

Several years ago I was sent this story, probably over the Internet. You may have heard it before. I thought it so captured the Christmas Spirit that I wanted to share it with you this year, when the world appears to need the unifying Spirit of Jesus more than ever.

---the editor

SPIRIT in ACTION

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter
8084 Watson Road/ Suite 236, St. Louis, MO 63119
Web Address: www.divinesciencefederation.org

Contact the Divine Science Federation on
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
9:30am to 3:30pm
by Phone: 1 800.644.9680 - Local Phone 314.842.2335 - FAX: 314.842.2650
Email: divscifederation@aol.com
Mary Eckard, Secretary

December 2006

We Welcome You!

A Beautiful Christmas Story

About a week before Christmas, Mom bought a new nativity scene. When she unpacked it, she found two figures of the Baby Jesus. "Someone must have packed this wrong," mother said, counting out the figures. "We have one Joseph, one Mary, three wise men, three shepherds, two lambs, a donkey, a cow, an angel, and two babies. Oh, dear! I suppose some set down at the store is missing a Baby Jesus because we have two."

"You two run back down to the store and tell the manager that we have an extra Jesus. Tell him to put a sign on the remaining boxes saying that if a set is missing a Baby Jesus call 7126. Put on your warm coats, it's freezing cold out there." The manager of the store copied down mother's message, and the next time we were in the store, we saw the cardboard sign that read, "If you're missing Baby Jesus, call 7126." All week long we waited for someone to call. Surely, we thought, someone was missing that important figurine.

Each time the phone rang, mother would say, "I'll bet that's about Jesus"--- but it never was. Father tried to explain there are thousands of these scattered over the country, and the figurine could be missing from a set in Florida or Texas or California. Those packing mistakes happen all the time. He suggested that she just put the extra Jesus back in the box and forget about it. "Put Baby Jesus back in the box? What a terrible thing to do," said mother. "Surely someone will call. We'll just keep the two of them together in the manger until someone does."

When no call had come by 5:00pm on Christmas Eve, mother insisted that father "just run down to the store" to see if there were any sets left. "You can see them right through the window, over on the counter," she said. "If they are all gone, I'll know someone is bound to call tonight." "Run down to the store?" father thundered, "it's 15 below zero out there!" "Oh, Daddy, we'll go with you!"

We began to put on our coats. Father gave a long sigh and headed for the front closet. "I can't believe I'm doing this," he muttered. We ran ahead as father reluctantly walked out in the cold. Tommy got to the store first and pressed his nose up to the store window. "They're all gone, Daddy," he shouted. "Every set must be sold. Hooray! The mystery will be solved tonight!" Father heard the news still a half block away and immediately turned on his heel and headed back home.

When we got back into the house, we noticed that mother was gone and so was the extra Baby Jesus figurine. "Someone must have called, and she went out to deliver the figurine," father reasoned, pulling off his boots. "You kids get ready for bed while I wrap mother's present." Suddenly the phone rang. Father yelled "answer the phone and tell 'em we found a home for Jesus." But it was mother calling with instructions for us to come to 205 Chestnut Street immediately, and bring three blankets, a box of cookies and some milk. "Now what has she gotten us into?" father groaned as we bundled up again. "205 Chestnut, why that's clear across town. Wrap that milk up good in the blankets, or it will turn to ice before we get there. Why can't we all just get on with Christmas? It's probably 20 below out there now and the wind is picking up. Of all the crazy things to do on a night like this---"

When we got to the house at 205 Chestnut Street, it was the darkest one on the block. Only one tiny light burned in the living room, and the moment we set foot on the porch steps, mother opened the door and shouted, "They're here! Oh thank God you got here, Ray! You kids take those blankets into the living room and wrap up the little ones on the couch. I'll take the milk and cookies."

"Would you mind telling me what is going on, Ethel?" father asked. "We have just walked through below zero weather with the wind in our faces all the way."

