

**ERIC BUTTERWORTH
PAPERS (3014)**

**BOX 12
FOLDER 3**

**THE REDISCOVERY OF
CHRISTMAS**

DECEMBER 19, 1976

THE REDISCOVERY OF CHRISTMAS

"Oh, it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow;
It isn't the tree or the firelight's glow;
It's the flame that goes from the hearts of men
When Christmas love is abroad again.
It is the laughter of children quivering high
In a shower of radiance to the sky.
For wishes are real, and love is a force;
And the torch, which ages ago had source
In the star that lighted the Wise Men's way,
Burns with a musical fire today." -(Angela Morgan)

Christmas is magic...pure magic! But like all magic there is illusion involved. For the mistletoe is probably plastic and the Santa Claus beard is false...and even the lovely creche is plaster of paris, part of one great facade that is put up like a Hollywood set...and the parties and gifts and hearty "Merry Christmases" are an annual charade that we play out, sometimes even reluctantly. "Tis the season to be merry" the carol sings, and some might add the season to be endured for there is conformity and obligation and status involved. And there may even be an occasional Scrooge, who figuratively or even literally cries out, "Bah, humbug!" to the whole thing.

Ask the question of people on the street, "What does Christmas mean?" And if the person could get out of the Santa Claus syndrome, he might say, "Christmas is the birthday of Jesus!" But one thing December 25th probably is not...is the day Jesus was born. There is no history of the early life of Jesus...only a variety of conflicting legends. The date, December 25th was arbitrarily set by a now obscure church historian in the 6th Century AD, and without any question the date was influenced by the Roman Feast of Saturnalia which occurred at this time.

The whole Nativity story has been over-dramatized and over-sentimentalized, and thus made unreal and irrelevant. Like a movie that we watch for an hour, have a good cry over, and then go out into lives of routineness, not the least bit changed by the experience.

We know very little about the circumstances of Jesus' birth, but when we understand His mission, it is not really all that important. For Jesus did not come to proclaim Himself but man, not to tell us of His divinity making him the great exception, but to tell us of our divinity, and to show in his overcoming the great example of the "I AM" reaching its full personal expression in man. Thus the great event in the life of Jesus was not His birth, but the awakening that took place within Him during the years of His growth, the discovery of the ~~divine~~ dimension in man.

So there is an ~~xxxx~~ outside and an inside of Christmas. The outside is the facade that is pasted on for awhile, a game we play, which, like many games, becomes tiring and even depleting when it is overdone. But -there is an inside of Christmas that relates to the growth potential within you. And all the carols and creches and silver bells and Christmas trees and Nativity scenes and shepherds and wise men...all are integral parts of a great metaphysical lesson of great relevance to every person.

The true magic of Christmas is a depth to be discovered and experienced. And the important thing...it doesn't come to us...but through us. Each person must take the journey himself. In navigation a course is plotted by means of -three fixed points. So I am going to suggest three points that may help you to chart your personal course through the precarious waters of Christmas 1976...and into the days of the new year 1977. A road...a star...and a man.

THERE ARE ROADS AND ROADS AND ROADS. There is the "Road of Remembrance" "out to Old Aunt Mary's" so often traveled by the Hoosier poet when he was a boy, and dreamed about a hundred times when he was old.

There is the "Road of True Love" that runs out to Dover "through the fields of clover on our Goden wedding day."

There is Kipling's "Road to Mandalay", where the flyin' fishes play."

And there is the "Road Not Taken" which Robert Frost remembers with a catch in his throat:

"I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

But of all the roads that crawl across the earth, I love best the Road to Bethlehem. For this is the Road of Wonder. Actually, we are born on this road into a world of wonder that leaves us wide-eyed and almost breathless with the thrilling question of childhood, "What next?" The greatest thing about life is living, and to truly live is to keep alive this sense of wonder and expectancy. How sad to see the questing spirit of vision fade away:

"The youth who daily farther from the East
Must travel, still is Nature's priest;
And on his way attended by the Vision Splendid,
At length the man perceives it die away
And fade into the light of common day." (Wordsworth)

Eliz. Akers Allen sounds the call of Christmas and the road to Bethlehem:
"Backward, turn backward, O Time, on your flight, Make me a -child again, just for tonite"

The Magi from the East heard this call. These aged men of vast learning and experience, still possessed the sense of wonder and awe that belongs to a little child. They left the security of their homes, turned their backs on the warmth of their firesides, bade their loved ones goodbye, mounted their camels, and rode away into the night, all because of the lure of the Bethlehem Road...the wonder of a little child.

