



An Affiliate of the P. A. W.

# TEMPLE TALK



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Praise the Lord to the Miracle Temple Family and the people of God everywhere. I greet you in the Matchless Name of Jesus! We are the Saints of The Most High God! As such let us hold true to the confession of our faith. The year 2020 has been a difficult one, but by the grace of God we are coming to the end of another chapter in the book of life. I am confident that whatever comes our way we can handle it by the grace of God and the confidence that we have in the King of kings! During this month as we rapidly approach 2021 let us look forward to a bright future. It won't always be like this. I am convinced that God is going to help us through these dark days, and we are coming out better and wiser. It will not be long before we will once again be able to assemble in the sanctuary. We will have to determine what our New Normal will be, but I believe that the Lord will see us through. On another note, let us continue to focus on the total man, spirit, body, and soul. Let us do what is necessary to maintain our best selves, mentally and spiritually.

Until our next communication I remain your servant in the Lord,  
Pastor T. Marc Gandy

## SPIRITUAL THEME FOR DECEMBER

Praise The Lord to the Miracle Temple Church Family and all of God's people everywhere. I greet you all in the Matchless name of Jesus Christ! Our Spiritual Theme for the month of December is, "Wisdom For Today". I was inspired to bring this series based on the fact that we are living in a day and time when it takes wisdom to navigate the rapids that this life will surely bring.

After this series is completed, we will have a better understanding of God's Wisdom and our way of gaining it. Wisdom is a God Thing, and it comes from God! There is a reason that some people are wise, and others are foolish, and I believe that God wants His people to be wise.

This series will help us in all the areas of our lives. Feel free to invite friends and family to join us, and let's learn the wisdom for today and how it will enhance our life in Christ Jesus.

**Bible Christmas Story:** The most amazing truths of the Bible Christmas story revolve around events that make no earthly or human sense. Discovering the real Christmas message requires looking beyond the all-too-familiar holiday experiences. You can read the account of Jesus' birth from the Bible in Luke 2:1-21.

**The Characters:** The individuals in the Bible Christmas story should surprise us. They are unlikely recipients of angelic declarations. Yet through ordinary people such as us, God creates extraordinary events:

The Shepherds – Shepherds were seen as rough, uncultured, untrustworthy fellows. Because of their poor credibility, shepherds weren't allowed to testify in court. Yet, the first account of Christ's birth was from the shepherds, who were "glorifying and praising God" (Luke 2:20).

Mary – What had Mary achieved in her 12–14 years to merit a greater honor and blessing than any other woman in the Bible? Mary's record is brief among that of Sarah, Esther, Naomi, Ruth, or Hannah. Simply, Mary fell into favor with God as He extended His grace to this young woman.

Gabriel – When the archangel shared God's promise of a son, the aged temple priest, Zechariah, doubted God (Luke 1:18). Zechariah is struck mute. Yet, with faith, young Mary, humbly receives Gabriel's great proclamation, and responds, "May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). Mary's song, "The Magnificat," reflects the intimate acquaintance that she had with God.

**The Statements:** It is easy for the words of the Bible Christmas story to be overshadowed by appropriate clichés: "Jesus is the reason for the season," or "Keep the Christ in Christmas." Let us shine light again on the amazing truth that, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

"God with Us" (Matthew 1:23) – In Exodus, God appeared over us, in the cloud, as a pillar of fire, or on the mountain. But now, in a common feeding trough, He became Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

"Good News of Great Joy" (Luke 2:10) – The good news transcended politics, languages, and geography. A Savior is given to all mankind, making us the recipients of God's good will and favor.

"Lying in a Manger" (Luke 2:12) – We must marvel at the humble entrance of the Eternal, Almighty Creator, God, into our world. The Savior of mankind, found lying in a manger (feeding-trough), thus giving the shepherds a specific sign to guide them to the Christ-Child.

**The Uniqueness:** When we stop to consider the Bible Christmas story, we might ask, "What's wrong with this picture?"

In the world that God created, there was no room for Him at the inn or anywhere. To have "God with us," the God-Child entered the world in a place where few would even notice.

God's return to His creation wasn't "good news" to everyone. No ruler was willing to abdicate their throne. No palace opened their gates to welcome the King of kings or Prince of Peace.

God, who is omnipotent, omnipresent, and all-righteous, longed to touch everyone -- the beggar, the prostitute, the leper -- presenting Himself, a helpless infant, "lying in a manger." Common folks can never visit the palace of a newborn king, uninvited. But kings and princes can visit mangers.

There is difference for those who choose to accept the original Bible Christmas story, allowing it to transform their lives. The Nativity scene isn't designed to put us into a festive "holiday mood." It should stir us to the very depth of our souls. How will we respond to the Divine Designer of the universe who sacrificed everything to ring us back into a relationship with Him? Take away the decorations, presents, and the food...the story is still there. It is still true, and our joy is still great! (John 3:16).

# Unto Us a Child is Born



THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO NEXT MONTH'S TEMPLE TALK IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH. PLEASE BE SURE TO HAVE PASTOR GANDY APPROVE YOUR SUBMISSION BEFORE THAT DATE.

## DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

- 12/2 Lillian Paige Alexander Green
- 12/2 Mivonta Reddrick, Jr.
- 12/4 Michelle Nealy
- 12/8 Anthony Wong
- 12/13 Jesse David Weller  
James Jones
- 12/17 Jessica Marie Green Dean
- 12/20 Gloria Waters
- 12/25 Vernon Gandy
- 12/27 Jamario Jackson

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/13 Carmalita & James Jones
- 12/29 Reggie & Barbara Gravely