



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Kathy Aeillo

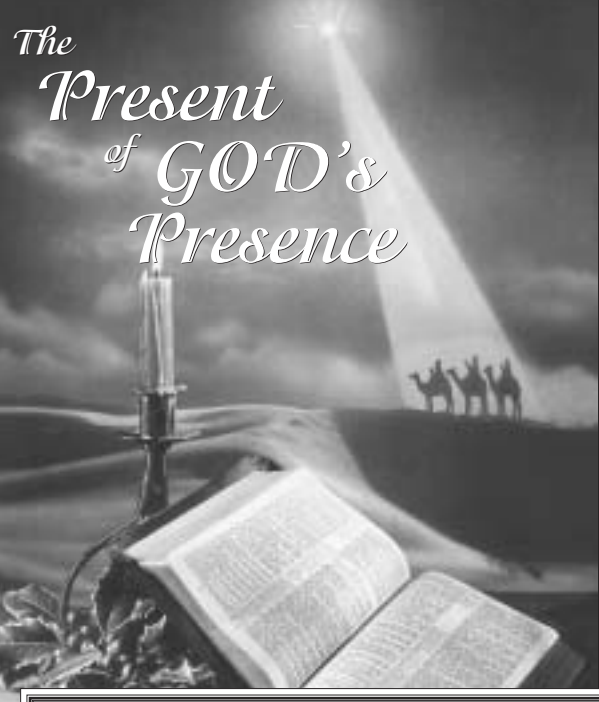
Matthew 25:35-36 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a hard winter for our area. We're so short on moisture we might not mind a lot of snow but winter can be a real challenge for those who have little. Even with a minimum wage job, there's rarely enough to pay rent, buy groceries, and pay for utilities.

As a member of the Norton County Ministerial Alliance I hear about the numbers helped by God's Pantry and I am amazed at how many need our help. I'm also grateful for all those in our communities who help replenish the shelves when they get bare. God's Pantry is a wonderful blessing for a lot of people — those who receive and those who give.

Through the county-wide Thanksgiving service, the Ministerial Alliance collects food for the Pantry and money for the transient fund which helps travelers in need. Many individual churches and service organizations also collect food and donations for the Pantry. The Thrift Shop in Norton provides good, clean, used clothing at low cost for all and at no cost to those who have suffered catastrophic loss.

Bob Strevey in Norcatur



The Present of GOD's Presence

- SUNDAY Luke 1:1-25
- MONDAY Luke 1:26-38
- TUESDAY Luke 1:39-56
- WEDNESDAY Luke 1:57-80
- THURSDAY Luke 2:1-20
- FRIDAY Luke 2:21-40
- SATURDAY John 1:1-18

Christmas is here once again...another year nearly gone. Presents are being bought and wrapped. Perhaps this is a fitting time to consider God's presents to us...then and now.

Certainly the greatest present God put upon the earth was His Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we now celebrate. "And the angel said... 'For behold, I bring you good news of a great joy...for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11) During His short life, Jesus gave to us the example of how we should live daily and taught us to have faith in His Father, the Creator of all.

God gave us another present, one that we cannot see, hear, or touch. Yet, we can feel it unmistakably. God gave to us the present of His presence. All we have to do is ask Him for it. It can never be surpassed. God's presence is priceless...making us joyous when we feel sad and calming us when we are fearful.

This Christmas, won't you accept all of God's presents to us? During this season of newness and birth, begin your life anew. Fill it with the awe of the Father, the daily wisdom of His Son, Christ Jesus, and the illuminating presence of the Holy Spirit in your heart. Merry Christmas.

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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