

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



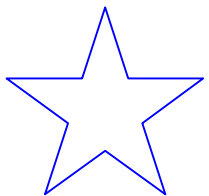
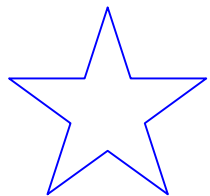
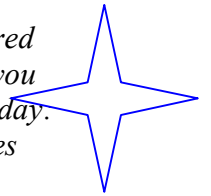
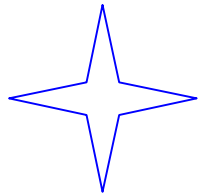
December, 2011

As we find ourselves in the Advent Season, let us rejoice in the blessings showered on us. It was a poor and humble setting into which the New Born Saviour came. So let's not say we are poor and have little or we don't count. That is just what many powers of this world would have us believe. Jesus came to reverse that thinking and to make known to all people what a great treasure we are in God's sight. He has a special place for each of us. No matter what the challenge might be for us, we are more than conquerors through Him Who loves us and wants to give us the power we need to be victorious over every evil force.

To Mary, the angel said: "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary did not expect such a greeting and she was greatly troubled and wondered what kind of greeting this might be". The angel continued: "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God...". I believe that this is just what God is saying to us today. Do not be afraid (my people) you have found favour with me. It is this truth that makes the message of Christmas relevant to us. It is a great thing to be favoured by God. Let us make this Christmas a time when we share our blessings with others, especially with the brothers and sisters who need a deeper spirit of peace within themselves.

We are living in a world weighed down by much distress. There are wars and rumors of wars leading to poverty and much unhappiness. There are broken families and division among relatives, communities and I dare say even some church groups. This is a world in which many have lost hope and do not enjoy life. In times like these we tend to lose faith. But we are all given the message of Christmas. 'Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.' It is all about God's care for all His people everywhere. This is the blessing of the message of Christmas. It is not about you winning anything. It is about God's greatest gift to the world.

Give thanks to God for helping you go through another year of challenge. Give thanks for all the ways He provides for you and your dear loved ones. Pray and keep praying and working for a better family, community and world. Pray for our children, young people and young adults who must live in a world like this. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Give a helping hand and make someone happy.



*A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSINGS
FROM GOD BE YOURS IN YEARS TO COME.*

(Rev) Harry Bodden

