavenly visitation they gathered their thoughts and wasted no time as they headed to Bethlehem to find this Savior. After reaching Bethlehem, they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger just as they were told. The shepherds shared their visit from the Lord's angel with Joseph and Mary and how they knew where to find them.

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Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done. **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

Prayer Requests

Thank you so much for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. I ask that you may please pray for all the people here, both inmates and staff. Please pray for peace throughout the wonderful days that our Father in Heaven has blessed us with this day. Thank you also for keeping my family in thoughts and prayers as well. I pray that the Lord may continue to bless your wonderful ministry ... **M.O.**

Please keep praying for me and all of my family and for peace in Jerusalem ... **E.C.**

Sadly, my mother is in the St. Joseph's Hospital. I talked with her a while back but now nothing. I am in constant prayer and I know God is with her. Amen!! Please keep my mother in your prayers ... **A.P.**

Keep me in your prayers to stay sober and in the Word more and to stop smoking ... **W.B.**

I am 32 year old man who is called by God to be a minister. I was going to college a few years ago and I messed up, I couldn't keep up because I was falling backwards. I have issues walking, I was paralyzed from the waist down, I had a tumor in my spine and they took it out. I am still believing for a full healing although I am blessed that I can walk again. I want to get out and fulfill God's will for my life and minister around the world. I'm also praying for a helpmate to minister with me, my mom for her ministry, health and finances. I am also praying for my brother and cousins, they are in prison, and for my older sister and her marriage. I am also praying for my younger sister, she just started college and my cellmate's sister, for her salvation ... **W.B.**

I have prayer requests for my mom, sister, and sons for God to give them the right direction and come to Christ. In His Word I stand, He says He will save my household, so I am standing on that promise ... **B.F.**

I pray that God keep the burning desire in me and my family's life. There is not anyone in my family that is saved. That will give me the opportunity to bring them to God ...

G.H.

I want you to pray for my sisters that are out there in that mad world, struggling. Also, pray for me because it's a war going on in this prison with the CO's and the men. I do pray that this whole situation will get better soon ... **T.F.**

Please pray for my healing and deliverance from witchcraft in my entire body. Also, pray for my protection from satanic attacks in my neighborhood. Also, pray for my grandsons' salvation and for their protection while they are in jail. Also, pray for me that the enemy will stop following me around.

Also, pray for my other grandsons' protection from child abuse. Pray also for my daughter that the Lord will give her favor with the judge so that she will be able to adopt them

... **I.A.**

Praise Reports

My uncle was diagnosed with 2 brain tumors and stage 4 lung cancer on Tuesday, Oct. 14th. The doctor decided that the first course of action was to remove one of the tumors in order to reduce the swelling on his brain. This tumor was affecting his motor skills. On Friday, Oct 18th, he had the tumor removed and when he got out of surgery he was able to speak and move all his extremities, which was a blessing. The doctor said the surgery went perfect. Saturday morning, he got up and made a phone call to his home and the nurses had him up and walking on Saturday. God gets the glory for being present in that operating room and guiding and directing the hands of the surgeon. This was the first step in his recovery journey and God is answering prayers. He was released from the hospital on October 21st, just 3 days after brain surgery, that is truly a miracle. I just found out some more good news ... the biopsy came back on the lung cancer and it is non-small cell cancer so it is the treatable kind. In two weeks they will start chemo and radiation therapy and he will have that every day for 30 days. On October 24th, his staples were taken out and the doctor was amazed at how well he has healed. Also, another praise report about how God puts the people we need in our path in order to fulfill His miracles. The doctor that operated on my uncle Jim had just arrived at that hospital on Monday, October 14th and it was his first surgery at the hospital. He is a doctor from John Hopkins Hospital. That was a true blessing to have a doctor with that background and expertise operating on him. Truly a divine appointment... **Michelle Anderson**