"Never mind all that now," mother interrupted. "There is no heat in this house, and this young mother is so upset, she doesn't know what to do. Her husband walked out on her, and those poor little children will have a very bleak Christmas, so don't you complain. I told her you could fix that oil furnace in a jiffy. My mother strode off to the kitchen to warm the milk while my brother and I wrapped up the five little children who were huddled together on the couch.

The children's mother explained to my father that her husband had run off, taking bedding, clothing, and almost every piece of furniture, but she had been doing all right until the furnace broke down. "I been doin' washin' an ironin' for people and cleanin' the five and dime," she said. "I saw your number every day there, on those boxes on the counter. When the furnace went out, that number kept goin' through my mind ... 7162. Said on the box that if a person was missin' Jesus, they should call you, that's how I knew you were good Christian people, willin' to help folks. I figured that maybe you would help me, too. So, I stopped at the grocery store tonight, and I called your missus. I'm not missin' Jesus, mister, because I sure love the Lord, but I am missin' heat. I have no money to fix that furnace."

"Okay, okay," said father. "You've come to the right place. Now let's see. You've got a little oil burner over there in the dining room, shouldn't be too hard to fix, probably just a clogged flue. I'll look it over, see what it needs."

Mother came into the living room carrying a plate of cookies and warm milk. As she set the cups down on the coffee table, I noticed the figure of Baby Jesus lying in the center of the table. It was the only sign of Christmas in the house. The children stared wide-eyed with wonder at the plate of cookies my mother set before them.

Father finally got the oil burner working but said, "You need more oil. I'll make a few calls tonight and get some oil. Yes sir, you came to the right place." Father grinned. On the way home, father did not complain about the cold weather and had barely set foot inside the door when he was on the phone. "Ed, hey, how are ya, Ed? Yes, Merry Christmas to you, too. Say Ed, we have kind of an unusual situation here. I know you've got that pick-up truck. Do you still have some oil in that barrel on your truck? You do?" By this time the rest of the family was pulling clothes out of their closets and toys off of their

shelves. It was long after our bedtime when we were wrapping gifts.

The pickup came. On it were chairs, three lamps, blankets, and gifts. Even though it was 30 below, father let us ride along in the back of the truck.

No one ever did call about the missing figure in the nativity set, but as I grow older I realize that it wasn't a packing mistake at all.

Jesus saves! That's what He does, and he did!

---Author Unknown

God's Plan

Nadine F. Pleason

*There is balance, order, and harmony
in the universe. It is God's will.*

Individuals can find this harmony and balance, but first we must experience oneness or unity with ourselves, oneness with our fellowman, and finally oneness with God. When one's spirit has reached that special state of acceptance, God reveals Himself in obvious ways. Then we feel Him calming the body and bringing inner balance and harmony, uniting us with every other creature that He has created.

God in His infinite wisdom has created uniqueness in every living soul, each with its special and individual place. Each is created for a special purpose. It is up to us to discover that purpose and in complete faith to unite with God and with His universe; then we have no fear, for we know that God protects us. We have no worry or doubt, for we know that God loves us. We have no vanity or resentment, for we know that in God's sight we are all equal--- and each is special and unique.

There is no evil, only the evil of man's ignorance and mistakes. Only the good is real. God's love is real and infinite, including all His creation.

God is in everything. His Plan is perfect. He works His miracles daily. We must open up our eyes--- lift up our hearts--- unite with our inner self and with our fellow man. We are not alone--- for God, Divine Love--- is everywhere in the universe. Reach out to God. He is your strength, your energy. Reach out to Him and He will show you the way.

Fear has no place in our Divine make-up.