George Bernard Shaw says, "Life is a flame which is always burning itself out, but it catches fire again every time a child is born." And though we do not know much about the Wise Men from the East, we know that this flame caught fire again in them...and here they were, still chasing stars at seventy. ~~following the LURE OF WONDER.~~ John Ruskin once wrote, "I would far rather live in a cottage and wonder at everything, than live in Warwick Castle and wonder at nothing."

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "Unto us a child is born...and his name shall be called Wonderful"...full of wonder. Christmas cannot put this wonder into you...but if you seek diligently to rediscover the inner meaning, you will find a depth of wonder within yourself, which will give birth to interest, enthusiasm, and ~~expectation~~...and a new sense of meaning in life.

So the Road to Bethlehem is one of the great fixed points by which to chart the course through Christmas 1976

The second point of our triangulation...is a star..."And Lo, the star went before them till it came and stood where the young child was."

There are stars and stars and stars...The little child's "twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder where you are" And the dreamer's "Starlight, srarbright, first star I've seen tonight, I wish I may, I wish I might, grant the wish I wish tonight." And there is Tennyson's "Sunset and Evening star, and -one clear call to me," and Emerson's "Hitch your wagon to a star."

None greater than He born in manger of Inn of Bethlehem on that night...
None more pathetic than unsung figure of that night...innkeeper. Not deliberately unkind or hostile. Can't blame him for turning away strangers run down at heels. Not in business for health. "No room". May have had extra room...hotels usually do. But it might bring good prize to right person.

But before we are too hard on fellow who missed chance to be host at great moment in history, ponder condition of Inn of our own mind and heart. Is there room for birth of Christ idea (unborn possibility of limitless life) Do we always make room for spiritual things, take time for times of "creative worth-ship", times for meditation? Or do we find self preoccupied, lives crowded and full, interests so many and varied, no room.

In Revelations, "Behold I stand at door and knock..." We never know, during day, when one act done or left undone could prove to be great moment of our lives. In Bethlehem story we have extremes of person we all can be...and person we all-too-often-are. So...don't pass too hastily over Innkeeper with the hiss at the villain, and then applaud the hero by kneeling in homage at manger. For it is Innkeeper of our heart that reflects human consciousness that must be redeemed and transformed.

I have special feeling this year for Ebenezer Scrooge...bum rap...caricature of all that is mean and selfish and materialistic. How we ridicule him with our "Bah, Humbug!" Miss meaning of story..."Metamorphosis of Scrooge"...Growth experience, became sensitive employer, second father to Tiny Tim, and carol ends, "Scrooge knew how to keep Christmas well." Do you?

The Innkeeper of our minds with his preoccupations, and Scrooge of our heart with his materialism can be lifted up...made new. Overcoming is what life is about...and Christmas finest time to begin. Rev: "To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on it." The new name is "I AM", pure spirit, which you can and must qualify according to your ideals.

None is greater than He who was born in the maner of the Inn of Bethlehem on that night so long ago. And none is more pathetic than a prominent but unsung figure -of that night - the keeper of -the Inn of Bethlehem. We don't know his name. He was just an innkeeper in a little village not far from Jerusalem. ~~There were no other inns in Bethlehem at that time. The only inn was the one where the Innkeeper lived. He was the only one who could have provided a room for the Holy Family. He was the only one who could have provided a room for the Holy Family.~~

The Innkeeper was not deliberately hostile or unkind. We can't blame him for turning away strangers who -seemed run down at the heels. He wasn't in business for his health. So he took one look at the expectant mother and the dusty father and said, "No room" He may have had an extra room...hotels usually do have. But it might bring a good price when the right person came along.

But before we are too hard on this poor fellow who missed his chance to be the host at the great moment of history, we should ponder the condition of the Inn of our own mind and heart. Is there room within us for the birth of the Christ idea, the awareness of our own son of God self. Do we always make room for spiritual things in our life, do we take time for meditation? Or do we find ourselves so preoccupied, our lives so crowded and full, our interests so many and varied, that there is no room.

In Revelations, "Behold I stand at the door and -knock..." We never know, in the happenings of every day, when some one little act done or left undone may ultimately prove to be the great moment of -our lives. But in the Bethlehem story we have the -extremes of the person we all can be...and the person that we all-too-often-are. Thus we don't want to hastily pass over the Innkeeper with the hiss to the villain, and then applaud the hero by kneeling in homage at the manger. For it is the Innkeeper of our heart that reflects the human consciousness in us that must be redeemed, lifted up, transformed.

I have had a special feeling this Christmas for Ebenezer Scrooge of Dickens' immortal "Christmas Carol". I feel that he has been given a bum rap. We have made him the caricature of ~~all~~ all that is mean and selfish and materialistic. How we ridicule him with our "Bah, Humbug!" But we have missed the full meaning of the story, which is really about the "Metamorphosis of Scrooge". For Scrooge had a growth experience and he became a sensitive employer, a second father to Tiny-tim, and the Carol ends with the lines: and "Scrooge knew how to keep Christmas well." Do -you?

Thus the Innkeeper of our minds with his preoccupations, and the Scrooge of our heart with his materialism can be lifted up and made ~~new~~ new. Overcoming is what life is about and Christmas is the finest time to begin. Rev: "To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written -on the stone which no one knows except him who receives it." And that new name is "I AM", pure spirit, which you can and must qualify according to your ideals. "I AM a spiritual being, I AM one with all the power and potential to have what I want to have, to do what I long to do, and to be what I potential am."

Follow the three main points of the Christmas triangulation and it will lead to a rediscovery of Christmas...and a personal experience of growth. For as the poet says it, "Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, if he's not born in thee, thy soul is all forlorn."

May ~~you~~ every "Merry Christmas" greeting given or received say, "Namaskar!" I salute the divinity in you...and may you, too, recapture the wonder of the child, follow the star of faith and expectancy, and come to know yourself as the person you can be.

And may we all come to say, with enthusiasm, with Tiny Tim, "God bless us all!"

S. Dec 19, 1974

6/9 Six more days till Christmas and counting...Six more days of mistletoe and Santa Claus and lovely Christmas creches. Christmas is magic...pure magic! But like all magic there is illusion involved. For the mistletoe is plastic And the Santa Claus beard is false, and the creche is plaster of Paris... part of the facade that is put up like Hollywood set.

6/ "Tis the season to be merry" the carol sings, and, for some, to be endured, for there is conformity and obligation and status involved. And there may be an occasional Scrooge, with his "Bah, humbug!" to the whole thing."

Ask "What does Christmas mean?"...if get out of Santa Claus syndrome, person might say, "Birthday of Jesus!" But one thing Dec. 25th probably is not... is day Jesus was born. No history of early life...only variety of conflicting legends. Date was set by obscure church historian in 6th Cent. AD, influenced by Feast of Saturnalia.

6/ Whole Nativity over-dramatized and over-sentimentalized, thus made unreal and irrelevant. Like we watch for hour, have cry over, then go out into lives of routineness, not the least bit changed by the experience.

We know little about circumstances of Jesus' birth, but when we know His mission, not all that important. For did not come to proclaim Himself, but man, not to tell of His divinity (great exception), but of our divinity, to show in His overcoming example of I AM reaching full personal expression. Great event in life of Jesus not His birth, but awakening in Him during years of growth, discovery of divine dimension in man.

Outside of Christmas is facade pasted on for awhile, game we play. But there is an inside of Christmas relating to growth potential within. All the carols and creches and silver bells and Christmas trees and Nativity scenes and shepherds and Wise Men...are integral parts of great metaphysical lesson.

The true magic of Christmas a depth to be discovered and experienced. It doesn't come through us but through us. Each person must take the journey himself.

In navigation, course is plotted by three fixed points. Suggest three points that may help you to chart personal course through the precarious waters of Christmas 1976...and into days of new year 1967. Road...Star...man.

There are roads and roads and roads. There is road of true love that runs out to Dover "through the fields of clover on our Golden Wedding day."

There is Kipling's "Road to Mandalay" where the flying fishes play.

And there is the "Road Not Taken" which Robert Frost remembers with a catch in his throat:

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

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Eliz. Akers Allen sounds call of Christmas and road to Bethlehem: "Backward, turn backward, O Time, on your flight, Make me a child again, just for tonight."

