

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa

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Christian 'Chris' M. Beard, REGC
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Christmas Message

To: *All Past Grand Commanders, current Grand Officers, Committee Members, Officers and Sir Knights of all Constituent Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Iowa*

The celebration of Christmas by Christians around the world is usually marked by decorated homes, festive lighting along streets and byways, parades, Santa Claus, the traditional Christmas tree in homes and the famous New York's huge Christmas tree in Times Square. Even our government becomes involved with the President lighting the traditional Christmas tree on the mall in Washington, D.C. Christmas becomes the season for carolers, festive dinners, church services, numerous forays into malls and stores and exchanges of gifts. But is this what Christmas is all about? Regardless of the commercial side of the Christmas season, we cannot forget that, for us, as Knights Templars and Christians, December 25th is the day that Christ came into our world.

It was not until the 5th century that our church fathers settled on December 25th as the official observance of Christ's birth. Other significant dates allied with the Christmas date are the observance of St. John the Evangelist on December the 27th and the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles (The Three Wise Men) on January 6th.

At the time of His birth, who could have thought, imagined, or foreseen the impact on the peoples and nations of the world of this infant? Yes, it had been foretold by a few Old Testament prophets, However, a "King" born in a stable? This time of the year, more than any other time, we recall the birth of the Baby Jesus. We all know the story from the scriptures but it is exceedingly difficult to place oneself at the time and place of the event.

Just imagine you are with Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary as they travel those many difficult miles from Galilee to Bethlehem. They arrived at their destination, dirty, exhausted, and searching for a place to stay. With all the travelers coming to the area, there is no room at the inn. Finally, they find a stable. Mary gives birth and places her child in a manger. The baby is named Jesus. Suddenly a brilliant star in the heavens leads shepherds and the Wise Men to the stable. Although the scriptures are silent, presumably, many others gather to behold the child. Somehow the onlookers know that this little infant from the ancient line of David is destined for greatness. Jesus, then and now, is the greatest gift in all this world. Let us, every day, thank God for the gift of His Son.

But what if we had been now of the shepherds? What if we had been at the inn? Would we have seen the star? Surely the shepherds would have spread the wonderful news. Again, our scripture is silent. We do know that the good news has, through the centuries spread from that tiny stable in Bethlehem to all the earth. God has given his son to us.

Enjoy the season. Thank God for your blessings. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His countenance shine upon you and give you peace. Let us pray for those less fortunate, but especially for those of our sons and daughters, wives and husbands, relatives and friends who serve our country in the Armed Forces and who now are in harm's way.

Merry Christmas to all.

Inspired by a message from James E. Sonneborn.

Dan Hobson, Eminent Grand Prelate

Chivalric Regards,

Chris M. Beard

Christian 'Chris' M. Beard
R.E. Grand Commander



Attested:

Rusty L. Hill

Rusty L. Hill, REPGC
Grand Recorder