

Let Loving Hearts Enthroned Him

Central Houston IWA!

Holiday Publication

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Forward

The Central Houston chapter of Inspirational Writers Alive (IWA!) would like to wish you a very merry Christmas! As members of IWA!, we are committed to glorifying Jesus Christ by spreading the gospel message through creative writing of all forms. We pray that in this short collection of heartfelt writings about our blessed Savior, our loving hearts shall enthrone Him. May your heart be opened to His Glory, may you be awakened to see life through His eyes, and may His Kingdom be established in you forever! Amen.

"... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:17-19, NAS)

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ONE MINUTE TO CHRISTMAS

(A 60 SECOND PUBLIC SERVICE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT)

By Carl Grijalba

Christmas will arrive in exactly one minute. Christmas shoppers, you have enjoyed seeing the falling snow, the Christmas lights, eating cookies and candies, decorating the tree, and attending the Christmas Eve candlelight service. You still have time to receive by faith, the free "Jesus Is The Reason For The Season" gift. With 45 seconds left, why not accept right now, your free "Jesus Is The Reason For The Season" gift? Make your first day as a Christian begin the moment it is midnight. Accept the gift by faith so your sins will be forgiven and you will have eternal life. So with 30 seconds remaining, don't listen to the lies and deceptions of the world. Giving presents, caroling, mailing Christmas cards, and just being nice to people won't get you into heaven. Only accepting the "Jesus Is The Reason For The Season" gift will get you in. You still have time to start your Christian life on Christmas Day. With 15 seconds remaining, please don't celebrate Baby Jesus' birthday without Him, missing the real meaning of Christmas, like so many people do. If led, accept the gift now! Then you can rejoice in Him like the angels did that holy night in Bethlehem. It is midnight! Time is up! Merry Christmas!



O WORSHIP THE KING

By Martha Rogers

Toys, Christmas trees and candy canes
A hint of frost kissing window panes,
Santa Claus with his sleigh bells ringing,
Carolers their noels singing.
People scurrying store to store
In an effort to buy gifts galore
With a frenzied haste to get it all done.
Children are laughing, having great fun.
They know Santa is on his way
To bring them gifts and toys that day.

One star outshining them all
Comes to rest over a simple stall.
A mother's prayer, whispered low
As shepherds come and bow.
Angels sing in the sky above
Proclaiming the arrival of peace and love.
Three Kings see the star one night
And travel far to see the source of light.
Bowing down with gifts they brought,
They worship the babe as they ought.

As Christmas comes this year,
Which scene will you hold dear?
Will you see a baby small
Lying in a manger stall?
He came to heal our sorrow
And give us hope for tomorrow
Bow down and worship the King
Who gave His life so we may sing
Of a Savior willing His life to give
So all who believe may eternally live.

O worship the King, born this day!



HOW DO YOU REALLY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

By Carl Grijalba

God has always existed.

God created the heavens and the earth.

God created Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, giving birth to sin and death.

But God appointed Mary, a virgin, to give birth to His son.

His name would be Jesus, who would save people from their sins.

Since that holy night in Bethlehem, His birth has been celebrated around the world. So how do you celebrate His birth?

Do you celebrate more externally to be accepted by others, or more internally to please the Lord?

Do you enjoy falling snowflakes more than being grateful for the falling manna that expressed God's love for His people?

Do you enjoy spending more time buying presents than spending more time in His presence?

Do you look forward to a kiss under the mistletoe more than reflecting on how Judas' kiss began Jesus' final steps to Calvary?

So how do you really celebrate Christmas?



THE BIRTH OF A KING

By Carl Grijalba

Jesus was born in Bethlehem on that holy night as
Mary and Joseph realized they were seeing the face of God.

An angel of the Lord told the shepherds of the birth of the newborn king.
Then the angels in the heavens above praised God.

Ever since that night, His birth has been celebrated around the world.
His birth brought hope, light, and salvation to the world.

Let us rejoice in His birth so our children will remember that the Baby Jesus
is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

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A NEW STAR

LYONS 10.10.11.11

Words by Richard S. Barnett, 2013

Attr. Johann Michael Haydn (1737–1806); al

1. A new star bla - zes ov - er Judah's hills;
 2. This golden night to which all nights have led
 3. True heir of Da - vid You are, Shepherd King:

All gaze filled with awe: such pure light it spills
 Lights the way to find a poor sta - ble bed —
 Your praises Your Fa - ther's hosts came to sing.

On lone - ly hill - sides where shepherds tend their sheep, While
 A manger full of hay all fra - grant and deep, And
 To find us, Lord Je - sus, You'll seek far and deep. Great

Beth - le - hem has no - where their King may sleep.
 sweet Ma - ry lays her new - born Son to sleep.
 King of Love, make us Your peo - ple to keep.



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY

(QUIZ)

By Marriana Martinez

** Ref. Matthew 2 and Luke 2.

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. Who did the angel visit?
3. What news did the angel bring?
4. What did the multitude of heavenly hosts that later appeared with the angel say?
5. Who else visited the Babe?
6. What guided them?
7. What did the wise men see and do when they went to worship Jesus?
8. What gifts did they bring to the Christ child?

(See the last page for the answers.)



