

THE WAR CRY

Official Organ of The Salvation Army in Southern Africa ~ R5.00 ~ 133rd Year ~ Issue No 5843 ~ December 2016



From the Editor

An old fashioned Christmas

Whenever I think of Christmas I remember amazing days when as a child I would wonder at the beauty that comes out into my world at Christmas. Having experienced a cold winter Christmas in England and a beautiful sun filled one in South Africa yet seeing Christmas lights and beautifully decorated stores in both areas, reminding us to shop, shop, and shop again with very little to remind us of the ultimate gift from God.

This December I would like you to imagine an old fashioned Christmas with tales of a baby born that would change the world. A Father so excited and proud at the birth of His child that He sent angels to sing and a star so bright it led men from a faraway land to the tiny town of Bethlehem.

The purpose of the angels and the star were to lead people to the King of Kings. As I look at the world in which we live I am reminded that God still uses angels who bring light into darkness and remind people of the King of Kings and the saving gift of Christ.

We have come to the end of another year. The Salvation Army saw the year out with a bang – not a whimper. We celebrated at Congress and now we go out into the highways and the byways and we introduce men and women, boys and girls to the Christ born in a stable – destined for greatness, on a journey that would include miracles, close friends, betrayal and death on a cross. But at the end of that journey a place at the right hand of God.

May this Christmas be a Christ filled moment that reminds you of a simple truth God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but enjoy everlasting life. John 3:16

May the love of
God infill you
The obedience
of Christ
encourage you
The blessing of the
Spirit rest on you
This busy
Christmas time.



Major
Margaret Stafford



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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love for God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.



Message from the General

For children in many countries around the world, Christmas is a time of great anticipation and excitement.

Christmas is rightly emphasised with the joy of children, for the wonderful story of Christmas is about the coming of the Christ-child of whom we read in Luke's Gospel:

'At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David.

He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger - there was no room for them to stay in the inn. There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord!

And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and laying in a manger." Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds when back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

(Luke 2:1-20 Good News).

The Christmas story is for all people of all ages and cultures, and is about how God came into our ordinary, everyday world as a little baby so that he could live with us and share in our lives. The coming of Christ at Christmas changed the course of human history.

We love to look at what we think is an idyllic and beautiful picture of that first Christmas. Yet a stable is hardly a good place for a baby to be born. The reality is that there was no room for Jesus.

That reality is still true today with the over-commercialisation of Christmas to the point where most of our time, energy and attention is focused on other things. We are so busy that we have no space or time left to remember that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Christ-child.

God came into the world for the poor, ordinary people, not just for kings and princes. The announcement of the angels concerning the birth of God's Messiah is to a group of shepherds. What a wonderful thought that God came into the reality of our human existence and came, without discrimination, for the humble, ordinary people.

James Irwin, one of the few astronauts to have walked on the moon, was asked about his experiences in space. He spoke about the importance of space exploration and how mankind has been helped with medical research, new technologies and a greater understanding of the universe in which we live.

He went on to describe the wonder of gazing at our small blue planet from such a distance in space and realising just how beautiful and unique it is. He also spoke about the wonder of standing on the moon in 1971 and seeing an earthrise. He said that it is important for the good of mankind that it is technically possible for a man to walk on the moon, but how much more important it is that God, in Jesus, came into our world and walked upon earth. The arrival of Jesus in our world makes many things possible: it is possible for us to know hope and love; to enjoy a personal relationship with God the Creator; to experience forgiveness for the wrong things that we do; and it is possible for us to experience a sense of peace and belonging in this troubled world.

Sadly, we see still so much injustice, hate, violence and corruption in the world that at times we are brought to utter despair. If only the world would see and take hold of the greatest gift that God gives us in Jesus.