The Magi from East heard this call. These aged men of learning and experience still possessed the sense of wonder and awe of little child. They left security of homes, mounted their camels, and rode off into the night,,,all because of lure of Bethlehem Road, wonder of little child.

G.B.S. "Life is a flame which is always burning itself out, but it catches fire again every time a child is born." Though do not know much about Wise Men from East, we know this flame caught fire again in them...and here they were, still chasing stars at seventy.

John Ruskin: "I would far rather live in a cottage and wonder at everything, then live in Warwick Castle and wonder at nothing."

Prophet Isaiah: "Unto use a child is born...and his name shall be called Wonderful." Full of wonder. Christmas cannot put this wonder into you...but if you seek to rediscover inner meaning, you will find depth of wonder in yourself, which will give birth to enthusiasm for and new sense of meaning in life.

Second point of our triangulation...is a star..."And Lo, the star went before them till it came and stood where the young child was.:

There are stars and 1stars and stars: Child's "Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonderwhere you are" and dreamer's "Starlight, starbright, first star I've seen tonight, I wish I may, I wish I might, grant the wish I wish tonight."

There is Tennyson's "Sunset and evening star, and one clear call to me" And Emerson's "Hitch your wagon to a star."

As a child used to go out with brothers and sister on Christmas eve and search sky for Star in East...would say we found it...knowing looks of elders. But perhaps we did find it...for actually star is consciousness that looks up, that lives in expectancy and faith.

G.K. Chesterton: "We have been told to hitch our wagon to a star, and always the stars are millions of miles away and hopelessly unattainable. We forget that we are living -on a star...which means that the materials and tools to make life glorious are at hand."

Isn't it interesting, too, that a statement that used to symbolize futility, ("reaching for the moon") has become landmark to prove that "all things are possible!"

The Christmas star points to the Christ...but not just to the birth of the babe in the manger...but to the divine potential in each of us. It is a goal high enough to keep us working, reaching...with stars in our eyes.

Our new LOGO describes our true nature as one with and in Divine Flow, with Infinite process rushing, streaming, pouring into us from all sides...actually takes shape of star...showing that in Cosmic process unfolding as you, you are star. and thus you are entitled to all special things that accrue to star...fame and fortune yours by divine right...yours to claim when you follow star of Bethlehem.

Three years ago...Comet Kahoutek (great meaning to me). Trail stretching upward like cosmic exclamation point. Olga and I spent much time looking for it...we believe we did see it. Put exclamation point over desk...spirit of "Wow!" It is consciousness that transcends "Look what the world is coming to!" with "Look what is coming into world" - Christmas spirit, hope and expectation of wonderful things for self and mankind. "Wow!"

Establishing this fixed point of star of East Christmas will have new meaning: will awaken new hope you can be healed, go on to success, you can be person you want to be.

Third point of triangulation is the man. There are men and men and men. We have all known great persons and we have known pathetic little people.... succession of opportunities missed, roads not taken, and defeat and discouragement.

When I was a child I used to go out with my two brothers and my sister on Christmas eve and search the sky for the Star in the East...and we would come home announcing that we had found it...sometimes laughed at by elders who knew better. But did they? Perhaps we were wiser than they. Maybe we did find the star...for actually the star is the consciousness that looks up, that lives in expectancy and faith.

G. K. Chesterton, English philosopher says, "Among all the strange things men have forgotten, the universal lapse of memory is that by which they have forgotten they are living on a star! Often we have been told to...hitch our wagon to a star, and always and always the stars have been -up there millions of miles away and hopelessly unattainable. And to think that all our lives we have been living on a star! That means that the materials and the tools with which to make life glorious are at hand. We are surrounded by infinite potentialities and possibilities! We need no longer attempt to read our destiny in the stars. Our destiny depends on how we live on this star."

Certainly we need to "Hitch our wagon to a star" - to reach for something, even if it be reaching for the moon. And isn't it interesting that a statement that a few years ago symbolized futility ("reaching for the moon") has become a landmark to prove that "all things are possible". The Christmas star is the star that points to the Christ, the divine potential that is within everyone of us. - and what could be higher for an aspiration, a life goal?

