Christmas 2018 Founded 2008

## The Lamp Newsletter

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105 KJV).

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## REJOICE! REJOICE! Emmanuel – God is with Us!



## **Merry Christmas!**

We thank you for being our loyal readers of The Lamp Newsletter. The following page 2-4, was a Christmas card that we created in 2009. We sent out a few hundred of it to our family and friends. Many responded that they were touched by our greetings and the scripture. The scripture is ISAIAH 41:9B-16 NCV.

THE WORDS OF THAT SCRIPTURE ARE POWERFUL! LET THEM SPEAK TO YOUR HEART. GOD BLESS YOU, SIMMIE AND WANDA J. BURNSIDE



A Christmas Message

Long ago, an angel of the Lord came with a message to the shepherds. This good news of great tidings was to bring great joy to all the people. "Today your Savior was born…" Luke 2:11(NCV). They left their fields to see and worship the Christ Child.

The LORD always has a message for His people. Here is His message in Isaiah 41:9B-16 NCV. We are in challenging times, but the LORD has good news! Let us worship Him!

## **ONLY THE LORD CAN SAVE US**

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 41:9B-16 NCV

"I said, 'You are my servants.'

I have chosen you and have not turned against you.

So don't worry, because I am with you.

Don't be afraid, because I am your God.

I will make you strong and will help you;

I will support you with my right hand that saves you.

All those people who are angry with you

will be ashamed and disgraced.

Those who fought against you will vanish completely.

I am the LORD your God who holds your right hand.

And I tell you, 'Don't be afraid. I will help you.'

. . . do not be afraid even though you are weak as a worm.

I myself will help you," says the LORD.

The one who saves you is the Holy One of Israel.

Look, I have made you like a new threshing board with many sharp teeth.

So you will walk on mountains and crush them; you will make the hills like chaff.

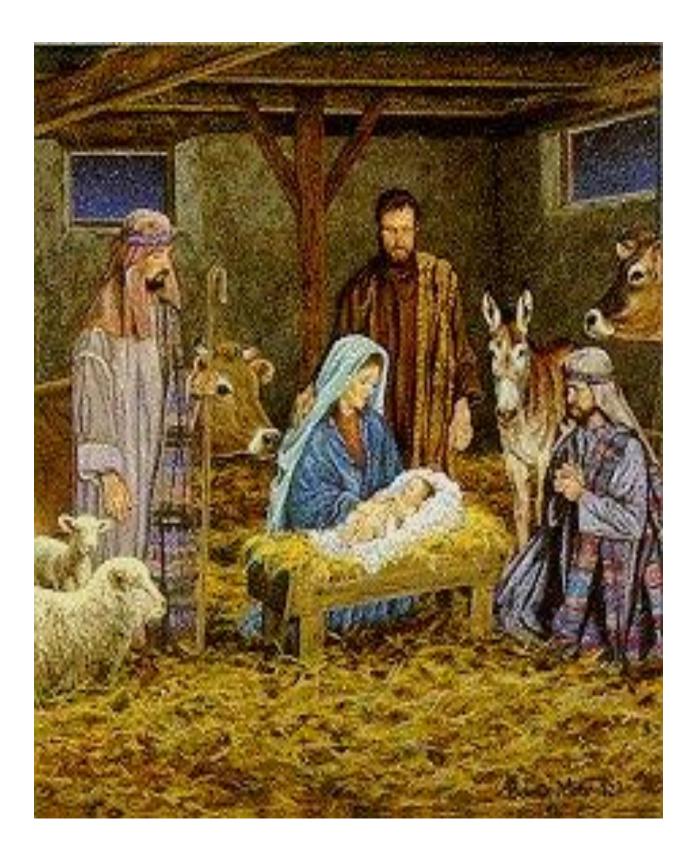
You will throw them unto the air, and the wind will carry them away; a windstorm will scatter them.

Then you will be happy in the LORD; you will be proud of the Holy One of Israel."

REJOICE! We CAN HAVE peace and hope. We have power in the Name of Jesus. We have authority. We are blessed! Christ our Savior is Lord!

Have a Glorious Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

**Burnside Production c2009** 



## It's Christmas!

by Wanda J. Burnside

Give Almighty God the glory

For all that He has done.

Thank Him for our Savior, Jesus Christ

His only begotten Son.

Praise the Lord of lords
For coming to this earth,
Thank Him with your whole heart
For giving you a second birth.