The words of Major Joy Webb's song 'Come into our world!' reflect a longing and a plea, for without God our world is a sorry place:

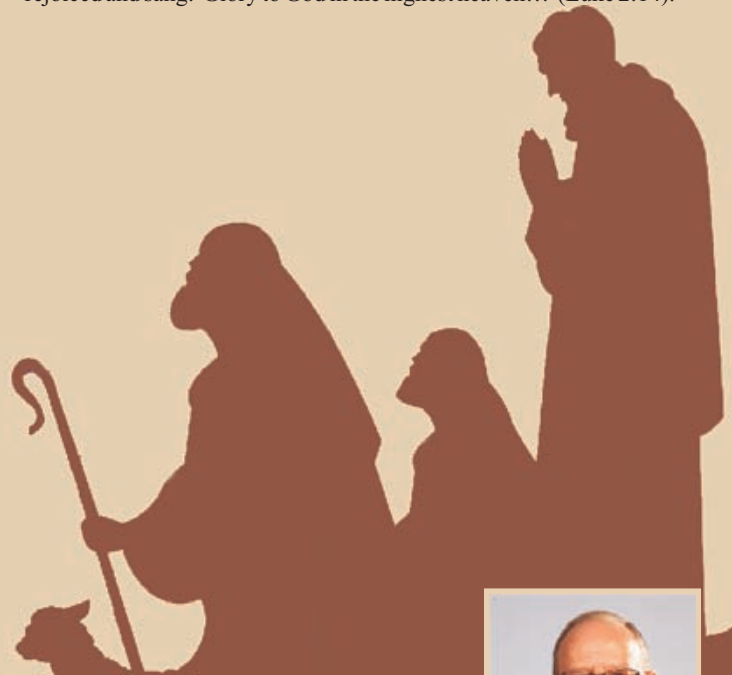
All around us, seemingly, darkness holds its sway;
Truth and love are faltering, peace in disarray;
And if we needed you, we need you now!

Come into our world,
Come into our world, now, Lord Jesus!

People sit in loneliness, children cry for bread;
Men fight men in hatred, by suspicion led;
And if we needed you, we need you now!

Faced with such confusion, hope has slipped away;
Men have stopped believing, forgotten how to pray;
And if we needed you, we need you now!

Thankfully it does not need to be like this, our world can be different, but if that is to happen it requires each of us to experience a change of heart, to be changed and transformed so that the life God intended for us becomes a reality through his Son, Jesus. No wonder that the angels rejoiced and sang: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven...!' (Luke 2:14).



**General
André Cox**

Message from the Territorial Commander

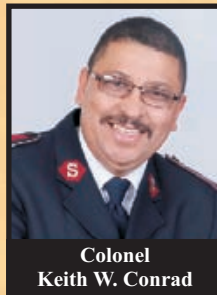
Preparing for the Christ of Christmas

Since the beginning of October, large chain-stores and shopping malls have been preparing for Christmas. Christmas trees and lights with all the Christmas trimmings have been retrieved from store rooms, dusted and rigged up to herald the advent of Christmas. Of course it is all about money, sensitizing customers and clientele about the need to then already, three months before Christmas, stock up for the holidays, before the rush begin. Throughout the year, parents have been 'lay-buying' clothes and gifts for their children, so when Christmas arrives, what all has been paid for in advance, can be delivered and enjoyed.

Isn't it ironic to note that more than 2000 years ago, the coming of Jesus, the Saviour of the world, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, was foretold many years before the event took place so to prepare man's heart to receive him? Yet, when the time was fully come, they did not recognize him.

We read in Isaiah 9: 6 "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace." But when Jesus was born in the manger, the world was unconcerned, except for a few shepherd boys in the field and the Magi from the East, and a choir of angels from heaven announcing the most wonderful event ever to take place in the history of mankind, God became flesh and pitched his tent among us!

For two thousand years on, year after year after year, we are reminded by all the lights and the trimmings that, something took place that would change the world forever – the Saviour was born - that a light came out of darkness, no light no hope had we, till Jesus came from heaven our light and hope to be!



Colonel
Keith W. Conrad

"Jesus came to his own and his own did not receive him" – John 1:11. The world into which Jesus came, wasn't ready to receive him, although people were looking ahead for a Saviour, and for a Messiah who would come to save his people from their sins whilst religious leaders were looking and waiting for a Messiah who would come to restore the kingdom of David.

