



# DIVYA JYOTI

THE DIVINE LIGHT

VOL.35 ISSUE B12

**"I am the LIGHT of the World."**

NEWSLETTER

## OBEDIENCE IN HARDSHIP LEADS TO VICTORY!

### REFLECTION *Of the* WORD



...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search

for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." (Matt. 2:13-15)

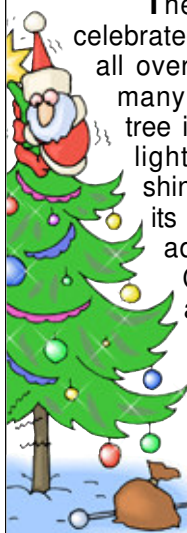
**M**ary's husband, Joseph, was a righteous man who feared God, yet his obedience to God forced him to flee for his life to a foreign country to escape Herod's murderous intentions. Joseph's hardship came, not because of his sin, but because of his obedience. Although Joseph and Mary were forced to move to Egypt, they remained in the God's will. Later, when Herod died, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream (in Egypt) to take his family back to the land of Israel. He received another message about the harsh rule of Archelaus (son of Herod) in Judaea and was guided to go to Galilee. He settled with his family at Nazareth where Jesus was brought up and taken care of.

One of the loveliest New Testament legend connected with the flight into  
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**O MOTHER OF GOD, BLESSED AMONG WOMEN, PRAY FOR YOUR BELOVED CHILDREN!**



## LEGENDS BEHIND THE CHRISTMAS TREE



The birth of Jesus is celebrated with great rejoicing all over the world. Today in many homes a Christmas tree is put up with sweets, lights, gifts, tinsels and shining stars hanging on its branches, all of which add to the festivity of Christmas and create an awareness of the great historical event - **The incarnation of the Word as Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.** Do you know that the

Christmas tree has a unique as well as an antique tradition? Fair Robson says, "The Christmas tree has gone through a long process of development and is rich in many legends."

The Christmas tree tradition has an ancient origin in the German speaking countries. Originally, it was a pagan tradition. German winter was a harsh reality and the felling of leaves during winter was considered by them as the doing of evil spirits. To overcome this, they adorned certain evergreen trees, which they thought to be the symbol of immortality in their homes. The Germans believed there

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**H**elp of Christians and Refuge of sinners, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the our Saviour Jesus, pray for your dear children in this world who seek your precious help amidst the challenges, temptations, perils and difficulties which they face everyday. Offering your immaculate womb to God, you partook in the salvific work of Jesus Christ as a humble and obedient handmaid of the Lord. The almighty God had blessed you with His Son. Today, you are our ideal and guide on our way to Jesus, our Lord and King. Bless us, O mother of divine grace, with your affection and care. Amen.

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us." (Matt. 1:23)





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is a magical power in these trees and attributed it to a Good Spirit.

Tradition says that the Christmas tree has a long association with Christianity. It began in Germany almost 1,000

years ago, when St. Boniface, who converted Germans to Christianity, was said to have come across a group of pagans worshipping an oak

### A SHORT PRAYER TO ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Feast Day: December 3

devoted servant of God, **St. Francis Xavier**, Patron Saint of Indian missionaries, the Father filled you with special gifts while on earth and made your heart a furnace burning with love for Jesus. Impelled by this love, you went from country to country and spent yourself unto death to proclaim me Name of Jesus and the Good News of salvation.

For this total offering of your life, God rewarded you with a high degree of glory in heaven and preserved your body from corruption here on earth. Filled with joy for these unique gifts we (I) join you in praising the Father.

We (I) too have received the priceless gift of the Faith you proclaimed.

So we (I) ask you to obtain that our hearts (my heart) too may burn with the same love of Jesus and be filled with a thirst for making Him known to other men. Show us (me) how in our (my) own state and condition of life we are (I am) to fulfill this duty of our (my) Christian calling and make our (my) entire life be according to the teaching of Jesus, a brightly shining light.

We (I) place before you also our (my) other needs and the earnest desires of our hearts (my heart) ... (mention your special request) ...