Rejoice, for He is so wonderful, Merciful, loving, kind and good! Shout for He has greatly blessed you All of the time like nobody else could.

Sing and sing songs of thanksgiving Like you have never done before! Dance before Him unashamedly Around and around on your floor.

It's Christmas!
The most glorious time is here,
Celebrate the King of kings
Do it right now
And throughout the year!

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May you and your family
Lift up your voice in praise
and thanksgiving for Jesus!
He is King of kings
and Lord of lords.
Give Him glory!
He is our Redeemer!
He is our Deliverer!
He is our Savior!

Have a Glorious Christmas.

We dearly love and appreciate you.

You have blessed and touched us in many ways.

We thank the Lord for you.

You are a precious heavenly gift!
With our love...



Simmie Lee and Wanda J. Burnside





## From Ms. Sandra Hickman

Australian Ministry Leader and Staff Writer

To my Lamp Family and our Beloved Readers, sending you BIG Christmas Love from all my family in Australia. May the Lord bless you!



## The Christmas Pudding!

Under the cover of darkness, a young woman heavily pregnant with her first child rode atop a donkey, being led by her husband. The only light they had was the stars in the night sky. The angel of the Lord had told them to leave, to go to Bethlehem in order to save their unborn baby son from certain death. This baby in the womb of Mary was no ordinary child, He was special. Perhaps His mother could not even imagine the full significance of the life that was coming ....yet she knew He would be an extraordinary child. Even the name of the baby was given by the angel of the Lord.



### ~ It was Jesus ~

Oh Christmas is such a wonderful season! We are truly blessed to live is this era of time on the earth. Not only do we have the wonderful Old Covenant words to dwell richly in our hearts, but we also have the better testament of Jesus, the New Covenant. The covenant of salvation through grace by faith - *Ephesians 2:8-9*. Wow.... we have the entire 66- book collection! It is the Blueprint of God. We get to learn it all. As much as the Bible holds, is ours to devour and savor like delicious Christmas pudding.

As a small girl, I remember the days when my mother and grandmothers would put a handful of sixpenny coins in the Christmas pudding. Truthfully, I never did like the mixed fruit in the pudding. But I always sidled up, spoon in hand with my desert bowl, to get my share of the little silver coins. Oh, what a thrill it was to dig through all that lovely pudding-cake, lathered with custard and lashes of cream to discover the bright shiny coins hidden within! After all, what other time of the year did we children find money in our food? Back then, sixpence went a long way at the corner store!

If we compare the Christmas pudding with the New Covenant, we can find quite a few analogies. The rich dark pudding was filled with promises. Of course, as a child it promised to be more delicious once I'd picked out the currants and sultanas! But let us look at the fruit inside. It is the same fruit of the vine which is spoken of in the Gospel of *John 15*. The Vinedresser's message is not just a good one, it's paramount when following Jesus. The Vinedresser is lovingly and carefully tending the branches of the vine, in order that they bear good fruit. In the same way, so it is for disciples of Jesus ... that's us! We are the branches, disciples of the Lord. This is surely the Good News of the Vine! The rich dark and fertile soil which sustained the fruit on the vine is comparable to the rich dark cake in the Christmas pudding!

The smooth yellow custard smothered the top of the pudding, drizzling down the sides, like rays of sunshine...The Son-shine of promise. Through childish eyes, the freshly whipped cream looked like freshly-fallen snow, mounted on top of the pudding.

What a beautiful sight. Let us not forget the silver sixpences. Silver in the Bible speaks of repentance and forgiveness. We have all been through the Refiner's fire and had the dross removed. We came out like bright shiny silver sixpenny pieces to discover the new "us" ... but we had to dig deep to find the silver.

So many wonderful ingredients are included. Butter and milk add consistency; sugar gives the perfect amount of sweetness. A pinch of salt adds to the flavor, along with exotic spices. The silky pure white flour is sifted, and eggs, symbolising the promise of new life, bind it all together. All these ingredients, when combined in one accord with the fruit of the vine, make up the Christmas pudding. A sprig of bright red mistletoe with its thorny leaves adorns the top of the pudding.

I guess as Christians we could be considered like that pudding. We are called to find consistency in our walk with Jesus. Some of us are binding groups together; some add more sweetness, and the palatable flavor of salt. Others are always preaching the new-life promise, spreading the Word of God. There are those who carry the aroma of exotic spices to the throne room as they willingly kneel in prayer. We are sifted by God like pure white flour. Together we are all the fruit-bearers, hand-grown and picked on the Vine. The red thorny-leafed mistletoe is symbolic of the thorny blood-stained crown of Christ. So as we dig in and enjoy the Christmas pudding this year, complete with the silver sixpenny coins, we will remember the cost and the blessing of Jesus, our beloved Vinedresser. *Hmmm, I think I won't be throwing out the fruit this year!* 

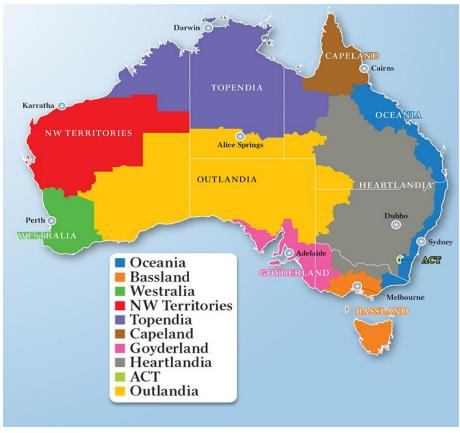
Have a blessed and happy Christmas feast, pudding and all!
Enjoy the fun, and lots of love with our families and friends.
But let us remember to be humble ~ and to give thanks.
The tree, decorations and the gifts, we know it's not about us.
It is His Birthday Celebration ...
Jesus, the one true Reason for the Season.



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## **AUSTRALIA**





## Christmas in Australia

- Christmas in Australia falls during the summer and during the long 6-week vacation from school.
- Many of the Australian families spend a large part of the day at the beach.



## 

#### A Knock at The Door

Have you ever been busy in your home doing this and that from amongst your list of daily chores, and then suddenly ... out of the blue, there is a knock at the door? You wonder, 'Who could that be?' You don't mind if it's the postman because all you need to do (after checking through the peep-hole if you have one!) is to open the door and sign for that package, that parcel or important letter; perhaps even a Christmas gift? The postman doesn't need to come in. He's not expecting to. He only came to deliver. You only need to interact with him at the door by signing for your delivery. That's fine...that visit is an okay one! But what happens when there's a knock at the door and it's a friend who you haven't seen for a long time and whom you ever expected to call right then, or even an official person, and your surroundings need attention?



That scenario has probably happened to most of us. We may feel ill at ease if our visitor expects to come in for a while. In our heart of hearts, we wish the person hadn't turned up at our door. We may normally waste no time in inviting them in, but on this occasion our minds may be in turmoil, with our thoughts being, `If only you could have let me know you were coming. Oh, my word! The house is a mess! Now's NOT a good time. There's stuff everywhere! I haven't vacuumed the carpet ... the place

is a STATE!' Our visitor has turned up out of the blue and may only be passing by for a short time, but we've been caught off guard. What will he/she think?

Perhaps we haven't redecorated our home for ages and weren't planning on having any visitors for some time yet, at least not until our home looked good, or at least better than it does at that moment. You know that feeling? In fact, forget the redecoration, if only it was lovely and tidy! We don't want someone coming when it's a mess. We don't want to give a wrong impression. We may have a sick loved one; we may be rushed off our feet keeping up with a full- or part-time job, or may have small children to take care of, and 101 other concerns - or at least many things from that list of 101! We forget that every person's home, at some point, needs a clean and a tidy-up. Things fall. Dust gathers. In the daily rut, things can end up here and there, and there can be a mountain of concerns which mean we just don't get around to it all when we would like to. For just that moment in time, we can't accommodate the thought of anyone walking into our 'situation' and seeing our mess.

I wonder if we would think the same if we were to discover that they were sent to help us in our trials and struggles from day to day? If we knew they were coming to help clean our house, help us to sort out this or that ... things we're so concerned about them not seeing, for fear of embarrassment or shame? Or if we knew that they would never pass a judging eye because of what they saw? Would we open our front door and offer our hospitality for a while?



One day in history 2,000 years ago, at the time of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, a need arose. A need for room to be found for the entry into the world of the One whose life would impact the world forever, but there was none available at the inn (or lodging house). We can imagine what it must have been like, Mary and Joseph seeking a place to settle for the birth of Jesus, the holy Son of God. It was Love that sent our Saviour and King of kings, from the glory of heaven to earth. God so had it that He would be born, not in a palace, but in humble surroundings. His mother, Mary, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger (which was a feeding trough for animals). All that was needed was an open door. That same Love seeks a response from every human heart, an opening of the door when He knocks. Jesus is the Gift of Christmas, the reason for this season.

