

# MESSAGE MINDER

December 26, 2010

For to 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, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



## New Life: A Miracle from Above

By Milly Medina

The birth of a baby is one of the events of great emotion for a family. There are so many things to take into consideration to plan for his/her arrival, and many more things to prepare --like the room, accessories, car seat, the house, and of course, the fact that you must name that baby!

What do we feel when that baby is born? There is a roller coaster of emotions taking over every inch of your being. For a mother there is happiness because all the pain is finally over, because the heaviness has been relieved. For a father, there is a sense of pride, but at the same time there is fear when thinking how to take care of such a small person. For both the mother and the father there is joy and awe of a miracle

of life itself. It is truly a blessing to see a dream come true, the extension of their love present in that beautiful human being.

In life, Christmas is to acknowledge God's love being present through Jesus Christ! It is the ability to understand that God has put near us that which can give us the most happiness of all. It is to experience the joy of having the reconciling hope among us, within our reach.

A baby fits in everybody's arms, and no matter their size, they cover every inch of our hearts with the greatest sentiment of all--love. Their arrival helps us realize how fragile life is, while we also see how strong the miracle is that came to Earth. We can look at any baby and

recognize the miracle. However, how much more meaningful is it when we accept them to be part of our homes and our personal lives?

This is exactly where the promise in Isaiah 9:6 became a reality for all of us. The opportunity we have to have Him among and with us is real. Indeed, it is His greatest desire! He (Jesus) wants to be part of our daily living, plans, and goals. He wants to guide us to our victories, and sustain us in our failures. He wants to be our all in everything. Consider that when a baby arrives in our homes he or she is to stay. The Almighty Son of God, Emmanuel, came to stay with us for eternity! Are you ready to receive Him in your life, and in your home? And better yet, are you willing to keep Him forever!

And the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star had stopped, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:9-11

## The Advent Season

The word *advent*, means “coming,” and celebrates the coming of God through the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent commemorates the first coming of Jesus while simultaneously anticipates the second coming of Jesus. Traditionally the advent season which leads up to Christmas was considered a time of reflection and heart-preparation, similar to the way that the season of Lent serves believers in between Ash Wednesday and Easter. For many, the Christmas season comes to an abrupt end on Christmas night. However, this is to lose heart and meaning of the Christian meaning of Christmas, in which Christmas day serves as a threshold between Advent and Epiphany.

## The Epiphany Season

Christmas comes from the *Mass of Christ*, a festival which celebrates the *Nativity*, or birth of Christ. The celebration of the *Nativity* began to appear within certain Christian communities as early as the 3rd century. The *Twelve Days of Christmas* are the days in between the *Christ Mass* and *Epiphany*, or *Three Kings Day* on January 6th.

*Epiphany* celebrates God’s revelation to the Gentiles (or all non-Jewish peoples) through Jesus Christ. It recalls the first Gentile act of worship of Christ when the three wise men from the East came and adored Jesus in the manger. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon’s blessing that this child Jesus would be “a light of revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

**For my eyes have seen Your salvation...a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.**

Simeon (Luke 2:30, 32)