All I know is that I will always have faith in God. Recently, I have been really stressed out because my sister and mother have been struggling economically and to top that off my older brother who has a history of heroin use was missing in action. My fear was him having a relapse. Again, God heard my prayers and everything seems to be looking up at home and my brother showed up out of nowhere. He's working and healthy! In other words, he didn't relapse. God is amazing, He's beautiful and He is always with me. I pray every night and I put my family's lives in His hands because I have faith He will keep them safe and healthy. God gives me strength to get through this bad time in my life. I also pray for Him to transform me into the person to please Him. I wasn't sentenced to prison, I was saved by God from something worse that could have happened to me. If I wouldn't have gotten caught by the feds, I would still be with the cartel or dead. At first I was angry and hated everyone when I got busted. Now I thank God I did ... **M.V.**

God is so good, all the time!! Can you say, amen? I've learned that regardless of our situations and circumstances, He's still God, and He's still good!! Bless His name, Jesus!! One thing for sure through this trial in my life, God has developed in me an attitude of gratitude, Glory to God!! I'm so grateful today. Praise God! He's so worthy ... **V.W.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

A Battle Won, Before Begun

By A.M.

I was going through some old files and came across the last remaining copy of a poem I had written on October 9, 2006. I had in the past given poems to newly converted Christian men in prison, which they all seemed to enjoy. I very much would like to offer this poem for the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter to be offered to the men and women who receive this remarkable newsletter in prison. I am sure everybody can identify with the contents of this poem on some degree of personal experience in their lives. God's plan for our lives is to change us into the image of Christ. We are also called to bring others to Christ ... Amen!!

A Battle Won, Before Begun

Once held within satan's claws,
All caught in unstable pause.
Often living under the gun,
Misunderstood, fun when begun.
Souls held captive to highs and lows,
Pray, "Lord Jesus saves us," these evil blows.
Behold, the seed, the need to grow,
For want of life, forever, flows.

Look behind and understand,
Be not who, or what demand.
Jesus bestows, He is the Man,
Seek forgiveness, all understand.
Sin and destruction, no hope abound,
Lord Jesus, Savior resurrected,
Place our feet on solid ground.

Major battles, fought with wrought,
God has given all for naught.
"Rebuke you satan," cries of might,
Rage and bitterness, flew each night.
"Jesus saves us," cries of fright,
Behold, God's armor is in sight.
All who seek Him surely know,
Jesus lives day and night, let go!

Life filled failures, unaccomplished goals,
Darkness smothers their very souls.
"Lord," hear cries of mortal souls.
While hearts seek love and counsel.
Precious and short, life's eventual toll,
His kingdom awaits a heavenly atoll.
God gave His begotten Son, we are told,
Jesus lives, satan seeks his foe.

Time and minds march on like clocks,
Seeing patience to pass the test.
Oh Lord, my God, flocks that live,
Stand in time, to life's protests.
Prayer given in hopes and praise,
Satan awaits in sin to prey.
Jesus so kind, here to stay the day,

Seek His kingdom, satan's to slay.
Prayer the connection, Jesus one way.

He lives, all witness to this,
Jesus and miracles, the litmus test.
Life of drugs and sins reproached,
A thug calls for a life encroached.
Death awaits the lost mug,
"Oh Lord," let's all give a hug,
Jesus denied, with just a shrug.

Life proclaimed stinks and rots,
Not of who, but of what they thought.
Mankind's suffrage within prison cells,
Wretched souls once lived so well.
Satan returns from fire and hell,
Jesus saves lives, oh that's swell.

Battles won before triumphs bugle sung,
Gone with demons, yet self doubt hung.
Behold God's children, He said Himself,
God's master plan, already battle won.
Abyss of sin and tortured pain,
Live for the Lord, everything to gain.

He gave His Son, you hear the reports,
"Jesus Alive," fear satan's retorts.
God's anchor holds, in troubled ports,
Set sails high, Jesus transports.
Forgive sins, life's unruly torts,
Battlefield won, still satan aborts.