BABY FEET

By Diana Battista

Rising Dawn
New Life
Cradled in a mother's hand
Secure in soft repose
Baby Feet
Innocent
Tender
Helpless
Trusting

Dragon's Ire
Slaughter
Egypt-bound and back again
On the straight and narrow
Baby Feet
Adoring
Righteous
Humble
Selfless

Oh Lord, where will they tread?

Engulfed in Abba's Joy

Crossing the stones of Abba's courts
Harkening to His call
Listening to the Father's heart
Living for His Glory

And then...

"You are My beloved Son.
In You I am well-pleased."

Making the Way for wayward man
Paying the price for life
Denying Death the spoils of war
Reigning beside God's throne

Cherished Sons
Brothers
Cradled in the Father's hand
Ensconed in Heaven's Peace
Baby Feet
Rebellious
Lazy
Willful
Proud

Abba's Love
Longing
Past forgotten, no offense
Gathered to His bosom
Baby Feet
Forgiven
Hopeful
Content
Trusting

Christ crucified – for what?

Shod with eternal life

Suggested Reading: Isaiah 7:15, 9:6-7, Mark 1:11, Luke 2



THANKSGIVING

By Donna Branham

As I approach the holiday set apart for thanking God for everything in my life, I am made aware to be thankful not only for the good, but also the bad.

"Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:5-7, HCSB)

Lord, thank You for the "bad" things in my life – the memories of hurting times. For it was during those hurting times that You were there with me, and You experienced every pain, every disappointment, every time that my heart was broken and torn in two. You tell me to be thankful for everything, even those heart-wrenching times.

The time when You and I wrestled was just like when Jacob wrestled with You. You left Jacob with a limp when You touched the socket of his thigh. He pleaded with You to bless him. Could it be he was trying to get Your blessing on his life because of his "trickery" against his brother and daddy? I remember our wrestling match, and how dirty I felt being so close to You. You are holy and I felt unholy. You are righteous and I felt the opposite. Then, when I looked into Your eyes, I could see that You were not going to let me go on my own. You meant business with me, and no matter how dirty I felt – You were not letting go of me.

All those weaknesses in me were a result of sin. I had been born into Adam's race, which was cursed by God because of disobedience. Sin is death, and I was dying as a result of sin. When I finally gave into Your arms of strength – gazed upon Your face full of determination, I could see Your love for me was genuine and real. I am Yours, and You are mine.

Thank You for not giving up on me!! Yes, and thank You for the wounds to help me remember You were there with me all the time.

I can now thank You for Your pain, along with the wounds You suffered on our cross together. I realize that no matter how painful my hurts were – Yours were more excruciating. In the pain that You experienced, all Your sockets (joints) were out of place; Your face was so beaten it was

unrecognizable. It was most difficult to raise Your body from Your nailed feet, to even get a breath.

When I think my pain hurts – I am reminded that Your pain was more.

Thank You for the misunderstandings. You know all about that!! People called You hurtful names when You were a child – misunderstanding why You were here, and exactly who You were – the Son of God.

Thank You for my parents' mistakes in raising me. Now that I am an adult, You have helped me see that they had unresolved broken hearts of their own, without answers to their own problems.

Thank You for the hurting childhood memories that won't go away. You have shown me that everybody has experienced these, and when I feel unafraid to share these with others – it helps them feel free to share theirs. We all have experienced heart-wrenching brokenness.

Thank You, my gracious Lord for the hurting times as well as the restoring times in my life.

You have helped me see that:

- 1) You are dead serious when You say that You love me.
- 2) You will never let me go from Your strong loving embrace.
- 3) You will continue creating in me a new heart, healing wounds, which may leave scars (like those on Your hands and feet).

Thank You Lord for the good and the bad of life.

Thank You for the peace of God that guards my heart and mind in You.



A GIFT OF LIFE

By Jaycie Crawford

God made me to love.
I'm as gentle as a dove.
I cry real tears
Even though you can't hear.
I squirm and I kick.
Sometimes it makes you sick.

Chorus:

Each day, a gift of life
Each day, a gift of life

I hiccup, I sneeze
I hear you giggle in between.
You dance and sing
Like a butterfly with giant wings.
I'm growing inside;
Touch me, see through my eyes.

[Chorus]

But for now I'll stay in the safety of your womb.
I'll suck my thumb and know God gave me you.

[Chorus]



CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND

By Diana Battista

Christmas – more than any other time of the year – is a time when we remember the Love of God, and we rejoice in and celebrate His Love by loving those around us. We dedicate the holiday to sharing meals with family and friends, and to the exchange of presents. Christmas began with a gift from God: Jesus Christ, the Presence of God in the flesh. And God's gift just keeps on giving now that Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit – the Presence of God – to dwell in us. In the puzzle below, look for 20 gifts from God that come with His Christmas Presence.



Authority

Faith

Faithfulness

Forgiveness

Gentleness

Goodness

Hope

Humility

Joy

Kindness

Love

Patience

Peace

Perseverance

Rest

Righteousness

Self Control

Selflessness

Trust

Victory

THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK

Christmas Quiz:

1. In Bethlehem in Judea.
2. The shepherds living out in the fields.
3. "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 10-12, NAS)
4. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Luke 2: 14, NAS)
5. The Magi, also known as the wise men, came from the East to Jerusalem to worship Him.
6. The star of Bethlehem in the East.
7. Upon arriving at the house they saw the Child with His mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him.
8. Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Word Search:

