



Indiana Supplement

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Ed Fodrea KTC, GC

Grand Prelate's Christmas Message

'Twas the Night before Christmas

By SK Dan Patterson
Grand Prelate

Christmas: a time of joy, a time of caring, a time of giving and a time of sharing.

We can all look back and remember as a child that feeling we had on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning: the lights on the tree, the presents, the excitement of children ripping through the wrapping paper and the soft sounds of Christmas music our mother usually played as we celebrated another Christmas morning. We always hoped for a fresh, new snow the Eve of Christmas which gave us the confidence that Santa's sleigh could land safely.

What a truly wonderful time of the year this is, but let us think back about 2000 years ago to a place and time when things weren't quite always that way!

One cold December night long ago, a man named Joseph was leading his wife Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem as she was with child. When they reached Bethlehem they had a problem finding somewhere to stay. So many people had come to Bethlehem to register their names in the census that every house was full and every bed was taken in all of the guest rooms. The only place to stay that they could find was among the animals in a stable. Can you imagine the fear of having your wife about to give birth and having no place to go but to a stable? What a terrifying feeling this must have been for Mary and Joseph, but their trust and faith was in God.

As our gracious heavenly Father tells us in Luke 12:22-26: **"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"**

By putting their faith and trust in our heavenly Father, Mary and Joseph were able to overcome their fears and focus on the job they had at hand; so in the place where animals slept, Mary gave birth to baby Jesus.

My wife and I were married in 1983 and tried for several years to have children. However, a ruptured appendix she suffered as a child prevented us from having children. We had given up all hope after several years. We contacted a local adoption agency and had filled out all of the necessary forms to be able to start the adoption process. On Christmas Eve of 1992, my wife Karen had bronchitis symptoms and decided to go to a local clinic to get some medicine to hopefully ease her symptoms before the Christmas festivities the next day. While at the clinic she explained our situation, but they required a pregnancy test before administering her any medication. Unbelievably the test came back positive! What? Never in our wildest dreams did we expect a response such as this. Our prayers had been answered.

My wife and I know exactly where that child came from; he was a blessing from our heavenly Father. I will never forget that day as long as I live. Our son is now grown up and works for our local law enforcement as a police officer. I am very proud of him and his accomplishments. He is now married and we have a wonderful granddaughter and are expecting our second grandchild in February.

Christmas is a very special time to my wife and me, because we know that we received a beautiful miracle from our heavenly Father on that Christmas Eve so many years ago.

Things don't always seem to happen in the time frame we expect them to, but it is not up to us. Our heavenly Father will always provide and care of us in His time frame. We just need to keep our faith and let God our heavenly Father take care of the rest.

Our Grand Commander Fodrea's theme is to **"Put on the Full Armor of God"** (Ephesians 6: 11-18). By putting on the full armor of God we can do as Mary and Joseph did, and focus on the job at hand and not worry about something we can't control.

I pray that all of your dreams come true and may God our Father bless you and your family, as he has ours, this Christmas season.

Grand Commander's Christmas thoughts

By SK Ed Fodrea KCT
Grand Commander

These are uncertain times -- much like the times in which Jesus Christ our Savior was born into the world. He gave the world hope in the future because he was the promised Messiah. He gave the world an example of Faith in the way he lived his life, and taught others to stand firmly in their faith. He gave the world Joy to know the Father loved them enough to send His son to save us. Lastly, he gave the world Peace through the example of trusting in Him. As we celebrate the joy of the season, let us also have peace in our homes, standing firmly in our faith, and trusting in the saving power of His presence within us.

Merry Christmas