Whilst all the glitz and glamor long before Christmas would finally arrive, tells the story of the Saviour being born so long ago, the world continues to pass by unconcerned and disinterested. Darkness continues to reign, yet the light has come! People continue to look for answers from everything else, yet Jesus is the answer, like the Psalmist says in Psalm 121 verse 1; "I lift up mine eyes to the mountains, where does my help comes from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

Jesus has come. He is the Christ of Christmas. He is the answer to all we need today. He is the light of the world, the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace, whom the world needs to recognize and receive! He is among us! He is in you and me dear brother and sister in Christ! We are His witnesses – Acts 1:8 and, "we are to God the aroma of Christ!" – II Corinthians 2: 15 but, does the world see Him? Does the world experience the promised Christ of the Bible?

I believe we as, The Salvation Army have what it takes to present Jesus to those who are searching for Christ. We have what it takes to be the light in the darkness in our communities, because we have the Christ of Christmas, in fact we must be the Christ of Christmas in the world today, as the song we love to sing in The Salvation Army says;

O is not the Christ 'midst the crowd of today,
Whose questioning cries do not cease?
And will he not show to the hearts that would know
The things that belong to their peace?
But how shall they hear if the preacher forbear
Or lack in compassionate zeal?
Or how shall hearts move
With the Master's own love,
Without his anointing and seal?

Except I am moved with compassion,
How dwelleth Thy spirit in me!
In word and in deed
Burning love is my need,
I know I can find this in Thee.

My dear comrades, you and I are "the Christ 'midst the crowd of today!" The Christ of compassion and love. The Christ who came to seek and to save the lost. Let us this Christmas and beyond, live in such a way, that people will recognize the promised Messiah in you and me. I pray that people will receive the Christ of Christmas, because of His Spirit in you and me!

May you have a blessed Christmas!

Territorial Commander's Manifesto

Boundless Rejuvenation - Re-doing the things we did at first!

With the 'Rejuvenation' congress slowly fading into history and memories of 'God-inspired' moments still lingering on the edges of our minds, we look at the past with a great sense of pride in being the Army of God – The Army of Salvation, brought into existence by God in this land of ours in 1883, through the obedience and commitment of only three pioneering officers, to advance the Army like a veld fire across the length and breadth of South Africa, in later years crossing borders into neighbouring countries Zimbabwe, Mozambique and into the interior of the rest of the Southern part of the Africa! God raised up an Army of officers and soldiers who over these many years established Army corps and centres in many communities. They preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ without fear or prejudice leading thousands of converts to Jesus, so establishing its evangelical and social ministries in Southern Africa.

Throughout these years, we have seen God transforming lives through the power of His Holy Spirit, and He is not done yet! The world is still needing us. Christ is still leading us. Comrades, let us be true! The Salvation Army in South Africa has endless opportunities for transformation. South Africa needs us and as a people of God, we have what it takes to bring about transformation... we have Jesus! We can and we must "REJUVENATE THE NATION!"

We find ourselves in troubled times. Our country is bleeding. The unemployment rate is not improving, which causes poverty levels in our communities to escalate. This is a recipe for increased criminal and violent activities. Communities have become battle grounds where gangsters are daily at war with one another, for control of the drug market in their turf. Our children are caught up in these activities and many have sadly succumbed under these pressures. Corruption has become the accepted norm in business dealings and political circles and has corrupted the moral fiber of our society. No one is accountable to anyone. After twenty two years of democracy, racial intolerance is still a concerned feature in our society.

My dear comrades, this is still an issue of concern in our society, but it is a picture none the less that is real and exists in our beloved country. And it is in the midst of this bleakness and darkness that God is still calling us as The Salvation Army, to be the light that must pierce the darkness!

MANIFESTO:

I have a vision of an Army caught up in a "BOUNDLESS REJUVENATION", fit for our God-given purpose, to be an Army of Salvation, getting back to the basics, 'doing the things we did at first' – returning to our first love (Revelation 2:1-7). **We must Reclaim, Revive, Restore and Renew!**

As The Salvation Army Southern Africa Territory;

We must Rejuvenate our Salvationism!