---Nona Brooks 2

The Four Evangelists

A. B. Fay

(Taken from the *Divine Science Bible Text Book*)

(In the Preface of the *Divine Science Bible Text Book* A. B. Fay states: "The literal interpretation of the Bible has done much toward driving thoughtful minds into unbelief. Knowing as we do that the oriental language abounds in symbolism; it should be easy for us to understand that we cannot insist upon the literalness of this book which comes to us from the Orient. Many things in the Bible show in themselves the impossibility of being rendered literally, and if *any* part is admitted to be figurative so may other parts be.

"Then we do well to remember, as one has said, that the Bible does not make Truth any more than books written on electricity make electricity. Man discovered Truth and then wrote what he knew about it. In the Bible is recorded simply what men have learned about Truth. Truth never destroys Truth, the fuller vision includes all the lesser that has preceded. Throughout the ancient writings we have messages from all stages of spiritual development, from primitive man to man in the highest plane of unfoldment. We find in these writings the lisping of babes and the utterances of the fully developed or the wise man. 'The first man (infant or first view of man) is of the earth earthy; the second man (truer understanding of man) is the Lord from heaven.'

"As long as man invents systems of Truth they will prove to be limited and partial visions of the Whole Truth, which is known only as we understand the Omnipresence of God. This, Omnipresence of God, means literally the omnipresence of *all* that God is; Love, Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Power, Life and Joy.

"Our faith must be logical to be scientific, and it must be scientific to be intelligent and reasonable. Truth is changeless, only opinions of Truth change.

"After all, the Bible was written by persons like ourselves, whose greatest claim was not so much that they knew God as that they longed for Him, and so longing, spoke out of their best and deepest understanding."...)

(In the next few months I shall share a part of what A. B. Fay shared in her book when it was printed in 1920 for the Colorado College of Divine Science, so that we all may gather a better understanding of our heritage. A. B. Fay cautions: "While the following lessons are written for all, all may not be ready for them. ... They involve deep Truth which can be received only by those prepared for it." ... --- the editor)

Part I

Three Jewish parties:

Pharisees, orthodox teachers of Mosaic Law;
Sadducees, worldly minded priests, aristocrats;
Essenes, ascetics, lived apart from social and civil life in communities; they did not indulge in the fierce pride of the Pharisees or the scornful skepticism of the Sadducees.

Evangelical History before the public ministry of Jesus is supposed to cover the space of thirty years and six months.

On comparing the first three Gospels, the Synoptic Gospels, we observe in them great similarity both in substance and general arrangement. The outline of the course of events given in these Gospels is almost the same, from the ministry of John the Baptist onwards. The common character is much accentuated when we compare them with John (the Gospel), the contents of which are widely different.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word *was* God." John 1:1-4

The same, God, Divine Mind, that originates, that forms, that upholds, that sustains by being present with, was in the beginning. "All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was Made."

Conception and birth of John the Baptist- Luke 1:5-25
and 57-79

Revelation to Mary- Luke 1:26-38

An angel appears to Joseph. Only Matthew relates this incident. Virgin--- Hebrew word for young woman, married or unmarried. Joel 1:8

Mary visits Elizabeth-(mother of John the Baptist) Luke 1:39-56

The birth of Jesus- Matthew 1:25

The birth of Jesus--- Luke relates more in detail concerning the conception. An angel spoke to Mary; it was a message to her soul and those who wrote this could not have understood that message.

There is something higher than the mystery of Jesus' birth. Imagine some one today becoming conscious that all life is Divine. Mary seems to be the first to whom this Divine revelation came. It came within her own consciousness that the Holy Ghost, Divine illumination, should come to her.

The first necessity of all creation is light, the first creative word was "Let there be light." Every child is a creation, a Divine creation.

Divine illumination came to Mary's inmost consciousness; first the light, understanding, inward illumination, then next "the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee."

The world's conception of birth is completely overshadowed by the new conception that reveals the higher birth; the highest vision shall overshadow every human conception.

Immaculate, pure, without blemish; all conception is immaculate because conception, growth and unfoldment are by natural law which is Divine Law.

The birth of Jesus was a natural birth and Mary was the first who perceived the divinity of it.

It seems that the other children that Mary brought forth were not of such a high consciousness as Jesus. Perhaps she did not rise quite to that height again. Jesus was surely the offspring of her purest consciousness.

Jesus had no advantage over us *from God* but from his mother. Mary was a consecrated soul. The divinity is what is born of God and that means every child.

Equally as wonderful were the conceptions of Elizabeth and Sarah. They were both supposed to be beyond the age when woman brings forth. According to human law, Elizabeth could not have brought forth John the Baptist, but there are laws of birth which are beyond our comprehension today. Why were not the products of Elizabeth and Sarah as high as the product of Mary?

Note that the message in Sarah's case came to Abraham, and Sarah *doubted* it; in the case of Elizabeth, the message came to Zechariah, who carried *it to her*.

Promises are predictions; not something granted by an arbitrary will as a reward. This is a childish notion, but in a maturer consciousness it is revealed that all is law, and by law. Predictions concern the Messenger that shall prepare the way for the "coming" of the Lord. *After the preparation*, the Lord comes quickly. What is the preparation? It is called the *cleansing*. Of what? Of mentality, the dissolving of *personal opinions and beliefs!* These alone obscure our clear vision of Truth. The "Voice" in the "wilderness" always sounds. Preceding every thought and word and deed is the guiding consciousness that directs. The "wilderness" where all seems bare is filled with this "Voice."

The parents of John were righteous, "walking in all the commandments;" yet Zechariah doubted the "Voice" that spoke or predicted beyond human thought of possibilities. For this, personal expression was stilled until the revelation was received and accepted. If we will accept it, we may receive far beyond what human belief decrees.

There is no *prayer of faith*, until we seek beyond human understanding!

ELIJAH WAS THE PRECURSOR OF JOHN.

See Mal. 4:5; Matt. 11:14; Matt. 16:13-16; Matt. 17:10-13; Mark 9:11-13; Luke 1:17; Luke 9:8; John 1:19-23

To go forth in the spirit and power of *any* individual is a lesser consciousness than to go in the spirit and power of your own Christ.

In the case of Mary, the message came to her very own soul, not through another. Self revelation is the highest; nothing can be as high as that which comes to one's own soul. We must see the Truth with our own eyes. We may read or hear what another says, but we must weigh it and either receive or reject it for ourselves.

Jesus disclaimed human origin, either through father or mother, and claimed his divinity and claimed the same for each of us.

John 13:3 and John 16:28

It was he who taught us to say, "Our Father," and he said, "I ascend unto my Father and your Father, unto my God and your God."

John 20:17

Even more emphatically he says, "Call no man on earth your father, for One is your Father, which is in heaven."

Matthew 23:9

He could have said, "Call no woman on earth your mother; call no flesh your Origin, but Spirit." We are heirs of God, equal heirs with Jesus, the Christ. This is the promise of the Christ consciousness to *all* men. Birth not of the flesh but of Spirit, *of a virgin mind that knows not man, man's law of intellect.*

"Born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

John 1:13

My origin is yours, declares this Divine man. I am the elder brother of this great family, "first born" because first to perceive man's true origin.

The genealogies of Jesus! These accounts differ.

Luke goes back from Jesus to Adam; (Luke 3:23-38) Matthew goes back from Jesus to Abraham, and uses the word "begat," true reading, "Joseph begat Jesus who is the Christ."

(Matthew 1:1-17)

Both authors in giving the genealogy of Jesus trace him back through Joseph, not through Mary.

In Matthew, Luke, and John they all refer to Jesus as the son of Joseph.

It is believed that Mark wrote the earliest Gospel, yet it gives no account of virgin birth or birth at all.

Paul makes it very clear his thought of Jesus' birth, "born of woman under the law."

Galatians 4:4

God's law is the law of perfect expression.