In our journey through life, from day to day, there are many things that occupy our time and attention. Our lives can be "packed out" with responsibilities, commitments, trials, challenges and much more, and we may try to manage everything in our own strength.

But we were not created to live this life without God. God's plan was for mankind to have a relationship with Him, their Heavenly Father. Praise the Lord - this has been made possible because of the gift of His Son! **Of Jesus, it was said ......** 

"..and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means `God with us')
(Matthew 1:23b. NIV)

The Lord offers the gift of eternal life to all Who call upon His Name. When we open our hearts to Jesus and accept Him into our heart and life, He comes in. He makes everything new.

Our life is like a house, and houses have different rooms. As we journey on with the Lord, we need to ensure we keep all the INNER doors open to Him too. Is He allowed into some areas of our lives, but not others? Unlike the visitor at our front door, the Lord already knows what things look like on the inside, but He comes with love, not condemnation, letting us know that we are *special*, we are *loved with unconditional love*, we are *forgiven*. He is the source of pure love, joy, peace and rest. He is the Prince of Peace! (Isaiah 9:6). What a wonderful Saviour!

In this Christmas season, as we, once again, celebrate the birth of our Saviour in many wonderful ways through our seasonal warm traditions, may we open widely (and keep open) the door of our hearts and lives to Him.

## Keep the Door Open

Let's keep our heart's door open, to Jesus Christ, our King No matter how things look, and whatever state we're in He's worthy of adoration, both now ... and ALL our days! In this time of celebration, let's give Him all our praise!

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#### **PRAYER:**

We thank You Heavenly Father for Your Precious Gift of Love, Jesus, Your Son. Help us Lord to open the door of our lives completely to You, so we may bask in Your presence and gain new strength for our daily needs. May we forever share Your love to others also ... in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### THE UNITED KINGDOM





## Christmas in Great Britain

In Great Britain, Christmas celebrations continue until the Twelfth Night. Preparing foods, sending Christmas cards, house and church decorations and wrapping up gifts keep everyone busy. On Christmas Eve, younger kids hang up their stockings on the ends of the beds or by the chimney for the Father Christmas. On Christmas morning, presents are opened up and a grand feast is served just after midday. Table setting includes the use of best china and glassware and a cracker for everyone. Meal starts with a toast and popping of the crackers. The traditional Christmas speech of the British Monarch is broadcasted on the television.



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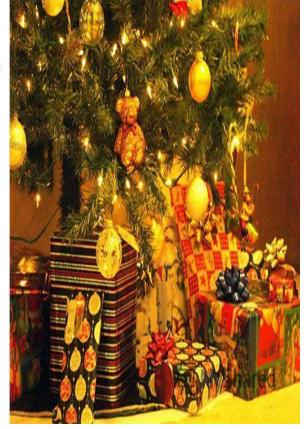
# Boxing Day:



Boxing Day takes place on December 26th and is only celebrated in a few countries. It was started in the UK about 800 years ago in the Middle Ages. It was the day when the alms box, collection boxes for the poor often kept in churches, were opened so that the contents could be distributed to poor people. Some churches still open these boxes on Boxing Day.

Boxing Day has now become another public holiday in countries such as the U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.





#### THE UNITED STATES





# Christmas Day



Many people in the United States celebrate Christmas Day on December 25. The day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth. It is often combined with customs from pre-Christian winter celebrations.

It is interesting to visit USA during this holiday. People celebrate Christmas Day in many ways. In the days or even weeks before Christmas Day, many people decorate their homes and gardens with lights, Christmas trees and much more. It is common to organize a special meal, often consisting of turkey and a lot of other festive foods, for family or friends and exchange gifts with them. Children, in particular, often receive a lot of gifts from their parents and other relatives and the mythical figure Santa Claus. This has led to Christmas Day becoming an increasingly commercialized holiday, with a lot of families spending a large part of their income on gifts and food.