We are The Salvation Army. We can and must be nothing else! The Salvation Army with its unique distinctions has been called into existence by God alone and it is by God alone that we will continue to exist; doing what we have been called to do! But if we are to continue to be used by God to make a difference, then we must 'return to our first love'.

First and foremost, we must revive ourselves as a Holiness People, a people saved and made holy by the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God. When this happens, it will filter down to every area of life.

We must aspire to live holy, sanctified lives. The condition of the world around us calls us to holy living and to be different. Being witnesses for Jesus means being saved and sanctified! The Apostle Paul calls upon us in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." God calls us to separateness. In 2 Corinthians 6: 17 Paul reminds us of God's call to His people; "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and my daughters."

To be effective in our mission to save other souls, we must deepen our spiritual lives.

Comrade Salvationists, holiness must touch every aspect of our lives. It must be **Personal** and it must be **Practical**. What we believe about holiness we must be evidenced in our daily living. This must permeate not only through our personal lives, but through our business activities at every level of Salvation Army administration and in how we relate to each other. As a people of God, we are accountable to Him for all of our actions, but we are also accountable to each other!

At the beginning of my tenure as territorial commander, in an interview with the former War Cry Editor, I said two things will be key for me during my time in office and those are, **Accountability** and **Transparency**. This will and must be feature high on everyone's agenda. **We must be held accountable for and, not be afraid to be transparent in our spiritual lives to each other. We must build deeper relationships with God and the people around us.** Accountability and transparency must and will be called for at every level of leadership and ministry. The Southern Africa Territory will be known as a "Corruption free Zone!" We must fight corruption at every level in our movement. Corruption will not be tolerated and to this end we will commit ourselves.

We must revive ourselves, by committing ourselves to a lifestyle of discipleship! Transformation of ourselves and others comes through the daily application of God's Word into our lives. It is only when we are truly committed in our relationship with Jesus through the reading and application of His Word and through a consistent prayer life that we will become more like Jesus! We must know who we are. As Jesus said that although we are in the world, we are not to be of the world. We belong to God's kingdom. Therefore we must live by God's kingdom principles.

We must give focused attention to revive our Corps ministries in communities where there is so much darkness and need of Jesus. As well as where we have withdrawn our troops due to a lack of human and financial resources. I am committed and calling every Salvationist to commit to rejuvenate, reclaim and revive our work in communities where there is so much darkness and hopelessness.

We must commit ourselves to integrated mission! Our commitment will be for the transformation of the whole person through the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The Saving of Souls, Growing of Saints and the Serving of Suffering Humanity, will continue to be our mission and if we are to be successful in this mission. If we are to be require the commitment of every officer and soldier, to giving ourselves whole heartedly to God's will for the salvation of every person.

We must commit our corps and centres to infiltrate communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ; with our 'heart to God and our hand to man!'

As we have concluded the **Territorial Strategic Plan**, we celebrated and gave thanks to God for the implementation of over 50% of tasks, which have shown improvement in all the five key areas of the TSP. I am calling on all Salvationists to not give up but that we persevere and embrace the new Territorial Mission Plan, which will be launched in March 2017, and run for the next three years.

Through the new TMP, we will have a focused attention on 'who we are to be' and 'what we are to do', as The Salvation Army. There will be continuity as the five key areas will remain with an added key area – Evangelism and Discipleship.

Comrades and Friends of The Salvation Army, it is my earnest prayer that we will experience a 'BOUNDLESS REJUVENATION' as we give ourselves fully to God and His purposes for us as The Salvation Army. God will use our commitment and devotion to Him, to effect changes in our communities and ultimately our nation. I pray that each one of us experience a total transformation by His Holy Spirit, that we will be The Salvation Army that will rejuvenate the nation! Let us heed the call of Jesus in Revelation 2: 5 return to our first love – "Repent and do the things we did at first!"

God help us to this end as we commit ourselves to 'lift up the banner on high...and, 'forward into battle go!'

God bless you.