We (I) ask you to intercede for the fulfilment of these desires if they are pleasing to the Father. And for everything together with you we (I) praise the Father. And for everything together with you we (I) praise the Father through Jesus, in the Spirit. Amen.

tree. In anger he cut down the tree and to his amazement a young fir tree sprang up from the roots of the oak tree. He took this as a sign of the Christian faith.

There are many legends about the first Christmas tree. One of them tells about a woodcutter who helped a small hungry boy. The next morning, the child appeared to the woodcutter and his wife and the child was none other than Christ-child. The child broke a branch from the fir tree and told the couple that it would be a tree which at Christmas time will bear fruit. When Christmas came, the tree was laden with apples of gold and nuts of silver.

Another legend has it that Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas. On a crisp Christmas Eve about the year 1500, he was walking through snow-covered woods and was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreen trees. The branches were covered with snow and shimmered in the moonlight. When he got home, he set up a little fir tree indoors, so he could share the story with the children. They decorated it with a candle, which he lit in honour of Christ's birth.

Some people trace the origin of the Christmas tree to an earlier period. Even before the Christian era, trees and boughs were used for ceremonials. The Egyptians while celebrating the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, bought green palms into their homes as a symbol of "Life triumphant over Death". The early Scandinavians were said to have paid homage to the fir tree. To the French, evergreen holly in the house meant eternal life. To those inclined towards superstition, branches of evergreen trees placed over the door kept out witches, ghosts and evil spirits.

This does not mean that our Christmas tree custom evolves solely from pagans. Trees and branches can be made purposeful as well as symbolic. The Christmas tree is the symbol of a living and evergreen Christian spirit and brings into our lives a pleasant aroma of the forest, in close friendship with nature.

### Fulfill my wishes, Dear CHRISTMAS FATHER

Feast of St. Nicholas: December 6

**Saint Nicholas** of Bari (southern Italy)

is doubtless one of the beloved Saints, his relics kept at Bari being venerated to this day for their power of healing. He was elected the Bishop of Myra (modern Turkey) during the first half of the fourth century.

God worked numerous miracles through him, and his love for children and his charity for the poor became proverbial. Whenever possible, he tried to perform his charitable acts anonymously, as in the famous case of the three daughters of the impoverished nobleman for whom St. Nicholas provided dowries by throwing gold-filled purses in through the window during the night.

The Myra Christians kept the memory of their beloved Bishop alive after his death by leaving surprise gifts for their children during the night before his feast. This custom gradually got transferred to Christmas, and St. Nicholas in popular parlance got contracted to Santa Claus or Christmas Father.



### CHRISTMAS FATHER!

I ask you this Christmas, Joy to the sorrowful, and let their sorrows pass. Shower love to the lonely and peace where there is war and let all losers emerge victorious.

**O Christmas Father**, I ask you to bring \* to those who experience winter, a little bit of spring; \* to those who are in sorrow, a little bit of joy; \* to those who are in despair, a little bit of hope; \* to those who are suffering, a little relief; \* to those who are separated, reunite them in love.

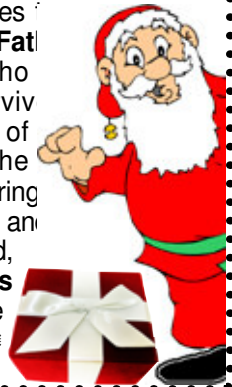
**O Christmas Father**, gift these to them as a special gift. **O Christmas Father**, \* bring peace to the broken world; \* heal those who live with shattered hopes and broken dreams; \* blessings to all around us, kindly shower our friends and foes, our families and relatives

### O Christmas Father

\* bless those who struggling to survive \* transform lives of those who lost the charm to live, \* bring peace to the world and those who are cold,

### O Christmas

father, may these my\*\*\*wishes\*\*\* come true.



"He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody." ( Psalm 98:3-5)



# BIBLE QUIZ!

## XXXII. JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD, RESURRECTION AND LIFE

### Chs.10-12: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

**Complete** the following bible verses taken from the **Chs.10-12** of the Gospel of John after locating them (mentioning their chapter and verse numbers) in the Gospel. Also name the persons who made these statements.

