

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 - Phone 801-355-6310 December 2007



Can you imagine Christmas without a home, without your family, or even without food and clothing? It happens far too often.

**Prayer works
because
God listens!**



Christmas reminds us we are all equal when all is said and done. That we all have the capacity to love our neighbors and can give from our heart, even to those we have never met.

**H e l p i n g
someone else on
Christmas makes
you feel good
and know the
true meaning of
the holiday.**



**Christmas
reminds us to
love others.**



“I used to be lonely during Christmas and the Holidays but now I know I’m never alone.

Christmas is the celebration of hope coming into the world. It is up to each person to pass that hope on.

“I spent most of my life without a father. I started at a very young age to mask my feelings. I began to use drugs and sell drugs. After hitting bottom I came to the Salt Lake City Mission. While at the Mission I learned about the Good News of Jesus Christ and His free gift. He gave me power to change my life and break the bondage of addiction. Now I have peace in my heart. Christmas is celebrating my new life.”



Mike Thompson

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host
appeared with the angel, praising God and
saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace to men on whom His favor rests.” (Luke
2:13)*

The peace of Christmas, proclaimed by the heavenly chorus, is one of God’s greatest gifts to mankind. “God was reconciling the world unto Himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19). This message of reconciliation involves us on three different levels: Peace with God, peace with our fellowmen, and peace within ourselves. It is this blessed concept that Edmund Sears wanted to emphasize in his unusual carol.

In the second stanza Sears stressed the social aspects of the angels’ message—the hope of Christians spreading peace and good will to others who are burdened and painfully toiling. The hymn was written in 1849, a time preceding the Civil War when there was much tension over the question of slavery, the industrial revolution in the North and the frantic gold rush in California. The final verse looks forward optimistically to a time when all people will enjoy the peace of which the angels sang.

This carol is one of the finest ever written by an American. After graduation from Harvard Divinity School, Edmund Sears spent most of his life in small pastorates in the East.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav’n’s all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast’ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Just as the angelic announcement of peace was given at a time of much turmoil caused by the heavy rule of the Roman Empire, so today does God’s message of peace come despite life’s stormy circumstances. **Luke 2:9–14; Ephesians 2:14; Hebrews 1:6**

December 31st is Near

The end of the year will soon be upon us... and before we know it, a new year will dawn. Here are four gentle reminders to help you end the year in charitable style:

1. **Charitable giving benefits you, as well as the charities you care about. A special, year-end gift, during “The Season of Giving” can bring you added pleasure; especially as you consider the help your gift will give us here at Salt Lake City Mission. You will enjoy knowing that your generosity has made a difference and will help us to fulfill our worthy goals. And, of course, there are usually tax benefits related to charitable giving.**
2. **Appreciated assets can make dandy gifts. For example, if you have owned stock for at least a year and a day, you can receive full value for the gift, including all the appreciation. What’s more, neither you nor Salt Lake City Mission will have to pay capital gains tax on the gift. Your tax advisor can spell out the specifics for you. Mutual funds, real estate and other appreciated assets can make great gifts as well.**
3. **Tax-wise charitable gifts often require advanced action. A stock gift usually takes more time to complete than writing out and mailing a check. Real estate gifts require even more time - often several weeks. You should also plan for time to discuss your non-cash gift with your attorney or financial advisor. Getting appointments and handling the paperwork takes time. So... start early!**
4. **A life-income plan may make sense for you at this time. These deferred giving plans allow you to establish a gift arrangement now, obtain current tax benefits, create a stream of lifetime income and provide a future gift to Salt Lake City Mission. They are especially attractive to donors who cannot afford to give up current income from retirement related assets.**

To Learn more, call Philip at (801)-388-1968, or Brad at (801)-355-6310 or visit us on the internet at www.saltlakecitymission.org

