

A Reason For HOPE...

Have you ever wondered why the Christmas story in the Book of John begins with a failing old priest named Zechariah and his barren wife Elizabeth? For years they had tried to have children, without success. He was carrying out his duty as priest for perhaps the last time, and suddenly an angel appeared to him and told him that Elizabeth would bear a child who would announce the Messiah. Zechariah, being a skeptic, became mute as a result of his unbelief, but it happened just as Gabriel promised. The boy, John, was born and grew up to be the prophet who announced that JESUS was the Messiah!

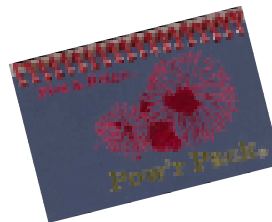


Why does the Christmas story begin this way? Why bring up the final curtain on a feeble man and his barren wife? Perhaps it is because this story heralds a major theme of Christmas: **HOPE IS NEVER DEAD IF GOD IS TRULY ALIVE!**

Do you have a dream, a vision, or an idea you've been longing to give birth to, but nothing has happened? Have you been waiting for events to give your dreams reality, only to have your hope turn to resignation?

The story of Christmas is that it is NEVER too late. GOD's timing is just not always your timing. When Paul, the Apostle, reflected on the events of Christ's birth, he wrote, **"...and when the fullness of time was come, GOD sent forth His son...."** (Galatians 4:4) What an amazing and awesome phrase - **"...the fullness of time...."**. GOD will not leave your life barren and empty, but in His time will bring to birth in you a Joy that will point toward His reality: **"For Nothing Will Be Impossible With GOD!"** (Luke 1:37) Your "fullness of time" is coming...expect it because GOD's Promises and His Word never fail...NEVER! **"He's made all things beautiful in their time!"**

Happy Birthday, JESUS!
Merry Christmas to all the
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Call To Freedom, and
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by Barbara Carmack

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Compiled by
Barbara Carmack

FOR ANY GIFT TO CALL TO FREEDOM

"The BEAUTY of Christmas
is not in
the presents



But in HIS Presence!"



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Freedom Street XPress

Merry Christmas! December 2017
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"More Than A Prophet"

by Barbara Carmack

There are many people in this world that believe JESUS was a good man and a prophet. Some will even admit that He was the Son of GOD Who came to Earth. But tell them JESUS was GOD Himself, in the flesh, and that is where you may part company. Yet the Bible teaches JESUS Christ was unequivocally GOD incarnate. One of the ways He demonstrated His deity was by asserting Authority that belongs to GOD alone.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the Messiah's unique nature in the 7th Chapter of Isaiah: **"The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel (GOD with us!)."** This particular Baby Boy would be conceived without a human father but would be human in every sense, while fully GOD. In that one verse in Isaiah JESUS' true identity was revealed. Some 700 years later, angels announced the Child's birth to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem....and they found Him in a manger, just as the angels said. The Baby's humble surroundings did little to reveal the Authority that would be His through His Father, Almighty GOD!

Approximately 30 years later, He manifested that Authority in every facet of His ministry: He healed the sick, controlled nature, cast out demons, forgave sins, and raised the dead. In other words, JESUS did what GOD alone can do. He also astounded multitudes, **"...for He taught them as one having Authority, and not as the scribes."** (Matthew 7:29) Unlike the Jewish leaders of His day, JESUS did not quote scholars or refer to commentaries...His Authority resided in Himself, as He fulfilled one prophecy after another!

JESUS had the Authority to cast out demons and heal the sick. Matthew 8:16-17 tells us that **"...He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were ill, in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 'He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases!'"** JESUS was given Authority, by the Father, to heal the sick...and He did heal...He delivered all those who came to Him.

JESUS had control over nature, as He demonstrated when He and the Disciples were out in a boat in the middle of a storm-ravaged sea. The Disciples came running to Him, as He was sleeping in the stern of the boat, saying, "LORD, save us...we are perishing!" **And after scolding them for their lack of Faith, He calmed the stormy seas... "and there was a great calm!"** (Matthew 8:25-27) JESUS did what only GOD can do!

JESUS had Authority to forgive sin; that's why He came to earth - **"...to cleanse your conscience from sinful practices to serve the living GOD."** (Hebrews 9:14) So, as you confess with your mouth that JESUS is LORD, and Believe in your heart that GOD raised Him from the dead... you are saved - born-again, to a new and living way of life in Christ JESUS! Hallelujah!

And do you know what else? That Authority that GOD gave to His Son, JESUS, is your Authority because JESUS assigned it to you!

Titus 2:14-15 (NASB) - **"JESUS gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. These things speak and exhort and reprove with all Authority; and let no one disregard you!"**

So go forth with His Authority!



Making America Great Again! What a Great Year Of Reform!