But the goal is not just to accept the story of the birth of the babe in Bethlehem...it is a beautiful story. But we are living on a star -- the star announces the birth of the Christ Spirit within each of us. It is a goal high enough to keep us walking, working, reaching...with stars in our eyes.

It is extremely interesting that our new logo (on your program) that describes and defines your true nature as one with and in the Divine Flow, with the Infinite process rushing, streaming into you from all sides...~~shows that~~ ^{actually} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ takes the shape of a great star...which shows that in the Cosmic process that unfolds as you, you are a star...and thus you are entitled to all the special things that accrue to the star...fame and fortune are yours by divine right...yours to claim when you follow the star of Bethlehem.

Three years ago at this time there was a significant astronomical phenomena that had great meaning to me. It was Comet Kahoutek. You recall there was much written and said about it, describing it as a great cosmic exclamation point because its trail stretched upward in an ethereal plume. Olga and I spend much time looking for it...and we believe that we did see it one day. But the thing that it did for me was that spirit of exclamation that I put into the form of "Wow!" It called forth a sense of enthusiasm over the great life that is unfolding within you and for your world. It is a consciousness that easily transcends the cry of "look what the world is coming to!" with the joyous "look what is coming into the world" -- the Christmas spirit, the hope and expectation of wonderful things for ourselves and for mankind. "Wow!"

Establishing this fixed point of the star of the East, Christmas will have new meaning. It will awaken renewed hope that you can be healed, that you can go on to success, that you can be the person you want to be.

This inner star is the "true light that lighteth every man coming into the world" & it is the one source of light that counts. As Tagore said,

"It doesn't matter who carries the candle, as long as he brings the light."

The third point of triangulation is the man. There are men and men and men. We have all known great ~~men~~ and we have known pathetic little ~~men~~ whose lives are one succession of opportunities missed, roads not taken, and defeat and discouragement.

THE REDISCOVERY OF CHRISTMAS⁵

Dec 19, 1974

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SIX MORE DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS AND COUNTING...SKX
MORE DAYS OF MISTLETOE AND SANTA CLAUS AND LOVELY
CHRISTMAS CRECHES. CHRISTMAS IS MAGIC...PURE
MAGIC!

✶ BUT LIKE ALL MAGIC THERE IS ILLUSION INVOLVED.
FOR THE MISTLETOE IS PLASTIC, AND THE SANTA
CLAUS BEARD IS FALSE, AND THE CRECHE IS PLASTER
OF PARIS...ALL PART OF THE FACADE THAT IS PUT
UP LIKE A HOLLYWOOD SET.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE MERRY' THE CAROL SINGS,
AND, FOR SOME, TO BE ENDURED...FOR THERE IS
CONFORMITY AND OBLIGATION AND STATUS INVOLVED.
AND THERE MAY BE AN OCCASIONAL 'BAH, HUMBUG'.

ASK 'WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN?' IF GET OUT OF
SANTA CLAUS SYNDROME, PERSON MIGHT SAY, 'BIRTHDAY
OF JESUS!' BUT...ONE THING DEC. 25 PROBABLY IS
NOT - IS DAY JESUS WAS BORN. NO HISTORY OF EARLY
LIFE...ONLY CONFLICTING LEGENDS. DATE SET BY

OBSURE CHURCH HISTORIAN IN 6TH CEN. AD.,
PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY FEAST OF SATURNALIA.

WHOLE NATIVITY OVER-DRAMATIZED AND OVER-SENTA-
MENTALIZED - THUS MADE UNREAL AND IRRELEVANT.

LIKE MOVIE WE WATCH FOR HOUR, HAVE CRY OVER, THEN
GO OUT INTO LIVES OF ROUTINENESS...UNCHANGED.

WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES OF JESUS' BIRTH
BUT WHEN WE KNOW HIS MISSION, NOT ALL THAT
IMPORTANT. DID NOT COME TO TELL OF HIS DIVINITY,
GREAT EXCEPTION, BUT OF OUR DIVINITY, TO SHOW
IN HIS OVERCOMING EXAMPLE OF "I AM" REACHING FULL
PERSONAL EXPRESSION.

GREAT EVENT IN LIFE OF JESUS NOT HIS BIRTH,
BUT AWAKENING DURING YEARS, DISCOVERY OF
DIVINE DIMENSION IN ~~MAN~~ *ALL PERSONS*.