I remember Christmas as a little girl growing up in Cape Town as something special, a time of happiness. The house was decorated with all sorts of trimmings which my mother had prepared long before Christmas. She would buy Christmas hampers, and buy new clothes for us. I recall with joy the excitement of getting up on Christmas morning to find that Father Christmas had left toys under the tree for us.

Christmas day tradition always started with going to the Corps early in the morning wearing our new clothes. This was followed by a special Christmas lunch with different kinds of meat, curries, trifle and more. Whether you visited family or friends the table was always spread!

I love Christmas trees because they remind me of my own heritage growing up, we always had a Christmas tree in the house and at the centre of our Christmas traditions was the story of Jesus birth.

The message of Jesus Christ is more than two thousand years old but it will never grow old. It brings to mind the song "Give me that old time religion, its good enough for me."

The Christmas message is something of value that we pass onto our children, grandchildren and everyone that needs to hear the word of God.

In Luke 1:26-38 we read of Mary's encounter with the angel of God. The angel appeared to Mary with a special task for her, which not only shocked her, but seemed to be impossible as well.

We read in Luke 1:34 "How can this be Mary asked the angel, since I am a virgin? The angel answered the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."

Each one of us has been chosen for a special task but sometimes we are like Mary and say "How can this be?"

Mary must have given this message some thought because we see the change in her attitude in Luke 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant, May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

We notice three things in this passage:

1. **Mary's Call** – she was called to give birth to the Son of God. A task that would scare most of us but God had

a purpose and plan for her life. Moses was called to lead the Israelites and he felt inadequate to do it, God said to Moses in Exodus 3:12 "I will be with you..."

We are all called to different ministries, with different tasks for each one of us.

What is God calling you to do? Maybe at your Corps, in your community, at work, a special task to do this Christmas - maybe doing something extra for those in need or who are lonely this Christmas.

2. **Mary's Concern** – "How can this be I am a virgin". Sometimes God is calling us to do a task that may seem to be way beyond what we think we are capable of doing. We start to marvel and doubt whether this could really be. But the moment we accept the task we are surprised at what God can do through us.

3. **Mary's Commitment** to the task assigned to her – I am the Lord's servant may it be to me as you have said. Mary was just an ordinary young girl who entrusted herself into God's hands. By trusting him with her future, she made herself available for God's purpose and plan. He takes ordinary people like you and me and makes us extraordinary people.

"God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called." Nothing is impossible with God – Matthew 19:26 "....With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible."

May God help us to be faithful to our own calling, the chorus of song 706 in our songbook says, just where He needs me, my Lord has place me, and since He found me by love He bound me to serve Him joyfully. We cannot say we are called by God and murmur when He sends us to go and do the work. We must be faithful to our calling.

This is an old fashioned Christmas message with a new meaning for each one of us.

During the busyness of this festive season may we not lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas. Make Him the centre of all you do, after all that is why we celebrate Christmas.

Wishing you a Christ centred Christmas and a blessed New Year.



Colonel
Yvonne Conrad

An old fashioned Christmas

Message from the Territorial President of Women's Ministries



Home for Christmas!



Colonel
Marieke Venter
TPWM Sri Lanka

“Joseph... you have to go home!”

“Home? To Bethlehem?”

“Yes, everyone has to go home for the census. There will be no excuses. And you have to take Mary.”

“But it's a bad time! The baby is almost due...”

This is my reconstruction of what may have taken place behind the scenes around that first Christmas. For Joseph and Mary, “going home” to Bethlehem was a difficult and risky journey, but it was all part of the fulfilment of God's great plan of Salvation.

In this age of migration and globalization, thousands of people make journeys home (wherever home may be!) in the days leading up to Christmas. Christmas is a time for family and a time for togetherness. I will be amongst the ones who will travel home to be with my loved ones this year. I am grateful and counting the days! I will be making my lists, shopping for gifts, packing my cases and as December draws nearer I will hardly be able to contain my excitement about going home and embracing my daughters, sons-in-law and that precious grandson. I love Skype and we keep in touch often, but to feel them near is always beyond description for me. And to spend Christmas together will be an answer to my prayers.