Shout to Jesus, you'll find out,
Only one way to fight the bout.
Open a Bible, He will point out,
Strength and refuge, God is about.
A present help, in trouble and doubt,
All praise to God, we must shout out.
Jesus lives, within and without,
He is there, a battle won.
Without a doubt, He is the one!

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

My Heart is Broken

By T.C.

Thank you for the scripture, God does know what we need in our lives. There has been a lot going on in my life. On July 4th, God called my beautiful mother home. Yes, she had health problems; they were not issues that should have taken her life. I believe she was just tired and lonely. While I am at peace with her passing, for I know she is with our Father in Heaven.

Prison is not a place you can grieve. My heart will forever be broken without my beautiful mother in my life. On the other hand, she will forever live in my heart. It is through my faith and God's great love that I will get through this. I will move forward. I do believe I will not be able to move on until I am out of here and able to let myself feel my grief.

Thank you for all the scripture you sent to me. The date on your letter was 8-4-2013, one month to the day that I had lost my mom. This is how we know that God has a hand in all we do. The scriptures helped me so much. My brothers and sisters in Christ, please pray that I can get over the guilt I have and the pain I live with. I was not there by my mother's side nor was I able to give her one last kiss. My heart will forever be broken without her.

Strong Prayer Life

By M.G.

I'm going to ask all of you to pray while you're well because if you wait until you're sick, you might not be able to do it. The reason I'm saying this is because if you get sick some day you probably won't be able to do it. I'm saying this through experience. It is important that prayer is a vital part of our lives as Christians, as believers. But there are so many obstacles to praying with all our heart and mind. The daily events of life seem to get in the way. When we are sick, everything changes. I find myself telling people more and more to develop a strong prayer life in their best moments, so that they can be sustained in their weaker moments.

I try to look everyone in the eyes and make each person feel that he or she is important. This seems to have an important effect on people. Somehow when you make that eye contact, when you convince people that you really care, and that even if hundreds of others are around at that particular moment, they are the only ones that count. Then you establish a new relationship. They leave feeling that they have entered into a special intimacy with you, if only for a moment. They sense that somehow you truly care about them and that more importantly you have somehow mediated the love, mercy and compassion of the Lord. It helps strengthen the bond, the relationship between each person and God.

I hope people can see that there is a lot more to prayer and faith than mere words. God really does help us live fully even in the worst of times. And the capacity to do this depends upon the deepening of our relationship to God through prayer.

To the Believers

By C.T.

I'm writing because a friend and a brother in Christ shared with me what he put in your magazine and when I read what he had to say it inspired me to write words of inspiration to other believers. Thank you and I pray you guys enjoy what I've written. I've done a lot of wrong in my life and Jesus still blesses me, He's given me all the right tools and He has placed the right people to guide me in my walk with Him. He's let it be known that if I continue to follow Him my rewards will be everlasting, so I've laid it all down for Him and I've allowed Him to do things His way because my way was a path of sin and destruction.

So, I've chosen to pick up the Armor of God and wear it and be ready for spiritual warfare with all and any kind of darkness, because my rewards in heaven and most importantly my Lord and Savior is worth it all. So, I gotta go hard for the Lord because He expects me to, plus satan is trying to work harder. But with the grace of God I can overcome all things. I never thought I'd be fighting for a Man, but He died for me so what's a fight and He's not just any kind of Man, He's my Creator, my Protector, my Shelter, my Father, my Lord, my Savior, and for that I lay it all on the line. He's been there when I needed Him the most and He's always on time, and He's always there not just once but multiple times, and if you've been through any kind of hardship you know as well. I say all this to make one point ... God is good to me all the time and if you accept Him as your Lord and Savior and follow Him, He'll be good to you, too!!

