

Message of Love and Peace

Devotion for December 2014

Hymn: VU 6 A Candle Is Burning

Scripture: Luke 2 1-29

Reflection:

What else would one talk about in December, but Christmas. By now we all know that there was no Christmas in the new testament, and no Christians either. Theologians pinpoint either March or April as the real time for the birth of Jesus. December 25th was chosen sometime in the third century to satisfy the pagan winter solstice celebrations, and the new group known as Christians who believed in the virgin birth. Christmas has a number of tradition, each with its own story, the tree, yule log, candy canes, holly and Christmas cards. Of course Santa, and each of these developed separately and at different times. The most recent tradition of course is SHOPPING. Santa had various costumes and colours over the years but his traditional suit and colours, pretty much accepted worldwide now, can be attributed to a Coke-A- Cola add in the 1930's. For years now most theologians dispute the virgin birth story, and many other stories in the New Testament. Sort of makes one think, doesn't it, if none of that is true why do we believe, why go to church, and perhaps that knowledge, or current thought is why the massive decline in church attendance. Well, we each have our own thoughts, our own rationale for what we do and how we think, but no one can dispute the love, the truth and legacy that Jesus left. Believer or not, what Christmas stands for is a message of love and peace the whole world believes and some day may even practice. Merry Christmas.

Discussion: What does Christmas really mean for you?

Hymn: VU 43 Go Tell It On The Mountain

Prayer: For the gift of Jesus may we always be thankful. Help us Lord to reach that day when the whole world, no matter their belief lives the message of Christmas. amen