We left South Africa five years ago for an appointment in Bangladesh, and we currently serve as Salvation Army Officers on the beautiful island of Sri Lanka, where Buddhism is the main religion, but where Christians love to celebrate Christmas with nativities, lights, trees and carols, and neighbours of other religions often happily join in with the festivities. Celebrations in Sri Lanka are elaborate and enthusiastic, colourful and bright. There will be music, the familiar carols as well as some lovely traditional Sri Lankan ones, sung with typical melody and rhythm. There will be rich flavours, spices blending with the fragrance of coconut, and there will be plenty of sweetness! And importantly, Christmas will be a great time for Sri Lankan salvationists to reach out to others with the Gospel of Jesus, through acts of love, service and kindness.

As for me, I'm checking that I have my passport and air ticket, because this year I'll be home for Christmas! I will rejoice in the warmth and love of family, and the traditions, sounds and flavours of a real South African Christmas.

Amongst the festivities, I'll be remembering Joseph and Mary and their journey “home” for that first Christmas, and they will remind me that all my journeys are in God's hand. They are all part of His plan, and I'm thankful. I am reminded of the words of Psalm 121:7,8 - “The LORD... will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”



EXPECT BIRTH PAINS

EXPECT GOD'S PATIENCE

Matthew 24: 1-35

2 Peter 3: 1-15a

What to Expect When You're Expecting: Six service plans for Advent and Christmas

Week one 27th November

Advent is the time that both ends and begins the Christian calendar. So often the focus during Advent is Jesus' first Advent—his coming as a baby born in Bethlehem. Our plan was to draw on some Scripture passages that compare the second coming of Christ to the pain and joy of childbirth.

EXPECT BIRTH PAINS

Scripture: Matthew 24:1-35

Advent Candle Lighting

Lighting a candle is a simple yet profound act. It is a testimony to the power of light over darkness. When we look at the world around us we can see pain in suffering. But as we light the first candle of Advent we see that the light of one candle shines brightly in the darkness. As we light the candle, we begin our journey to Christmas in anticipation of the day when Christ will return in glory.

[Light one purple candle.]

Today we light the candle of hope. We press forward in our world of struggles and hardship as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ, who is our hope now and forever.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope" (1 Pet. 1:3). In our hope of Christ's return we find our strength for each new day.

Prayer: Dear God, as we light this candle and begin this new Advent season, shine the light of your hope into our hearts and into our world. Amen.

Suggested Song: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" SB 79

Week 2

EXPECT GOD'S PATIENCE

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:1-15a

Waiting is hard in a fast-paced society. We want the stoplight to change quickly, the grocery line to move fast, and Christmas morning to arrive soon. We forget that before good things happen, preparations must be made.

[Light two purple candles.]

Today we light the candle of peace, knowing that Jesus alone can make us feel at rest in this chaotic world. He calms our hearts as we await his second coming.

In Philippians 4, Paul writes, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." May God grant us peace as wait for Christ's glorious return.



EXPECT GODLESSNESS



2 Timothy 3: 1-17

Prayer: Dear God, give us the gift of Jesus and the Spirit so that our hearts can be calm and peaceful. Help us to know how close you are to us all the time, and help us to show you and your peace to other people too. Amen.

Song: "It came upon a midnight clear" SB 83

Week 3

EXPECT GODLESSNESS

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Advent Candle Lighting

Jesus is coming; shout for joy! In a world that finds pleasure in the abundance of material possessions, we find our true joy in Jesus Christ. We take joy this Christmas season as we look forward to his glorious return, when he will set us free from this godless age. Joy to the world is the message of the season.

[Light two purple candles and one pink candle.]

Today we light the candle of joy because the good news of Jesus' birth brings us and all people the greatest joy. In Luke 2:10, the angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord." May we experience the joy of God as we wait for Christ to return.

Prayer: Dear God, give us joy in our hearts now and forever. Help us to tell other people about this joy too. Amen.

Song: "Joy to the World" SB 84

EXPECT SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Romans 13: 8-14

Week 4

EXPECT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Scripture: Romans 13:8-14

Advent Candle Lighting

Out of darkness light shines. This light points us to the One whose love overcame the darkness of this world and whose love will be our light in the world to come. As we wait for Christ to return, we can see his love grow.

