

CHRISTMAS = MONTESSORI

Changing the world for children

Christmas starts with the celebration of a Child's birth, to be sure a very special child. The birth announcement starts from before time began. The announcement is heralded for thousands of years.

Then an Angel announces to a virgin that she will be with child through the Holy Spirit, fulfilling prophecies long proclaimed. Then the angel is directed to provide an earthly father for the Child.

Decrees are issued far away – and all the world is taxed and so begins the journey to Bethlehem.

Then the heavens align, and a special star appears to announce the imminent arrival. Prompted by God's Spirit, Wise men are keeping watch. They then throw off their daily duties and begin their amazing journey. The direction of their journey is only visible in the darkness and yet they journey during the day. Their race is not with time but with eternity and yet they arrive exactly when God ordains and they proclaim their message, "Where is He, who is born King of the Jews?" Not knowing where He was or that He was the "King of Kings," but they came to worship.

And in the "fulness of time" this very special baby is born. His birth is celebrated by the host of heaven made witness by humble shepherds watching their sheep who then also journey to Bethlehem to give testimony to what had been revealed to them.

Shortly, the Wisemen came bearing gifts and they worshipped. The King of Kings,

the Lord of Lords was born in a stable and laid in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. From power to powerlessness, dependent on human agency for survival and growth. What was God's plan that Jesus come as a baby? There must be something so special about childhood (that God created) that He wanted His Son to experience.

And there is something so amazing about Jesus' tenderness to children that literally started in a manger and He experienced in daily life that it became the mark of His ministry – allow the children to come, become like a child, have the faith of a child, do not offend a child – and the greatest in the kingdom is like this little child.

And now centuries later we have entrée into an educational world that honors His words about children. Dr. Montessori heard the whispers of God's Spirit. She was attuned to the frequency of God's love for children, and He downloaded to her (before downloading was a thing) a vision of what God had imagined for children.

And after salvation, Montessori is the second gift of Christmas for us. Our Montessori heritage did not come from Dr. Montessori but came through her. Our heritage, both spiritually and educationally comes from the very heart of God through two very remarkable women who heard God's voice and obeyed.

May you have a blessed Christmas full of thanksgiving for the gifts He has given us – the Savior in the manger, our family, and the calling to Christian Montessori.
Barbara and Edward