

Light Followers

What was that brilliant light, that Star of Bethlehem? It's a mystery talked about every year. Some think it to be a fable because it is a puzzle for astronomy. How hard is it to believe that our creative God could make a special star to announce His One and Only Son's birth? After all, Jesus came to be the Light of the World.

And who were those wise men from the east? Men of courage, determination and persistence. They left their homeland to travel up to two years, to an unknown destination, following the star. They were men of purpose: We "are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

They not only brought themselves; they brought their wealth: gold, frankincense and myrrh. The wise men were light followers, as well as listeners and obeyers. *"Being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way"* (Matthew 2:12).

Barely three-hundred words recount the wise men's journey, but what a reward for their time, treasures and tenacity. The wise men followed the light of the star and found the Light of the World.

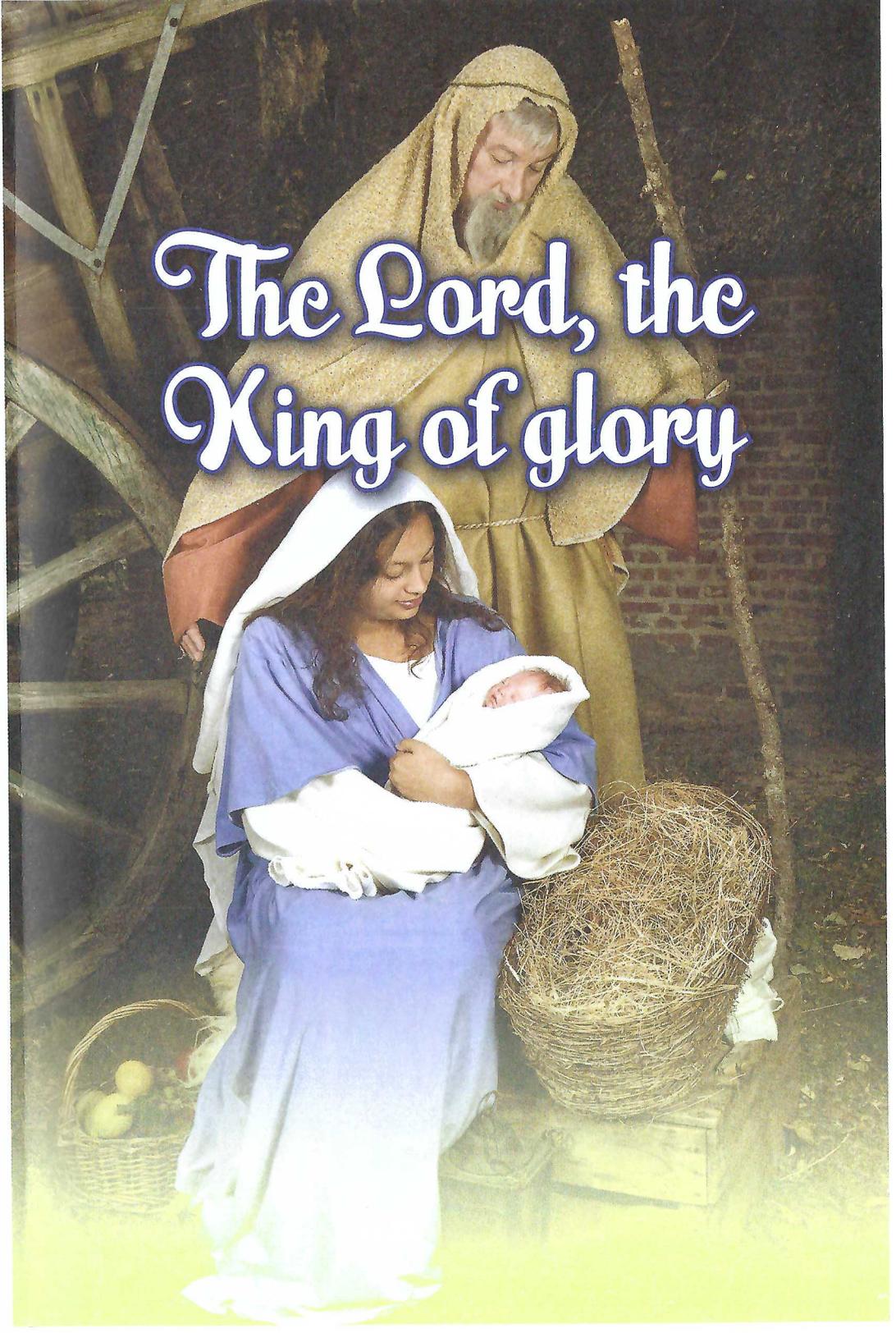
May we, too, be faithful Light followers, *"The LORD is my light and my salvation"* (Psalm 27:1).

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Lucinda J. Rollings

@anyka / 123RF • Printed in USA

The Lord, the King of glory



Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

December 22, 2024

Call to Worship *Sounds of Hope*

Advent Reading

Invocation *Ron Marks*

Sing Unto the Lord
Hymn #270 Joy to the World

Welcome and Announcements *Ron Marks*
Recognition of Guests
Mission Moment
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song
Hymn # 273 Good Christian Men Rejoice

Offertory Prayer *Craig Alexander*

Offertory *Rose Morgan*

Special Music *Sounds of Hope*

Sermon: "The Greatest Gift" *Ron Marks*
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

Benediction
Hymn #265 The First Noel

Pastor Don Mauldin
352-262-5349

Merry Christmas!

Covenant News

Our ministry for December is Helping Hands Clinic.

Since there are 5 Sundays in December, we will also end the year collecting for Pine Grove and Newberry High School.

Save the Dates
Christmas Eve service 5:00 pm

t's Christmas Time Again

Put your problems on probation, run your troubles off the track,
Throw your worries out the window
Lift the burdens from your back.
Silence all your inner critics
With your conscience make amends,
And allow yourself some happiness
It's Christmas time again!

Call a truce with those who bother you
Let all the fighting cease,
Give your differences a breather
And declare a time of peace.
Don't let angry feelings taint
The precious time you have to spend,
And allow yourself some happiness
It's Christmas time again!

Like some cool refreshing water
Or a gentle summer breeze,
Like a fresh bouquet of flowers
Or the smell of autumn leaves,
It's a banquet for the spirit
Filled with family, food and friend,
So allow yourself some happiness
It's Christmas time again!

By Bob Lazzar-Atwood