[Light three purple candles and one pink candle.]

Today we light the candle of love because we know that Jesus is love. It is our hope that his church will grow as we share his love with each other.

In Ephesians 4:15-16, Paul writes, When we "speak the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." May we grow in love as we await Christ's return.

Prayer: Dear God, we love you because we know that in Jesus you loved us first. As we light this candle, make us love each other more and more, and help us to tell about the love of Jesus to the whole world. Amen.

Song: Come thou long expected Jesus SB 79



Just do it!!

By Lt. Colonel Peck Koopman

No matter what tribe or nation it seems that deep with our DNA there is a need for a god. The peoples of the earth have many gods; some made with their own hands, some bought, some worship the stars or moon or long dead person.

The other universal characteristic is we all have feelings of guilt and wrong doing. They bring gifts of all sorts to their gods and seek forgiveness. **BUT** they cannot get forgiveness, no matter what they do, punishing their bodies, or costly gifts.

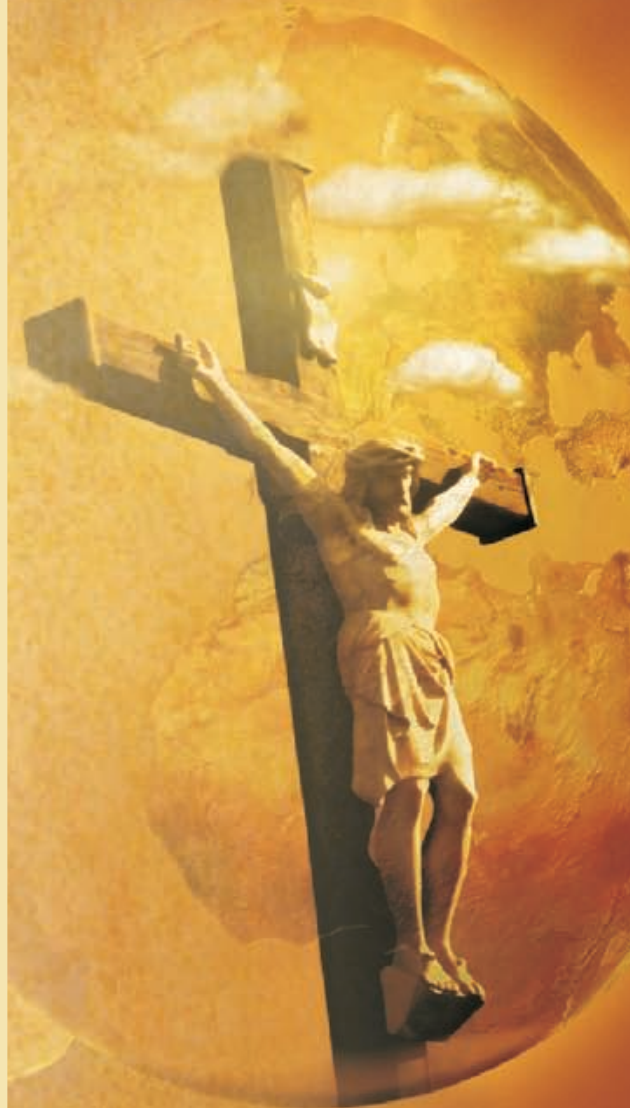
That's what Christmas is all about. God. The one only Living God, the Creator of the Universe, including you and I, can do anything. So God decided, that instead you and I trying to "pay" for our sins, He made himself into a human being.

All the way a human being, including living inside an earthly mother, born as any other baby, going through all the growing processes we have gone and are going through. **BUT** with one exception, He did not sin. He managed to live a life free of sin, as was the original intention for us.

This God, who became a human being, is called Jesus. You can read His story in the New Testament of the Bible. Not only did He live a truly human life, but He died like many people, except He died like sacrificial Lamb. You ask me "why?" Because He **ALSO** died on our behalf, and thus paid the penalty of our sinful ways.