Foot's Bible Study Notes

1 Samuel 1:1-4:22

Think of those in your world who are struggling with God's timing in answering their prayers and who need your love and help. By supporting those who are struggling, you may help them remain steadfast in their faith and confident in His timing to bring fulfillment to their lives. (1:7)

When you serve others – even in carrying out ordinary tasks – you are serving God. Because ultimately we serve God, every job has its dignity. (2:11, 18) Any sin is wrong, but sin carried out deliberately and deceitfully is the worst kind. When we sin out of ignorance, we deserve punishment, but when we sin intentionally, the consequences will be more severe. Don't ignore God's warnings about sin. Abandon sin before it becomes a way of life. (2:23-25)

God's chain of command is based on faith, not on age or position, in finding faithful followers. God may use unexpected channels. Be prepared for the Lord to work at any place, at any time, and through anyone He chooses. (3:8-9)

When sin dominates our lives, even God-given joys and pleasures seem empty. (4:19-22)

John 5:24-47

Eternal life – living forever with God begins when you accept Jesus Christ as Savior. At that moment, a new life begins in you – 2 Corinthians 5:17. (5:24) Don't become so involved in religion that you miss Christ. (5:39-40)

Psalms 106:1-12

If we ever stopped to list all the mighty acts or miracles in the Bible, we would be astounded. They cover every aspect of life. The more we think about what God has done, the more we can appreciate the miracles He has done for us individually – birth, personal development, salvation, specific guidance, healing, loving friends, and family – the list goes on and on. If you think you have never seen a miracle, look closer. You will see God's power and loving intervention on your behalf. God still performs great miracles. (106:2)

Proverbs 14:30-31

We all know people who laugh at or even mess with poor folks – sadly those who do this do not even realize that they are insulting God, or if they do they don't care. Thankfully, this insult to God can be offset by honor when those of us who understand and have compassion help the poor wherever and however we can as best as we can.

“Foot” Notes

Hello my brothers and sisters. Like many of you I gave my life to Christ inside the wire. For me it was eight years ago and of course, like many of you, I wondered how was our Lord going to use a lifer to do His work. I worried about that for a couple of years and in that time I watched and talked with other Christians who couldn't wait to get out to start their work for the Lord. Well, I'm here to tell you that God will use you no matter where you are at and what your situation. So for me, I dug into the Word and worked on my own growth quietly, chugging along. And as I progressed and prayed for God to open my eyes to opportunities slowly at first I began to see all the blessings God blesses our world with. A couple of years go by, and the *DS&S* newsletter was brought to my attention and I figured this is my opportunity to work for God, but my friends that was just the beginning. Now opportunities show up to me all the time. I figure that if you walk with the Lord in His joy then others can't help but notice, "Why is this guy so happy all the time, he's never getting out?" Trust me God will use you too.

Just in the past three weeks two different guys at different times came up to me asking how I was able to kick my drug problem of 20 plus years. I tell them two things: 1) I was sick and tired of drugs and everything involved with them. 2) I asked God to guide me to a life of sobriety. Now I won't push my beliefs onto anyone but the one guy must have walked three miles worth of laps while I told him of my journey to sobriety. And yes it was hard, one of the hardest things I've ever done. Yes, I had a couple of setbacks but I persevered. Basically, nothing is easy right when you start no matter what you are trying to do. How many times did you fall before mastering the art of walking? Anyhow, I was more than happy to talk with these guys about kicking habits. The second guy came to me at my cubical and spent an hour also asking about quitting drugs. Now neither of these guys was ready to accept Christ but they did seek me out to ask for help. It seems funny that if you just walk your own walk God will place opportunities in your path for you to do good works. So to those of you inside the wire don't fret, just keep on keepin' on and our Lord and Savior will put opportunities in your paths. Love to you all ... Vaya con Dios

THE MIRACLE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH – Part II ... *continued*

Herod the Great is still the king in Jerusalem at this time and even more delusional than ever. Wise men, a priestly class of men thought also to be trained students of the stars, had witnessed an unexplainable brilliant star-like phenomenon in the heavens while they were yet in the East. These men were more than likely Gentiles and for some unknown reason they had interpreted this heavenly star to be a sign of the birth of the King of the Jews. Leaving a region close to Persia, and carrying with them gifts fit for this King, from the East they followed this 'seemingly moving star' until they ended up in Jerusalem. Entering Jerusalem they began asking the people where Christ the King was to be born. Herod, hearing the fuss in the city and feeling threatened, demanded that the chief priests and scribes come and inform him where exactly the Christ was to be born. Entering Herod's presence the chief priests and scribes answered, "...***In Bethlehem of Judea ...***" (***Matthew 2:5***).