The festival of the immaculate conception of Jesus is traceable in the Greek Church from the fifth century, and in the Latin dates from the seventh century.

John Duns Scotus, in 1307, introduced the teaching releasing Mary from the Jewish idea of original sin. They did this to free her from the taint of Adam's sin; her ancestors were left in their original condition.

Pope Pius IX issued a decree at Rome on December 8, 1854, declaring the doctrine to be an article of Catholic belief; the decree is accepted throughout the Roman church (as of this writing).

The wise men were directed to the infant Jesus with gifts.

Matthew 2: 1, 12, 23

Every babe has received all the gifts of wisdom. The wise men worshiped the child, not the mother; true wisdom does not worship any personal Jesus, but the Spirit, God.

Herod's cruelty causes them to hurry into Egypt.

Jesus at the age of twelve was a time when a Jewish child became the son of the law. Luke 2:40-52

Presentation of Jesus in the temple! "And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him." Luke 2:22,33,38

Jesus learned obedience. Hebrews 5:8

John the Baptist and his ministry! John came in the spirit of Elijah, with the same vigorous arraignment.

He replies definitely, "I am not the Christ. I am not Elijah."

Jesus says, "Among those that are *born of women* (believe this to be the truth of their birth) there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he that is least in the kingdom of God (he that has the very least consciousness of the presence of God) is greater than he." The difference between John the Baptist and Jesus, John said, "I am *not* the Christ," and Jesus said, "I *am* the Christ," difference in realization of being.

(to be continued)

The Silence

Patsy B. Cantrell

The "Silence" is a term used to describe a state of inner communion with divine Selfhood. It is the silent or secret place where God-the-Father and man-the-Son meet face to face, consciously aware of each other. It is really what it says, a "silent time."

God is always aware of his children, and in the Silence man gets still in order to become consciously aware of his Indwelling Father. The Ninety-first Psalm tells us that "Because thou hast made the secret place thy habitation" seemingly miraculous things shall happen; we shall be divinely protected and guarded from every seeming calamity or disaster, we shall enjoy freedom and honor and long life, and we shall see the salvation of God.

It is a secret place because no one else can bring you into this state of consciousness. Another may help you--- tell you how it is done, but only by *doing* can you have the glorious experience for yourself.

This secret place of silence is deep within your own soul. That is why you must be still; why you must quiet all busy thoughts of the outer. Realize that this is your time with God the Father. "Take time to be holy," it is the most *important thing in the world*.

Since the Silence is the "spring-board of creation," you will desire to come here often for new ideas, greater peace, happiness, power and plenty. You will have a standing engagement with your Father, and you will keep your appointment, rain or shine.

Set aside a certain time each day--- not a sleepy time, for you want to be wide awake and alert. Sit down in a comfortable, relaxed position with a note book and pencil. If errant thoughts persist, such as, "note re: groceries," or "remember the 'hairdo' appointment," write them down and then dismiss them for the time being.

Read or think upon some high statement of Truth, a Bible verse, or bit of poetry in order to relax the tension of the mental realm. In doing this you are stilling your conscious mind so that you can realize the Super-conscious or Christ Mind, which is the Invisible Presence of God indwelling you. While you meditate quietly, a great change will be going on in you even though you may not feel anything taking place; just as you do not consciously feel the digestion of your food or the circulation of your blood, although you know it is going on.

Think again of the Silence as the "spring-board of creation." Here the Divine moves into incarnation--- all that God is comes to a point in you as an individual. The qualities of God released through you become reality to you, and you become consciously aware of your divine unity. You so merge and become one with the Father-Mother-God that you realize this Oneness and spontaneously declare, "I am *still* in Thy Presence. Thou art the only Presence, Power, and Activity, and Thou art here at the center of my being, as the presence, power and activity that I am now expressing."

While this goes on within you, anything can and may happen. Quoting the words of Dr. Irwin Gregg: "The greatest things in life and the most awe-inspiring performance of Being are born and performed in silence. True Spiritual release comes in the Silence and is the divine life within coming to free activity and expression in all our voluntary powers."