THE OUTSIDE OF CHRISTMAS IS FACADE PASTED ON FOR
AWHILE, GAME WE PLAY. BUT THERE IS AN INSIDE OF

CHRISTMAS RELATING TO GROWTH POTENTIAL. ALL THE CAROLS AND CRECHES AND SILVER BELLS AND CHRISTMAS TREES AND SHEPHERS AND WISE MEN...ARE INTEGRAL PARTS OF GREAT METAPHYSICAL LESSON.

THE REAL MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS IS A DEPTH TO BE DISCOVERED AND EXPERIENCED. IT DOESN'T COME TO US BUT THROUGH US. EACH PERSON MUST TAKE THE JOURNEY FOR HIMSELF.

▶ IN NAVIGATION, COURSE IS PLOTTED BY THREE FIXED POINTS. WE SUGGEST THREE POINTS THAT MAY HELP YOU TO CHART PERSONAL COURSE THROUGH THE PRECARIOUS WATERS OF CHRISTMAS 1976...AND INTO NEW YEAR 1977: A ROAD...A STAR...A ^{PERSON.} ~~MAN.~~

THERE ARE ROADS AND ROADS AND ROADS. THERE IS "ROAD OF TRUE LOVE THAT RUNS OUT TO DOVER THROUGH THE FIELDS OF CLOVER ON OUR GOLDEN WEDDING DAY".

THERE IS KIPLING'S 'ROAD TO MANDALAY WHERE THE FLYING FISHES PLAY.'

THERE IS 'ROAD NOT TAKEN' WHICH ROBERT FROST REMEMBERS WITH A CATCH IN HIS THROAT:

'TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD, AND I -
I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY,
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.'

BUT OF ALL THE ROADS THAT CRAWL ACROSS THE EARTH,
I LOVE BEST THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM. IT IS THE
ROAD OF WONDER. WE ARE BORN ON THIS ROAD INTO
WORLD OF WONDER THAT LEAVES US WIDE-EYED AND
BREATHLESS WITH CHILD'S QUESTION, 'WHAT NEXT?'

THE GREATEST THING ABOUT LIFE IS LIVING, AND TO
TRULY LIVE IS TO KEEP ALIVE THIS SENSE OF WONDER
▶ HOW SAD TO SEE THE QUESTING SPIRIT 'FADE INTO
THE LIGHT OF COMMON DAY' -WORDSWORTH-

ELIZ. AKERS ALLEN SOUNDS CALL OF CHRISTMAS AND
ROAD TO BETHLEHEM: 'BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, O
TIME, ON YOUR FLIGHT, MAKE ME A CHILD AGAIN, JUST
FOR TONIGHT.'

THE MAGI FROM EAST HEARD THIS CALL. THESE AGED MEN OF LEARNING AND EXPERIENC STILL POSSESSED THE SENSE OF WONDER AND AWE OF LITTLE CHILD. THEY LEFT SECURITY OF HOMES, MOUNTED CAMELS, AND RODE OFF INTO THE NIGHT...ALL BECAUSE OF LURE OF BETHLEHEM ROAD, WONDER OF LITTLE CHILD.

G.B.S. 'LIFE IS A FLAME WHICH IS ALWAYS BURNING ITSELF OUT, BUT IT CATCHES FIRE AGAIN EVERY TIME A CHILD IS BORN.' DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WISE MEN FROM EAST, BUT WE KNOW THIS FLAME CAUGHT FIRE AGAIN IN THEM...AND HERE THEY WERE, STILL CHASING STARS AT SEVENTY.

JOHN RUSKIN: "I WOULD FAR RATHER LIVE IN A COTTAGE AND WONDER AT EVERYTHING, THAN LIVE IN WARWICK CASTLE AND WONDER AT NOTHING."

ISAIAH: 'UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN...AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL.' FULL OF WONDER. CHRISTMAS CANNOT PUT THIS WONDER INTO YOU...

BUT IF YOU SEEK REDISCOVERY OF INNER MEANING, YOU WILL FIND DEPTH OF WONDER IN YOURSELF, WHICH WILL GIVE BIRTH TO ENTHUSIASM FOR AND NEW SENSE OF MEANING IN LIFE.

▶ SECOND ^{FIXED} POINT OF TRIANGULATION... IS A STAR..." AND LO, THE STAR WENT BEFORE THEM TILL IT CAME AND STOOD WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD WAS."