This was the fulfillment of the prophesy in ***Micah 5:2***, "***But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.***"

After Herod heard this, he devised what he thought to be a shrewd plan. He summoned for the wise men and told them that he knew the whereabouts of this new Child. He planned to convince the wise men that he too had intentions of worshipping this Child. Sending them away with this information Herod requested that when the wise men found the baby they return to him and let him know His exact location. Leaving Jerusalem on their five-hour journey to Bethlehem they followed the same star they had followed from the East. It led them directly to the Child. Entering the room, and being in Jesus' presence the wise men immediately fell to the floor and began worshipping Him. The wise men then rose from their worship and went to bring the gifts they had brought for Him. Taking their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they laid them before Jesus.

The wise men were preparing to leave Joseph and Mary and return to Jerusalem to inform Herod where he might find this new Child. But before the wise men left one of them was visited in a dream and warned not to return to Herod. They defied Herod's request and went around Jerusalem and back to their homeland a different way.

At the same time as the wise men's dream, Joseph also had a dream. Joseph's dream was a warning to take Mary and the Child and flee from Herod into Egypt. In the middle of the night, Joseph put Mary and the baby Jesus on the back of their animal and headed towards Egypt. With all the wonderful gifts the wise men had just given Joseph, Mary and Jesus, it's easy to see how the rest of their journeys were financed.

In the meantime, while Herod was waiting for the wise men to return, he received a message that instead of him fooling the wise men he had become the fool. The wise men were not coming back like he had instructed them, and hearing this he went completely out of control. With all the rage of being swindled by the wise men and now not knowing the whereabouts of this new birth, Herod spun into the madman that he truly was. Herod, with his demented mind was determined to keep his throne and ordered his officers to go to Bethlehem and kill all of the babies two years old and younger. Even though this was a wicked and cruel act by Herod it fulfilled the prophesy in ***Jeremiah 31:15***, "***A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more.***"

Here's something that seems somewhat strange to me. We've seen above that the people of Israel were desperately searching and watching for a new king and savior, right? Remember, the scribes and chief priests were Jews and had the Scriptures and knew the prophesy. They only had to travel five miles from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to investigate this event. The wise men traveled all the way from the East to Jerusalem to locate this Child. Why do you suppose that is? I believe it's because the wise men seen this as the heavenly visit that it was. The Jewish people on the other hand, were more focused and concerned with their current earthly situations. In other words, the Jewish people were looking for a man to save them, causing them to miss the Man that God sent as their Savior!

Let me show you why I wrote 'seemingly moving star' several paragraph's above. We are told in ***Matthew 2:9***, "***When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.***" Note these words in ***Matthew 2:16***, "... ***and put to death all male children ... from two years old and younger ...***" Then notice that ***verse 9*** references that the star, "... ***went before them, till it came and stood over ...***" which should show us all that the star was evidently moving. Now, from the time the wise men began following the star from the East, until the time that Herod gave this order to put these male children to death, two years had passed. Why do I think this? Because the verses in ***Matthew 2:9, 16*** just revealed it!