There are many more beautiful and constructive ideas to be found in the Silence than have ever been taken out of it. Truly, the eye hath not seen, and the ear hath not heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man, all the good and beautiful things, (ideas) in the Mind of God, waiting to be revealed in the Silence.

REALIZATION

Helen Zagat

Releasing all thoughts of the outer world, I go within in silent communion with God. I give myself to Spirit completely, that Spirit may do its perfect work in me. 5

Step by step I grow in the realization of my oneness with God. I am Spirit expressed.

God is divine Mind, Spirit, Creator, All-in-All. God is the only Presence and the only Power. I stem forth from God. I am one with that radiant Presence. It is ever with me, ever active for good. It rests with me to accept the beauty of divine activity in my life.

Step by step I realize the truth. I accept it. The light of the Presence permeates my mind and my heart. I am illumined in all that I think and say and do.

I trust God to bring me up out of any appearance of difficulty. Nothing is too hard for God. Spirit is ever ready, ever willing to respond to my call of faith. In my awareness, the good comes into visible form.

Step by step I realize my true nature, which is divine. Through the Christ within I am one with God.

I move forward on my pathway with faith that God's good will is now done in my life. Quietly and expectantly I await fulfillment through Spirit within. I give thanks that I am blessed and prospered in wonderful ways.

Step by step I rise in consciousness. The light of Divine Wisdom is within me and all around me. In that light there is only good. One with God, I am one with the good. I realize the glory of the Presence.

From the pen of Carrie F. Munz:

Each one has his or her own concept of God. This is right. No one can give to another a deep realization or real understanding of God. Each must find and develop his own thought or truth and his relationship to the All. The mistake is to have no concept at all.

To many the concept of a personal God on a throne, somewhere in a distant heaven, still seems to satisfy their need. (They look to this personal God to do their bidding.)

Many think of God as universal intelligence, or as power, or as universal spirit; all are marvelous concepts and give a true basis for understanding and satisfying relationships with the Creator.

Perhaps the highest and deepest realization that has as yet come to man is: God is Love.

It still is so far above the realization of the race that to know this truth means entering a new way of life, a new world, a new concept of man.

Jesus gave and emphasized this concept--- that God is Love. He proved this consciousness to his own deep satisfaction. To him it was so clear and vivid that he gave his all to prove its truth.

It is only in the realization that Divine Love is a reality, here and now, that the Christ can be born within us and Christmas celebrations give a new joy and beauty to us, not materially but spiritually.

Henry Drummond tells us that the spectrum of love has eight ingredients: patience, humility, generosity, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness, and sincerity.

As a new understanding develops within us, everything dear and valuable intensifies in its value to us. We celebrate Christmas because it is built upon the great principle that God is love. Love expresses as peace on earth. Love shares its gifts with others. Love transmutes ugliness into beauty; sorrow into joy; doubt into faith and certainty.

Have you ever questioned the statement: God is too pure to behold iniquity?

Since God-Mind knows all, does it not know my weakness and suffering? Does perfect Mind know war?

If we in our ignorance say: "Seven times seven equals forty-six and believe it, act upon it, does this change the fact that seven times seven equals forty-nine?"

The law of mathematics is, no matter what you and I believe in our ignorance of its true nature.

Hear this, it is of supreme importance:

The fact that whatever God is, God knows, or God does is universal truth. God in action is law. God's law never changes. This is your salvation and my salvation: the certainty that law was ever active in the past and is now, gives to us a sense of its enduring quality and we trust it for the future.