THERE ARE STARS AND STARS AND STARS: THE CHILD'S 'TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR, HOW I WONDER WHERE YOU ARE' - AND THE DREAMER'S, "STARLIGHT, STARBRIGHT, FIRST STAR I'VE SEEN TONIGHT, I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT, GRANT THE WISH I WISH TONIGHT."

THERE IS TENNYSON'S 'SUNSET AND EVENING STAR, AND ONE CLEAR CALL TO ME' AND EMERSON'S,

'HITCH YOUR WAGON TO A STAR.

STAR OF EAST - GREATEST OF ALL

AS A CHILD USED TO GO OUT WITH BROTHERS AND SISTER ON CHRISTMAS EVE TO SEARCH SKY FOR STAR IN EAST.

WOULD SAY WE FOUND IT....KNOWING LOOKS OF ELDERS.
PERHAPS WE DID FIND IT..FOR ACTUALLY STAR IS THE
CONSCIOUSNESS THAT LOOKS UP, THAT LIVES IN
EXPECTANCY AND FAITH.

G. K. CHESTERTON: 'WE HAVE BEEN TOLD TO HITCH OUR
WAGON TO A STAR, AND ALWAYS THE STARS ARE MILLIONS
OF MILES AWAY AND HOPELESSLY UNATTAINABLE. WE
FORGET THAT WE ARE LIVING ON A STAR...THE MATER-
IALS AND TOOLS TO MAKE LIFE GLORIOUS...AT HAND.'

INTERESTING, STATEMENT THAT USED TO SYMBOLIZE
FUTILITY, "REACHING FOR MOON", HAS BECOME LANDMARK
TO PROVE THAT 'ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!'

THE CHRISTMAS STAR POINTS TO THE CHRIST...NOT
JUST TO BABE IN MANGER, BUT DIVINE POTENTIAL
IN EACH OF US. IT IS A GOAL HIGH ENOUGH TO
KEEP US WORKING, REACHING, WITH STARS IN EYES.

▶ OUR NEW LOGO DESCRIBES OUR TRUE NATURE, ONE IN
DIVINE FLOW..RUSHING. POURING. FORMS A STAR

SHOWING THAT IN COSMIC PROCESS UNFOLDING AS YOU,
YOU ARE A STAR...ENTITLED TO ALL SPECIAL THINGS
THAT ACCRUE TO STAR...FAME AND FORTUNE YOURS BY
DIVINE RIGHT...YOURS TO CLAIM WHEN ^{you} FOLLOW STAR.

THREE YEARS AGO...COMET KAHOUTEK (GREAT MEANING
TO ME). TRAIL STRETCHING UPWARD LIKE COSMIC !
EXCLAMATION POINT. OLGA AND I SPENT MUCH TIME
LOOKING FOR IT...WE THINK WE DID SEE IT. PUT
EXCLAMATION POINT OVER DESK...SPIRIT OF "WOW!"
CONSCIOUSNESS THAT TRANSCENDS 'LOOK WHAT THE
WORLD IS COMING TO!' WITH 'LOOK WHAT IS COMING
INTO THE WORLD!' -- THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, THE
HOPE AND EXPECTATION OF WONDERFUL THINGS FOR
SELF AND MANKIND. 'WOW!'

ESTABLISHING THIS FIXED POINT OF STAR OF EAST..
CHRISTMAS WILL HAVE NEW MEANING...AWAKEN NEW HOPE
THAT YOU CAN BE HEALED, GO ON TO SUCCESS, YOU CAN
BE THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE.

PERSON

THIRD POINT OF TRIANGULATION... IS THE ~~MAN~~. THERE ARE ^{PERSONS} ~~MEN~~ AND ^{PERSONS} ~~MEN~~ AND ^{PERSONS} ~~MEN~~. WE HAVE ALL KNOWN GREAT PERSONS AND WE HVE KNOWN PATHETIC LITTLE PEOPLE.. SUCCESSION OF OPPORTUNITES MISSED, ROADS NOT TAKEN, AND DEFEAT AND DISCOURAGEMENT.