1. "Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ me must \_\_\_\_\_ me, and where I \_\_\_\_\_, there will my \_\_\_\_\_ be also. Whoever serves me, the \_\_\_\_\_ will honor."
2. "These are not the \_\_\_\_\_ of one who has a \_\_\_\_\_. Can a \_\_\_\_\_ open the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_?"
3. "This \_\_\_\_\_ does not lead to \_\_\_\_\_; rather it is for God's \_\_\_\_\_, so that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God may be \_\_\_\_\_ through it."
4. "The gatekeeper \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ for him, and the sheep \_\_\_\_\_ his voice. He calls his own sheep by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ them out."
5. "Why was this \_\_\_\_\_ not sold for three \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ given to the \_\_\_\_\_?"
6. "The \_\_\_\_\_ comes only to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. I came that they may have \_\_\_\_\_, and have it abundantly."
7. "Yes, \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ that you are the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of \_\_\_\_\_, the one coming into the \_\_\_\_\_."
8. "It is not for a \_\_\_\_\_ work that \_\_\_\_\_ are going to stone you, but for \_\_\_\_\_, because you, though only a \_\_\_\_\_ being, are making yourself \_\_\_\_\_."

### Answers to Last month's Quiz

## XXXI. THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

### Chapters 7-9: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

1. a), b), c), & d) (8:43-44, 47)
2. a), b), & c) (7:16-18; 8:16, 18, 26, 28, 49-50, 54)
3. b), c) & d) (8:12,23,31-32,36,42; 9:5)
4. a), b), & c) (8:14-19,23,26,28-29)
5. a), b), & d) (7:35; 8:52,57)
6. a), b), c), & d) (7:15-16, 26-27, 41-43, 52)
7. a), b), & d) (9:17,31,35-38)
8. a) (7:1, 30; 8:20)

### Send Your Answers to:

**JEEVAN DHAM, H.No. 696/ Sec-22, Faridabad-121005, Haryana.**

### Rules to be followed:

- 1 Answers may be sent by post or e-mail latest by the end of the month. Answers received after that will not be considered.
- 2 You should clearly specify your name and postal address. Mention the quiz number and title too.
- 3 Prizes will be awarded to the winners of three consecutive quizzes.
- 1 Keep a copy of your answers to match with the correct answers given in the next edition.

Thanks for your participation in the Quiz!

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## OBEDIENCE...leads to VICTORY

Egypt is a child's story, yet quite interesting. When Joseph and Mary and Jesus were on their way to Egypt, as the evening came they were weary, and they sought refuge in a cave. It was very cold, so cold that the ground was white with hoar frost. A little spider saw the little baby Jesus, and he wished so much that he could do something to keep him warm in the cold night. He decided to do the only thing he could and spin his web across the entrance of the cave, to make, as it were, a curtain there.

Along the path came a detachment of Herod's soldiers, as the story runs, seeking for children to kill to carry out Herod's blood thirst order. When they came to the cave they were about to burst in to search it, but their captain noticed the spider's web, covered with the white hoar frost and stretched right

across the entrance to the cave. "Look", he said, "at the spider's web there. It is quite unbroken and there cannot possibly be anyone in the cave, for anyone entering would certainly have torn the web."

So the soldiers passed on, and left the holy family in peace, because a little spider had spun his web across the entrance to the cave. And that, so they say, is why to this day we put tinsel on our Christmas trees, for the glittering tinsel streamers stand for the spider's web, white with the hoar frost, stretched across the entrance of the cave on the way to Egypt. It is a lovely story, and this much, at least, is true, that no gift which Jesus receives is ever forgotten.