The law of love is active, man is free to ignore or to use this law, but *he must take the results of his choice.*

Your New Divine Science Federation Board Members

Mrs. Cathy Hall	President**
Dr. William Freeman	V. President
Rev. Christine Emmerling	Treasurer
Mr. Peter Miller	Secretary*
Rev. Larry Massengale	Chaplain***

Mr. Peter Miller	Eastern Rep*
Mrs. Cathy Hall	Mid-western Rep**
Rev. Larry Massengale	Western Rep***

Dr. Jane Kopp -	Brooks Ctr. for Spirituality-Rep
Rev. Patricia Beach -	Divine Science Schl.-Rep
Dr. Anne Kunath -	United Div.Science Schl.-Rep
Rev. Roma Carlisle -	DS Ministers Assn. - Rep

NOTE FROM THE DSFI BOARD: Mr Wayne Gatewood has resigned from the Board citing personal reasons. We applaud Mr. Wayne Gatewood for his six plus years of service to the Divine Science Federation International Board of Officers.

We welcome Mr. Peter Miller as both the Secretary to the Board and as the Eastern Regional Representative.

No one forces us, but ignorance of the law, misuse of the law on any plane causes suffering until we learn what not to do, thus slowly learning the right thing to do.

How often we wish for a key to the kingdom of heaven.

We do not realize that we already possess the keys that will certainly unlock the door. We do not use these precious gifts.

We look for a miracle to happen, for someone to come and lead us or do for us; we seek everywhere, but within ourselves.

Those wonderful mental attitudes and emotional strengths are to us so commonplace that we almost ignore their presence.

Have we definitely and persistently practiced unlocking the door into God's presence by using the key of appreciation, praise, and thanksgiving? Here we have a powerful instrument--- a key that will unlock any closed door. We must give not only praise and gratitude to our Creator but appreciation to our fellow man. (The first two Commandments still apply.)

We accept the most loving service from the members of our families, friends, teachers, fellow workers, very often expressing little or no appreciation. (Courtesy should not become a thing of the past.)

How good we feel when we say a deep thank you, a loving, "That was a good dinner." "How patient and kind you are to me." "Your courage and faith were wonderful." Every day things? Yes, life is the sum total of many little and a few big things.

The kingdom of heaven is peace, rightness, and love and--- the kingdom is within you.

Recognize it, enter into it, and be grateful.

The Christmas Monks

by Elisabeth Swan

(Adapted from a story by Mary E. Wilkins)

In far away and long ago times when fairy tales were new, there was a great monastery where the famous order of Christmas Monks lived. The Christmas monks were unusual in appearance. The robes of the order were white tied with ropes of evergreen and they were never seen at any time of the year without Christmas wreaths on their heads.

Of course, the principle thing about the monastery was the garden where acres and acres of Christmas presents grew. There was the very large bed for bicycles and a shady bed where ice skate and sled seed were planted. Near a huge sand-pile, red wagons flourished and roller skate seed made a beautiful border along the walks.

Naturally this wonderful garden took a great deal of work and at last, one year, the old Abbot decided it would be a sensible thing if they hired a boy to help. He must be willing to live at the monastery, never leaving it for a minute, for if he

did, he might be tempted to tell about the wonderful Christmas present seed. Of course he must be a good boy; otherwise the seeds he tended would not grow.

So the monks put up a great sign, "WANTED, A GOOD BOY." They had so many answers they were quite amazed, but it did not take them long to make their choice, for one boy stood out from all the others. It needed only a glance at his face to tell that he was honest, dependable, and loving--- in fact, just the boy for the place. So they hired this lad (whose name was Peter) and set him to work at once oiling the wheels in the border.

For some time Peter was very content. He liked the good Christmas Monks, he liked his work; but in the long evenings as he wandered about the endless garden paths he could not help being homesick. Peter's home was small, but it was full of love and he was sure it was the finest home in the world. The only reason he had left it at all was that he might earn money for his crippled little sister whom he loved dearly. As the months went by and Christmas drew near, it seemed to Peter that he missed her more and more.