Here are some highlights of Trump's Presidency in 2017: Judge Neil Gorsuch was appointed to the Supreme Court; Pres. Trump appointed Ben Carson as Secretary of Urban development; Pres Trump signed an order that employees do NOT have to supply contraceptives to employees; the United States is no longer a member of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and Paris Climate Accord (global warming); the U.S. is no longer spending \$607.5 million on reproductive health (abortions) overseas; the Dakota and Keystone pipelines are going full-steam ahead, creating 28,000 more construction jobs; Pres. Trump is bringing coal back as a major energy source... and creating more coal mines, which means more jobs; Pres. Trump is strengthening all phases of the military; Pres. Trump is pro-police and making them stronger in fighting the drug war and the cartels that take in \$19 billion a year; President Trump is deregulating to give small businesses a great future, as they will no longer be paying \$83,000 in start-up regulations; Pres. Donald Trump struck a blow against the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement in defiance of other world powers, choosing not to certify that Tehran is complying with the deal and warning he might ultimately terminate it; Trump announced the major shift in U.S. policy toward Iran over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and its support for extremist groups in the Middle East: "We will not continue down a path whose predictable conclusion is more violence, more terror, and the very real threat of Iran's nuclear breakout," And because of Pres. Trump, the U.S. has become Israel's strongest ally in almost 50 years.

Congratulations, Pres. Trump on a successful 1st year...in spite of all the opposition, the fake news and the shadow government, led by Mr. Obama.



**"Let Your Light So Shine Before Men...
That They May See Your Good Works...And
Glorify Your Father Who Is In Heaven!"** (Matthew 5:16)

A Christmas Story From Derin...



I want to tell you about one of the best Christmas's I had as a young boy. Dad and Mom wanted my sister, Arlene, and me to have a special Christmas. Money was really tight with everything focused on WWII, and some things were not even available due to war shortages. Gasoline was rationed, so Dad would ride his bike to the Post Office job he had in Durango. What I remember about my Dad was the fact that he was a great "make-do" man, who could somehow meet the challenge at hand.

On this particular Christmas morning, Arlene and I woke up to very special Christmas gifts. Dad had painted up our old trikes. They were like new...no scratches or dents and brand new paint! Wow! I don't remember being sad that morning because the trikes weren't brand new. Dad's love for his children was a special Christmas gift to us!

Now, when the best Gift of all comes to live in us, we are not a "rehab-project or a fix-it, repaint or remodel deal." In II Corinthians 5:17, this wonderful verse explains how GOD transforms sinners: **"Therefore if any man (or woman) is in Christ, he is a New Creation (something that has never existed before...Brand New!); the old has gone, the new has come and we have become New Creations in Him!"** You are made a New Creation in Christ JESUS...a Brand New Spirit! This is your true identity. Now you have a fresh start and new opportunities to accomplish all that GOD has planned for you! You have a bright future! **You have a real reason to celebrate...He wrapped you in Himself!**

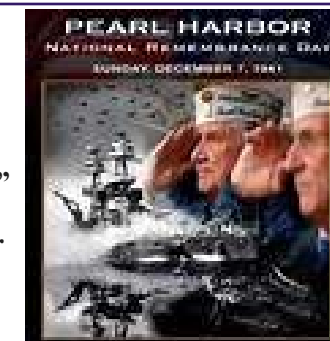
Love, DC



5-year-old Derin in Durango

What Really Happened At Pearl Harbor...

(email submitted by Jon Sheppard)



Four boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. In the memorial gift shop is a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz. Sunday, December 7th, 1941 - Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington, DC. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The President told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. He says, "There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat - you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war." On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or GOD was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Surprised and shocked, the young helmsman asked, "What do you mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained: **Mistake number one:** "The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk - we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800." **Mistake number two:** "When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America for repair. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships." **Mistake number three:** "Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top-of-the-ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or GOD was taking care of America." Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeat. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of all the loss. There is a reason that our national motto is, **"IN GOD WE TRUST."**



Gathering in the president's home

**Feliz Navidad from...
Home Of Refuge
Saving the Lost...Loving the Unlovable**



Thank you for your generous gifts to Home of Refuge...and for your faithfulness to this missionary work! Without you we would not be seeing our dreams of evangelism fulfilled...dreams of indigenous people coming to know JESUS, and dreams of having places where they can praise and worship our LORD!

The people in the community of Cardonpata are excited about building a chapel so we can minister to the congregation when we come to provide food for meals. This chapel will be great so that we can teach them the Word of GOD and disciple them...fulfilling the Great Commission. We are amazed at the hunger of these people to know more about GOD and the LORD JESUS we serve. We will keep you updated as to the progress of a chapel for this community. Until then Thank You, Thank You, Thank You for your overwhelming response to this very present need in the Andes Mountains!



Tony ministering to men

**Working together for the Kingdom,
Tony & Rosa - Home of Refuge,
Mountains of Peru**



Children waiting for food