NONE GREATER THAN HE BORN IN MANGER OF BETHLEHEM
ON THAT NIGHT...NONE MORE PATHETIC THAN UNSUNG
FIGURE OF THAT NIGHT...INNKEEPER. NOT DELIBERATELY UNKIND. CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR TURNING AWAY STRANGERS WHO WERE "DOWN AT THE HEELS". NOT IN BUSINESS FOR HEALTH. 'NO ROOM' MAY HAVE HAD EXTRA ROOM... HOTELS USUALLY DO...BUT WOULD BRING GOOD PRICE.

BEFORE WE ARE TOO HARD ON FELLOW WHO MISSED CHANCE TO BE HOST AT GREAT MOMENT IN HISTORY, PONDER CONDITION OF INN OF YOUR OWN MIND AND HEART. IS THERE ROOM FOR BIRTH OF UNBORN POSSIBILITY OF LIMITLESS LIFE. DO YOU ALWAYS MAKE ROOM FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS, TIMES OF 'CREATIVE WORTH-SHIP',?

OR ARE ^{you} ~~we~~ TOO PREOCCUPIED, LIVES CROWDED, INTEREST:
SO VARIED, NO ROOM...NO TIME.

REV: 'BEHOLD I ~~ST~~AND AT DOOR AND KNOCK...' WE
NEVER KNOW, DURING DAY, WHEN ONE ACT DONE OR LEFT
UNDONE COULD PROVE TO BE GREAT MOMENT OF OUR LIFE.
'GREAT DOORS SWING ON SMALL HINGES!'

IN BETHLEHEM STORY...EXTREMES OF PERSON WE ALL
CAN BE...AND PERSON WE ALL-TOO-OFTEN-ARE.

DON'T PASS HASTILY OVER INNKEEPER WITH HISS AT
THE VILLAIN, AND APPLAUD HERO BY KNEELING AN
HOMAGE AT MANGER. FOR IT IS INNKEEPER OF OUR
HEART THAT REFLECTS THE HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS THAT
MUST BE REDEEMED AND TRANSFORMED.

I HAVE SPECIAL FEELING FOR EBENEZER SCROOGE...

'BUM RAP'...CARICATURE OF MEAN, SELFISH, MATERIALIST
WE RIDICULE HIM WITH OUR 'BAH, HUMBUG!' WE MIS
MEANING OF STORY...'METAMORPHOSIS'...GROWTH EXP.
BECAME SENSITIVE EMPLOYER, SECOND FATHER TINY-TIM

CAROL ENDS, 'SCROOGE KNEW HOW TO KEEP CHRISTMAS WELL.' DO YOU?

THE INNKEEPER OF OUR MINDS WITH HIS PREOCCUPATIONS AND SCROOGE/OF OUR HEART WITH HIS MATERIALISM... CAN BE LIFTED UP, MADE NEW. OVERCOMING IS WHAT LIFE IS ABOUT...AND CHRISTMAS FINE TIME TO BEGIN.

[REV:] 'TO HIM WHO CONQUERS I WILL GIVE SOME OF THE HIDDEN MANNA, AND I WILL GIVE HIM A WHITE STONE, WITH A NEW NAME WRITTEN ON IT.' THE NEW NAME IS 'I AM', PURE SPIRIT, WHICH YOU CAN AND MUST MODIFY ACCORDING TO YOUR IDEALS.

▶ FOLLOW THE THREE POINTS OF CHRISTMAS TRIANGULATION AND IT WILL LEAD TO REDISCOVERY OF CHRISTMAS... AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF GROWTH...THE ROAD OF WONDER, THE STAR OF EXPECTANCY, AND THE PERSON YOU CAN BECOME. 'THOUGH CHRIST A THOUSAND TIMES IN BETHLEHEM BE BORN...IF HE'S NOT BORN IN THEE..'

⑧ MAY EVERY 'MERRY CHRISTMAS' -- OR 'HAPPY CHANUKAH
GIVEN OR RECEIVED, SAY, 'NAMASKAR!' I SALUTE THE
DIVINITY IN YOU...

AND MAY YOU, TOO, RECAPTURE THE WONDER OF THE
CHILD, FOLLOW THE STAR OF FAITH AND EXPECTANCY,
AND COME TO KNOW YOURSELF AS THE PERSON YOU
CAN BE.

⑨ AND MAY WE ALL COME TO SAY, WITH ENTHUSIASM,
WITH TINY-TIM: 'GOD BLESS US ALL.'