



December

## Editor's Words by Gloria Jean Woodard

PEACE ON EARTH  
POWER IN THE WORD MINISTRY

**"The Messenger Brought Fear.**

**The Message Brought Peace."**

*Luke 2: 8-15*

The world is looking for peace :  
Around Christmas time.

- Some people are looking for the parties to have fun, while some drink until they're so drunk, they don't feel the pain anymore .
- For others, it means going from relationship to relationship, hoping that someday someone will fill that void in their life.
- For others, it means working so hard that they never have to think about their lives.

But peace is something that we all need, and not later in life – we need peace now !

When Jesus was born, the angels said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests" (NIV).

Christmas is something that brings glory to God because it brings God's eternal plan about through the birth of Christ

Why? because the glory and majesty of God became apparent in human form .

If you read the Gospels, you find that those who met Jesus had their lives trans-

formed, and ultimately found peace.

- The tax-collector who spent his life making money dishonestly? He paid back what he had stolen and then some, and followed Jesus .
- The women found in the act of adultery? she received forgiveness and was told to go and sin no more.
- The fishermen who were invited to follow Jesus? they found a cause to live for, and ultimately a cause to die for.

No matter what happened in their lives, God gave them the strength to handle it.

Paul wrote:

*(Philippians 4:6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (V7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

We have been given a Savior to meet our greatest need— forgiveness of sin. And the Savior, Jesus, therefore brings peace— the peace of God, and peace within our hearts.

Some of you might recognize your need this forgive-

ness today . You've been trying to save yourself by doing all the wrong things to achieve peace. That forgiveness and that peace is available to you Now, free of charge. You can receive the most priceless gift you've ever received before. You can have your past forgiven.

God can clean up your past, take care of your present, and secure your future. It's the gift you can only receive from the babe in the manger who grew up to be the man on the cross, the one who died for your sins.

When the angel came to the shepherds at night in the field, he had to say "Fear Not" so they wouldn't run away. Looking at this angel would be fearful. However, Good News was

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in the message: "for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy..." After hearing this, they were the shepherds were ready to "go and see this thing that had come to pass which the Lord had made known..."

**"The Messenger Brought Fear.  
The Message Brought Peace."**  
*Luke 2: 8-15*



So don't let Christmas be about kids, or retailers, about gifts or even about families. Let it be about the Good News of Jesus Christ, that will be to all people to bring **peace on earth and good will toward men.**

If you would like to receive this gift, the time is now and that, is my Good News to you today!

**PEACE BE WITH YOU AND  
IN YOU TODAY!**

December 8, 2004

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## A PRAISE OF ADORATION

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior Luke 1:46.

Many times it's hard to magnify the Lord and rejoice in God when certain things come at you unexpectedly. The question that comes to mind is, **Why Me?** It has taken you off guard or so it seems.

The angel of the Lord came to Mary unexpectedly; Her pregnancy came unexpectedly; the possibility that she was the one, unexpectedly chosen. The next statement for us would be, **I Don't Want This! I Can't Handle This!**

Mary didn't look at it like that. Mary says I magnify the Lord.; I extol; I'm increased with praise. Now, the question is: **Why is she so thrilled and joyful?** She hadn't seem or heard the response of the people after getting this news nor the response from Joseph to get married, which was her intention before a baby came into play! Well **Why Now?**

**Adoration** is paying honor,

giving the highest love and admiration, reverence, and worship to God.

That's why and what Mary did with the news that came at her unexpectedly.

Go to verse 42. We will see that after visiting with Elizabeth, her cousin, who was also blessed with a child in her womb, Elizabeth spoke with a loud voice, saying, "*Blessed (meaning favored of God) are you among women and blessed (meaning favored of God) is the fruit of your womb.*"

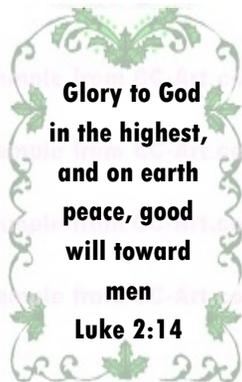
After Mary hearing this from Elizabeth, who had not even heard the angel speak to her, was convinced to say, "*My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.*" Sometimes one word in your spirit will plant your feet on solid ground for faith to arise; you will not even be bothered about the circumstances. That Word will stay there to bring

forth the peace needed to trust when you thought you couldn't. It resolved the issue that tried to disturb you! Sometimes one word from someone else brings forth that faith to trust what you have not seen. It's just a knowing that everything will be alright because God placed that unseen trust there!

Mary was not sure how her relatives would treat her; not sure if Joseph would shun her or try to get rid of her as the law proposed.

When you don't know what else to do, just praise God! He will not let you down, He will not give you up to the enemy. **You change your circumstances when you let out a shout of praise to Him!** The 45th verse says, "*And bless is she that believed...*" You can only adore what you believe.

**God Bless!**



**PRAYER:**

Lord You have been good to us even when we weren't good. You have shone favor even when we didn't expect favor. Thank You!

Thank You Lord for Jesus Christ, Your Son. He is the reason for the season. I'm thankful for another year to continue to do what You've called me to do; to forgive those that have come across my path that yielded to other intentions and unfairness or unfair-play. I

am to still show mercy.

We have come to the end of the 12 months in which You had given us. Some finished well and some were called home to be with You.

I thank You in spite of some health issues; in spite of some financial issues; in spite of some relational issues. We still have another chance to get it right. We still have another chance to learn how to praise You for being so good; for being a

faithful God; for being a God to adore at all times. I want to be the encourager instead of the gripper or the grumbler. And I want to be joyful when things come unexpectedly. As I study Your Word continuously, cause me to not forget what Mary did, but to remember to magnify You dear Lord and rejoice in spite of the circumstances. Cause me to stay steady in peace. In Jesus Name, Thank You Father in the name of Jesus!

**Amen!**

**Where The Twelve Days Of Christmas Came From !**

(from an e-mail)



There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me, What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have

to do with Christmas?

Today, I found out: From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song

for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning—the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.

**Con't : Where The Twelve Days Of Christmas Came From !**

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testament.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John.

- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five Books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of Creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Good-

**Con't : Where The Twelve Days Of Christmas Came From !**

- ness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping

stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.