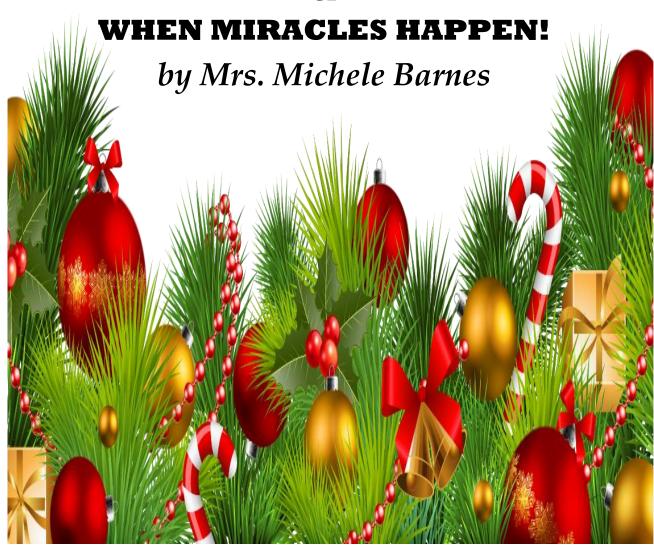


We are now returning back to the United States with the following message and story from the staff:

#### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF LOVE

by Ramelle T. Lee







## A Christmas Message of Love By Ramelle T. Lee © 2018



What can you receive this year
that will bring you pure joy, peace and hope?
Is there anything that is priceless
and can't be canceled, exchanged or returned?
Can you purchase this gift with money,
Bottle this gift or package it under a Christmas tree?
What on earth can this mystery gift be?

Oh, it's something of value and money can't buy.

It's guaranteed to never fade away

And never evaporate into the sky.

It will always be with you
everywhere you go.
You have access to this beautiful gift
Every second, minute and hour of the day.
No one can take this gift away from you.
You can't destroy or transfer this gift to anyone else.
Are you curious yet?
Are you ready to find out what is the "Big Reveal?"

It is God's only begotton Son, Jesus Christ!
You received this gift the moment
You accepted Jesus into your heart!
The gift of Salvation was given to you.
The angels in heaven rejoiced.
You were given hope everlasting
and love forever.
Praise God for this special gift from on high.

At Christmastime, let us blow the trumphet of praise!
Give God the glory for giving His Son, Jesus Christ
to save the world from sin.
Happy Birthday, Jesus!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16-17 KJV).





# When Miracles Happen! By Michele Barnes



## Away in a Manger!



A homeless man was walking down a dirt road when he came across a barn. He thought he would stop and take a nap. He was so very tired and hungry. He needed to rest just for a while and then continue on after sleeping just a bit.



However, he slept into the night. Then, he woke up to only look up and see a star! He thought that he was dreaming, so he rolled over and went back to sleep.

Suddenly he heard footsteps and saw a pair of naked feet." *I'm looking for the Savior,*" said the barefoot man. "They say he is sleeping somewhere near" That man was fully covered with cloths covering his head. He then headed out into the darkness as the homeless man continued to lie there.



But in his sleep, he dreamed about a baby, and once again woke up and looked up at the bright star! It's Jesus! He shouted and ran to the door! There were three men walking away from the barn and he called out," *Did you find the baby Jesus?*" But they were too far gone! The homeless man began to run after them but, they were further than he thought!

He screamed I want to see Jesus! He didn't feel the tears falling from his eyes or the trembling of his hand held high!

But he ran on and before too long he found himself back home. Home to his wife and children who had prayed for a long time for his return home before Christmas!

#### O Come All Ye Faithfull!

With blankets draped around him, he was now surrounded by his family. The homeless man no longer told his family about his search for Jesus, the bright star, and the three Wise Men walking down the road. His wife asked for her Bible and began to read Romans 9-10. If you except Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your mind will be at peace!





There was a silence as his family watched him stand up on his feet and put his hands together and humbly speak, "I do accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior." Then, in sorrow, he began to tell of the many roads that he had traveled, but none of them led him home! However, a visitor came who made him believe Jesus was near! Again, the tears began to fall as he spoke of the star that shined so bright!

"We prayed for you each night that one day you would come back home!" cried his wife. He looked his family in their eyes and said, 'In my efforts to find Jesus, I found my way home tonight!"

He looked up at heaven and stated, "I know Jesus now lives in me! I have no job or money, but I now have Jesus and a praying family! I will be restored and able to provide for my family again!" He walked around and hugged each one and thanked them for their prayers. "You never know how much I missed you, I'm sorry I wasn't here," he said, hugging his lovely wife.