Christmas is **NOT** about presents wrapped in colourful paper, boxed with ribbons and a sappy message on a tag; and lights on trees and decorations in the Malls.

Christmas is God's demonstration that He loves us and has the remedy for our guilt and sins. No longer do **WE** need to pay for our sins, Jesus did that on The Cross. God in human form, on that first Christmas thought about you! Will think of Him? Go to Him in prayer and asked Him to forgive you and come into your life. It will be the best thing you will ever do! Elsewhere in this publication you will the A B C of Salvation, the way to Jesus, use it! Just do it!



Picture: Diaguta | Dreamstime.com



The **A B C's** of Salvation

A Admit that you sin.



Your sin separates you from God and keeps you from Heaven. Every sin must be punished. Your punishment for sin is Hell.

Romans 3:10 • Revelation 21:8

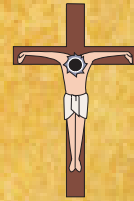
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23a

B Believe in Jesus.



Jesus Christ, God's own Son, came to die for your sins. His death on the cross can replace your death in Hell. He only asks that you believe Him.

John 3:16 • 2 Corinthians 5:21 • Isaiah 53:5-6

...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23b

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

Romans 5:8

C Choose to allow Jesus to save you.



God is waiting for you to receive His gift of salvation. If you ask Him, God will remove your sin and give you a home in Heaven!

John 14:1-2 • Titus 3:5-7 • John 1:12

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

For whosoever shall call upon th name of the Lord shall be saved

Romans 10:13



Congress Highlights
Rejuvenation

- RECLAIM
- REVIVE
- RESTORE
- RENEW





Kids page - Jesus is Born

A Christmas activity worksheet from ministry-to-children.com

connect the dots to see who was born in bethlehem

Unscramble the words

Why Did Jesus Come?

The
A E H T R F
 sent his

O N S
 to be the

R A S O I V
 of the

D R O W L

Complete the Bible verse

John 4:14
 Learn why God sent Jesus

Finish the story with the words in the pictures

M _____ & **J** _____
 travelled to

Swaddling

B _____



M _____ had a baby and named him

J _____. He was God's Son.

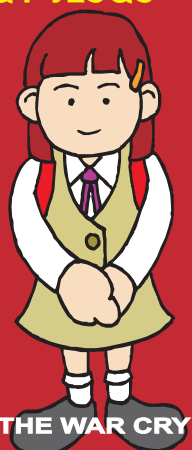
She placed **J** _____ in a **M** _____

which was a place for animals to eat.

He was wrapped in **S** _____

clothes, which were strips of cloth.

Bethlehem



THE WAR CRY



God showed his love for us by sending Jesus. How can you show God's love to other people? Put a check mark by each thing you will do.

- SEND A CARD
- GIVE A PRESENT
- TELL A FRIEND ABOUT JESUS



PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Martha Malinga (R) from Emangweni in Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division was promoted to glory on Wednesday 12 October 2016.



Major Roderick Malings ® from Emangweni in Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division was promoted to glory on Wednesday 5 October 2016.

PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN

Auxiliary Captains Mzamo & Nandipha Mambukwe, Corps Officers of Emangweni Corps in the Mpumalanga & Swaziland Division are promoted to the rank of Captain effective 09 October 2016.



Auxiliary Captains Emmanuel & Rosemary Mdluli, Corps Officers of Wembezi Corps, in the Mid KwaZulu-Natal Division are promoted to the rank of Captain effective 06 November 2016. At their Commissioning the Territorial Commander, Colonel Keith Conrad challenged the congregation to be the Salt of the earth.



PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF MAJOR Captain Monica Booramuponda, Corps Officer of Durban Central in MidKZN Division is promoted to the rank of Major effective 09 September 2016.



Territorial Gazette

Photo left: Colonel Lilian Hall (R) was promoted to glory on Saturday 05 November 2016. Colonel Lilian Hall retired from active service on the 1st March 1989. She entered Training College in 1947, King's Messengers Session and commissioned on the 4th May 1948. She served in different Corps appointments, Social Centers, Training College, Divisional Leadership role. Her last appointment was at THQ as a League of Mercy Secretary.

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