

Dear Friends and Family of Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Maine,

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" is a beloved Christmas song by Andy Williams. Andy goes on to sing "it's the happiest season of all". The song describes all the reasons that the Christmas season is wonderful. It speaks of meetings, greetings, parties and stories. The song speaks of glowing hearts when we see our friends and loved ones. We all have family traditions and memories that are celebrated in the Christmas season. But what Andy Williams missed in his song is the actual reason for Christmas.

Luke 2:11-12 tells us *"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign unto you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."* NKJV Have you found the babe in the manger? Have you looked for that babe? The shepherds in the field were told of the baby that was born, but they made a conscious decision to go and find Him. *"Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass"*. Verse 16 tells us that *"they came with haste and found Mary, Joseph and the Baby lying in the manger"*. After they found Jesus they glorified and praised God for the things that they had heard and seen. Do you praise and glorify God for your salvation, for the things that you have heard and seen? I hope so. My own words are convicting for me. It is so easy to be consumed by all that we have to do, that we don't make time to really consider who we are doing it for... The Babe in the manger, who is also the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The wise men came to Jesus bearing gifts, they had something of value to give to the Lord. They bowed down and gave him their worship. They brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold, as valuable then as it is now, a gift fitting a King, a symbol of Divinity. Frankincense, a highly fragrant resin that was burned and used as a pleasant offering to God in temple worship, a symbol of holiness and righteousness. And Myrrh, a spice that was used in embalming, and mingled with wine as a form of drink, a symbol of suffering and affliction.

So often today we (I) come to Jesus because we need, or want something, I think He wants us to come to Him with our needs. But we also need to take time this Christmas to go to Him with our worship, with gifts of ourselves that recognize His Deity, His holiness and righteousness, and an acknowledgement of His suffering and affliction that lead to our salvation.

As I said in our fall newsletter, I will be leaving CEF® of Maine effective December 31st. CEF of Maine, its chapters and camps, are good and worthy organizations. I wish CEF nothing but the best. Please pray this coming year that the ministry of CEF would remain strong as we endeavor to reach the children of Maine with the Gospel. Please pray that the Lord would bring a new state director to Maine's ministry. There are thousands of children who need to be told how to go and find Jesus just like the shepherds did.

Thank you for your faithful love, prayer and support for CEF of Maine over this last year. We at CEF of Maine wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

With continued love for the Children of Maine,



Michael G. Field