#### Silent Night, Holy Night!

Before he went to sleep that night, he glanced out of his bedroom window in search of the star that shined so bright! Yes, it was still there! Shining brightly into his eyes! He said, "Thank you Jesus for keeping me, I'm no longer lost ... but now free!"

#### Mathew 6:33 KJV:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all things shall be added unto you"

#### A Word from Michele Barnes...

This testimony was told to me by a hard-working woman. She is so dedicated to helping others. She helped me to supply the back-to-school book bags needed for the children in my block club area.

As I thanked her for her help, she began to tell me of how God had been blessing her. She asked that I be sure to share her testimony so that other women who are waiting and trusting God for their husband to return home will know to be patient and continue to pray! "Don't give up!" She added as she continued to work.

She admitted that she was angered and frustrated by what she thought to be wasted prayers for a man, her husband, who left his wife and family. Thelma's friends and family left her standing alone for prayers of her husband's return. That was until the night her children came to her bedside crying of the pain and worry of not knowing what happened to their father. Her children asked why he wasn't coming home! Her tears allowed them to see her pain. She wept in their loving young arms.

Each new night brought their prayers for his safety and his return until the night of their father's return home. That was almost one year later. Cherished are the nights spent broken-hearted and yet praying together. Now, cherished are the memories of a once lost father and husband giving his life to Christ!

"I still break out in praise, holding my arms high and praising. Thank you Jesus! Thank you, Jesus! No secrets, "she said. "It's been five years now and we are closer than we have ever been!" she added smiling. I thanked her for sharing and I knew she was going to bless so many!

We pray God's loving hand to guide safely the return of each loved one, lost and in need of forgiveness....to return to a loving and prayerful home! We pray for patience and believe" there is nothing too hard for God," (Jeremiah 32:17).

May the "Joy Bells" continue to ring in each heart as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ throughout Christmas and the New Year!

## Merry Christmas!



#### An EVERLASTING GIFT for YOU!

Christmas is a time of giving, sharing and caring.
You can't even think about Christmas without thinking about GIFTS!
The Wise Men gave their gifts to Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Each one of their gifts was very significant!

#### Gold

It is easy to see why gold is an appropriate gift for Jesus Christ. Gold is the metal of kings. When gold was presented to Jesus, it acknowledged his right to rule. The Wise Men knew Jesus was the King of kings.

#### **Incense (Frankincense)**

Incense (Frankincense) was also a significant gift. It was used in the temple worship. It was mixed with the oil that was used to anoint the priests of Israel. It was part of the meal offerings that were offerings of thanksgiving and praise to God. In presenting this gift the Wise Men pointed to Christ as our great High Priest, the one whose whole life was acceptable and well pleasing to his Father.

#### **Myrrh**

Myrrh was used for embalming. By any human measure it would be odd, if not offensive, to present to the infant Christ a spice used for embalming. But it was not offensive in this case, nor was it odd. It was a gift of faith. We do not know precisely what the Wise Men may have known or guessed about Christ's ministry, but we do know that the Old Testament again and again foretold his suffering.

#### Information online:

"Why Were Gold, Incense and Myrrh Appropriate Gifts for Jesus?"
December 07, 2010 by: James Montgomery Boice

#### SO, WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Your gift is Eternal Life!

You receive...EVERLASTING LIFE! This is God's Promise to you.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," (John 3:6 KJV).

This Christmas... if you haven't asked the Savior Jesus Christ to take away your sinful life and to forgive you from living a life of sin...doing things that are not right...make a change!

ASK HIM to forgive you for the wrongful way you have been living.

**SURRENDER** your life to Him completely and fully.

**ACCEPT** Jesus as your Lord. Let Him into your heart and mind.

**ALLOW** Jesus to lead and guide you the rest of your life.

**SEEK and WORSHIP** Him so that THE HOLY SPIRIT will come into your being, your soul: to lead, guide, comfort, and abide in you.

#### LIVE for JESUS! YOU NOW HAVE A NEW LIFE!

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," (Romans 6:23 KJV).

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV).

#### Welcome into the family of God!

**We want to hear from you:** Contact information: Mrs. Wanda J. Burnside, Founder and Publisher, The Lamp Newsletter, P.O. Box 125, Dearborn, MI 48121-0125, Email: wtvision@hotmail.com. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Amazon.com, Chocolate Pages, and Goodreads.

