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Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree…… YOU MAKE ME THINK OF JESUS!!!

After Adam and Eve, all have been born of a woman; even the Son of God among man. Yet his coming was not the same as mankind's, he came to this world without sin.

That alone set the stage for the 'rest of the story', that of the New Testament and the beginning of the last days of mankind's earthly pilgrimage.

A group of shepherds (Luke 2:8-20) in the Judean hills received a special heavenly glorious announcement of the birth of the Saviour, Christ the Lord! They learned firsthand that he was good news for all nations, not national to the Jews only but international to all peoples! Can you imagine their anxious joy as they hurried to Bethlehem to find Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger?! They began to share this good news they had heard and seen, glorifying and praising God as they returned home.

Sometime later (several months-could have been up to nearly 2 years-Matthew 2:16) a group of wise men came across the hot dry desert to honor and worship a small child in a house. But what was that shining so distinctly above other celestial bodies leading those wise men on their way?! Was it a star in the form of a cross? It was a special star for sure as it moved in the heavens westward and with prophetic tone it lightened the way for those men to find in Bethlehem, the Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. There they presented to him the most valuable metal on earth-**Gold**, less than he deserved but what they had; **frankincense**-picturing worship and lastly **myrrh**-used in preparation of a dead body. The Lord Jesus deserves what is most dear to us; he alone merits our worship for he became a sin-offering to God for the sins of man, all mankind. He became sin for us 'that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.' (2 Corinthians 5:21). The Lord Jesus had no sin of his own, but carried ours upon himself out of this world and presented his blood in heaven to pay our sin debt!! This is the reason for the season, JESUS WAS BORN AS GOD'S GIFT TO SINFUL MAN!

So as you look up at that beautiful Christmas Tree, think of Calvary's Tree on which Jesus died. He was God-our creator's gift to you. Do as those shepherds and wise men who came to find Jesus; **worship him**. For many years now, upon seeing the tree lots, advertisements and the other commercialization's of this Holy remembrance, I sing, "O Christmas tree, O Christmas Tree, You Make Me Think Of Jesus!" Keep Christ the center of all that you do this Christmas and New Year.

Bridgitt and I thank you so much for your faithful prayers and your giving when you can which keep us in the ministry the Lord called us to over 40 years ago. We continue slower but as long as He allows.

Blessed Christmas to you and prayers for a Christ filled New Year-all year.

Your servants for the Lord in Haiti since 1975,



Don/Bridgitt Dryden