Spiritual assaults and attacks by the ungodly are not always signs that one is out of the will of God; they may even indicate that one is in the very centre of God's will. God's will for you may involve hardship when you begin to fulfill His commands, as it did for His Son (John 15:20), but He loves you as His own Son and since He is faithful, He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing He will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it (1Cor.10:13). Your commitment to obedience following the path of Christ will lead you to victory- victory over Satan and victory over death through Jesus, who faced opposition and persecution and had been victorious. He had warned his disciples to expect persecution but should keep courage for God will lead them through everything (John 16:33). Jesus says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you." 🌟

## OLD TESTAMENT READING PLAN

### 12-MTH./52-WK. OT READING PLAN

#### WEEKS 49-53 (December 2006)

DATE	29-31/Nov.1-4	5-11	12-18	19-25	26-30/Dec.1-2
DAY	WEEK 49	WEEK 50	WEEK 51	WEEK 52	WEEK 53
SUN	Ez.47-48/D1	Hosea 5-7	Am.8-9	Zeph.1-3	Malachi 2-3
MON	Daniel 2-3	Hosea 8-10	Obad./Jon.1	Hag.1-2/Z1	{This ends the 52-wk.(1 year) OT Reading Plan}
TUE	Daniel 4-6	Hosea 11-14	Jonah 2-4	Zech.2-5	
WED	Daniel 7-9	Joel 1-2	Micah 1-3	Zech.6-8	
THU	Daniel 10-12	Jl.3-4/Am.1	Micah 4-7	Zech.9-10	
FRI	D13-14/Ho.1	Amos 2-4	Nahum 1-3	Zech.11-13	
SAT	Hosea 2-4	Amos5-7	Hab. 1-3	Z14/Mal.1	

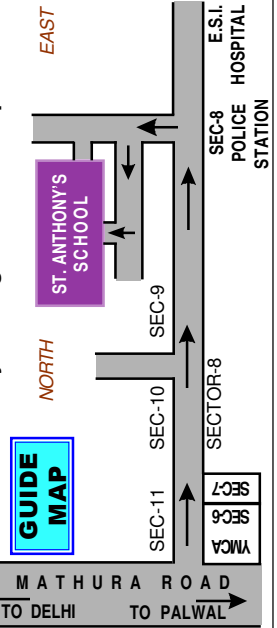
"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matt. 2:10-11)



And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

**HOW TO REACH JEEVAN DHAM!**

RESIDENCE : House No. 696, Sector-22, Faridabad  
 PRAYER VENUE: ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL, SEC-9, FBD.  
 TIMINGS: Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



**JEEVAN DHAM ON WEB**

Visit us at our new site:  
[www.jeevandham.org](http://www.jeevandham.org)  
 E-mail us your petitions to:  
[justcallanthony@yahoo.com](mailto:justcallanthony@yahoo.com)

**IMPORTANT TIMINGS**

**DAILY MORNING PRAYER :**  
 On Weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. followed by the Holy Mass except on Saturdays. 24hr. Adoration is going on everyday over the past 3 YEARS. You too can join us in prayer anytime.

**HOLY MASS :**  
 On Sundays: evening 6:30 p.m.

Are you ... worried & burdened?  
 Are you ... depressed?  
 Are you ... sick or weak?  
 Do you ... feel the absence of peace & love in your life?  
 Are you ... grappling with a lot of problems in your life?

Then visit this place chosen by God & see for yourselves all the incredible miracles happening here. This place is 'JEEVAN DHAM'. Believe in God and attend the prayer session held every Sunday at St. Anthony's School (ground), Sec-9, Faridabad from morning 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. organized with the grace of Almighty God by 'Jeevan Dham'- H.no.696/ Sec-22, Faridabad. Obtain invaluable graces & heavenly blessings & witness the miraculous healings performed by Him.

**WELCOME TO JEEVAN DHAM!**



**THE CHILDLESS WERE GIFTED WITH A CHILD AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF MARRIAGE!**

**TO HIM BE ALL GLORY AND PRAISE !**  
 THEIR CHILDREN (photo on the right) GOT RID OF THE TUMOUR IN THEIR STOMACH THROUGH THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD!! →



**JEEVAN DHAM**  
 wishes all a Joyous  
 CHRISTMAS and a  
 Prosperous New Year!



Scriptural references in DIVYA JYOTI are from the New Revised Standard Version © Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989