Some of you may not be reading your Bibles that often, (no condemnation intended) and there are some of you that don't have access to a Bible. So, even though this is another message, I know this is important to tell you now. Ever since Adam and Eve's deception by satan, God has had a plan to redeem mankind. The miracle birth of Jesus set God's plan into action here on earth. This is just the beginning of The Good News!! Jesus came to fulfill the mission and pay the price

in full for **ALL** mankind's sins, removing God's wrath. Jesus **did** fulfill His mission! This means that, **GOD IS NOT MAD AT YOU!!** With His last breath, hanging on the Cross He said, *"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."* (**Luke 23:46**) He continued, in **John 19:30**, by saying, *"It is finished!"* Jesus gave up His spirit and **HE IS OUR REDEEMER!!**

It's hard to but I'll finish with this. I know the traditional date for celebrating Christ's birth is December 25. Is this true? Let me tell you what I have found. 1) Jerusalem and Bethlehem are at an altitude of 2,500 feet and there was usually snow in that area. 2) The weather there in December, would be awfully severe for Joseph to take Mary, about to give birth, and travel the long distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem. 3) The Scriptures tell us that Jesus was born in a manger, and that the shepherds were in the open fields when they were visited by the angel. (**Luke 2:8-9**) It's not customary for shepherds to be out in the fields with flocks of sheep in the winter. 4) In **Matthew 24:15-22**, the winters were severe enough that Jesus, in verse 20, warned the Jews to pray *"... that your flight may not be in the winter ..."* With the evidence found in the Bible and history it shows that Jesus was born in September.

My final prayer here today is, "That you all believe by faith and understand, that this is enough Good News to celebrate Jesus every day not only at Christmas!"

What Others Are Saying...

"God bless you all, thank you for your prayers and for taking time out of your day for me. Wow! ... June's newsletter blessed my spirit from the front to the last page. I look forward to seeing your pictures, such a good looking bunch. Shirley Ann Laster's A Letter of Love was great and it touched my heart. I have seen this Love Letter before in 2009 right after my surrender. I liked it so much I went to under lining in my Bible thinking I would do the same thing. The testimony by J.B. really was wow ... so heartfelt. Our God is an awesome God. The Can You Read This was real fun, I've been showing everyone." - **J.W.**

"I would love to be put on your mailing list, all the letters and articles I read make me feel at home and I want to say hello to all you that make this happen and to all my brothers and sisters locked up ... God is good and grow strong." - **M.M.**

"I am an inmate in California. I was recently introduced to your ministry's newsletter. I found the testimonies very inspiring. I am hoping and praying that you would bless my life by placing me on your mailing list." - **T.G.**

"I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. I thank you so much for the beautiful and thoughtful card sent to me. I don't receive much mail, so your lovely card was very much appreciated. I think it is wonderful that you reach out to others. Surely, you are following the message that our good Lord, Jesus Christ, sent. God bless you. I thank you for your kindness." - **J.H.**

"I wanted to tell all you guys that I really love your newsletter. The sharing from everyone in the newsletter and the poems - love them." - **F.M.**

"Friar Andrews once wrote, 'The highest love of all finds its fulfillment not in what it keeps, but in what it gives.' I see this every time the free world preaches, and others who give their time, their efforts, and their love to a bunch of felons, locked down, by giving them the precious Word of God! My heart fills with pride knowing these are my Christian brothers and sisters. That's how I feel about **OC4C**. Each time I receive a card or a newsletter, or a letter, my heart just fills with love for you guys. I'm so proud to know you." - **R.A.**

"Thank you so much for lifting me up off the ground with that birthday card. It really picked me up. When I start to fall back into a bad spot you all send your newsletter or my birthday comes up. For that, I thank you for being there." - **E.V.**

"Please allow me to express the warmth in which I feel upon receipt of the words shared with many through the **Overcomers for Christ**. We thank you ever so kindly for not only the message delivered monthly. But more so for the individual letters that are forwarded in response of our personal thoughts and prayers. The dedication projected by **Overcomers for Christ** is truly humbling." - **R.W.**

"I am writing to be put on your mailing list for the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter. I was in chapel just getting ready to leave when I came across a copy of the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter. I was truly blessed by the ones who shared and the **Overcomer's Testimony**. Please don't allow me to miss the chance to be placed on your mailing list for the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter." - **B.F.**