One evening as he was carefully covering the presents to protect them from frost he heard a soft little voice say, "Peter." He looked up, startled. Then he heard, "Peter, here I am!" And there, hopping along the walk on her crutches was his little sister.

Peter caught her up in his arms. "How did you ever get in?" he cried.

"Behind one of the monks--- I was tired of never seeing you so I watched the gate and when one of the monks opened it I just whisked in. Oh, Peter dear, mayn't I stay with you?"

It was hard to resist her pleading. Peter said, "I'll tell you what we'll do. Since it is so late you may sleep for this one night in this large toy bed. I will spend the night under a tree close by so that we will be near one another."

The little sister was very happy. She could hardly wait to snuggle under the rose-colored quilts of the big doll's bed; but the next morning it was different. The Christmas Monk whose duty it was to inspect the garden came out early while the frost still lay crisp and white over the row of toys.

"Brother, what shall I do?" gasped the little girl.

Peter wrinkled his brows. "You must stand very still in this row where one of the large dolls did not come up," he said in a low voice. He hated to deceive but there seemed nothing else to do.

So little Sister hopped over on her crutches ever so quickly, tipping up her face and smiling just like the dolls around her. The near sighted old monk noticed nothing unusual and was about to pass by when one of the crutches clattered down at his feet. It startled him so that the Christmas wreath actually tumbled off his head.

"What miracle is this!" he exclaimed. "A lifeless doll changed into a little girl! I must take her to the Abbot at once." Before Peter could say a word he had gathered up his sister and carried her to the chapel where the Brothers were gathered.

"See, Reverend Father," he cried, "a miracle has taken place in our own garden. I have just now found this child in the place where a doll has been."

The monks crowded around eagerly. "A miracle, a miracle," they murmured. *(continued on the back)*

DIVINE SCIENCE FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL
8084 Watson Road/Suite 236
St. Louis Missouri 63119
1 800 644 9680 - Local-314 842 2335
FAX: 314 842 2650

The Divine Science Federation Int'l is an equal opportunity organization and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex or sexual orientation, age, or disability.

Forwarding Service Requested

If you plan to move, please notify us.

DECEMBER 2006

**A Divine Science Federation International
Newsletter**

**L ove
I ntegrity
F reedom
E xcellence**

We Welcome You!

One of the monks who tended all the broken toys touched her gently.

"Reverend Father, may I have permission to make her whole as she should be?"

"You may," said the Abbot. "Meanwhile we will gather gifts of all kinds and bring an offering to our little saint."

There followed a great running to and fro as the Christmas Monks searched out the very best of their presents and brought them to the chapel. In only a little while the monk who was called "the healing Brother," returned carrying the crutches and by his side ran Peter's sister. "Wait," he said quietly. "This child has something to say."

"Please," faltered the little girl, "I am not a miracle at all. I am only Peter's sister."

"Peter, who works in our garden?" asked the Abbot in amazement.

"Yes, Reverend Father."

The monks glanced at each other and at the rich presents in their hands. They were just beginning to feel rather foolish when Peter stepped from the back of the chapel. He knelt down before the Abbot and told the whole story, begging for forgiveness.

Silence---

Hurriedly he cried, "But Reverend Father," his face glowing with happiness in spite of himself. "is it not a miracle that my sister is healed and can now run and dance and play like other little girls?"

The monks all smiled and the Abbot shook his head.

"My son, a miracle, as you should know, is something out of the usual and there is nothing unusual in a child being whole and well. That is only natural. But since you are both sorry and will not do wrong again we will give these gifts to your little sister even if she is not a miracle, shall we not, Brothers?"

"Yes, indeed," they chorused.

So a great basket was brought and filled with toys. Then Peter and his little sister were taken to the great gate.

"You may stay home until after Christmas," the Abbot said to Peter. "And after this your little sister may visit you once a year."

Then the Christmas Monks smiled and waved goodbye and marched back to the Chapel singing "Joy to the World" with all their hearts.