"As I strolled through the cell house day room, your July 2012 newsletter laid abandoned on the book ledge. The cover had the same crucifix cross lying on an American flag that I had by my front door at home. Catholic as its **INRI** symbol represents, I picked it up and was delighted to find no leaning towards any denomination within the pages. Christ Jesus is the Holy Spirit alive in us." - **T.C.**

A Christmas Letter from Jesus

John Dobbins

Well, another year is coming to an end and I have been trying to find the words to say to everyone what Christmas means to me. I was looking around on the internet and came across a letter from Jesus and it not only made me smile but it said everything I wanted to say but with some humor. I feel sometimes we forget what Christmas is about and what we are supposed to celebrate. I want to thank Living Word Bible Church for everything they have done to make what our newsletter is today, and I want to thank my mom and dad, Wade and Michelle Anderson, for making me a big part of **OC4C** even though I give my mom a hard time I look forward to working on the newsletter with them. Merry Christmas

A Christmas Letter from Jesus

Beloved,

Well, as you know, it's time for My birthday again. Last year they had a real big party for Me and it seems like they will again this year. After all, they've been shopping and preparing for it for months now, and there have been announcements and advertisements almost every day about how soon it's coming! They really do go overboard about it, but it's nice to know that at least on one day of the year some people are thinking about Me a little. You know, it's been many years now since they first started celebrating My birthday. Back then they seemed to realize and appreciate how much fun it is for the little children. Just the same, it seems that most folks are missing the point of it all. Like last year, for example, when My birthday came around they threw a big party but can you believe it, I wasn't invited! Imagine! The guest of honor, and they forgot all about Me! Here they had begun preparing for the festivities two months in advance but when the big day came I was left out in the cold!

Well, it happened so many times in recent years I wasn't even surprised. Even though I wasn't invited I thought I'd just quietly slip in anyway. So I came in and stood off to the side. Everyone was drinking, laughing and having a grand time, when all of the sudden, in came this fellow in a bright red suit wearing a phony white beard and shouting "Ho Ho Ho!" Everyone cheered, all the children came running over to him, excitedly yelling "Santa!" You would have thought that he was the guest of honor and the whole holiday was in his honor! Then he began telling them the most ridiculous stories you've ever heard ... Finally I had to leave, walked out of the door, but no one even noticed that I had gone.

I'm planning on holding my own party! How about that? It's going to be the biggest, most fantastic feast, you could possibly imagine! I'm not saying the date yet, but I'm sending out invitations now anyway because I know you'll want to come. There's going to be room for everyone who wants to come! I'll reserve you a seat of honor (**Matthew 8:11**) So hold on to your hat because when everything is ready I'm going to spring it as a big surprise and a lot of people are going to be left out in the cold because they didn't answer my invitation! Let me know right away if you'd like to come and I'll reserve you a place and write your name in large golden letters in My BIG GUEST BOOK!!

Much Love,
Jesus

Quoteworthy

"Before God changes our circumstances, He wants to change our hearts."

Warren Wiersbe - An American pastor, Bible teacher, conference speaker and a prolific writer of Christian literature and theological works.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the

Word of God. **"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows."** – **Galatians 6:7**

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the **Overcomers for Christ** ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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Time
By B.F.

Let me be a light in a dark world. To share my testimony with those who believe that the Lord is God and allow me to stand beside Him daily. To reflect in His Word not the things of the past in which we came from and dwell in His presence daily.

All I've got is time
Time to sit, time to think
Could I swim, would I sink?

Who I love, what I hate
What I do wrong and how to set it straight.
How to live and keep from doing wrong?
Draw pictures, write something, or just sing songs.

Watching the clock, lost touch with life,
Got caught up in drama, pain, struggle, and strife.
Tick-tock, tick-tock, it's really running out
Life's too short; you better figure what it's about.

I guess you could call this time.

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

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