



THE ...

MALANGO MINUTE

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Every 2 weeks

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Send your copy before January 20th, 6 pm on USB to the editors or mail it to copy@malangoschool.org



MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Magi

The Magi from the east in Matth 2 were most probably the priests and chief statesmen of the great Persian empire in the east. The influence of Daniel, Esther and Mordecai at the Persian court had been profound and lasting. In any case, the Magi were good astronomers and familiar with the Jewish Scriptures and promises of a coming Savior.

Reason enough for the Malango Minute to have an interview with one of the Magi of the east!

I guess to some it might seem a bit of a random thing to do: to leave your life behind and follow a star. What was it that made you decide to do this?

Don't forget that we were convinced that God used the stars as a token of His acts (Gen 1:14). Besides that, we knew the prophecy of Balaam: "There shall come a star out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17), and Isaiah 60:3, "The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." We counted Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks (Daniel 9:24-27), which indicated that the time for Messiah's coming was drawing near. And then it happened: We saw that spectacular star in the west above Judea-Israel and we knew, "This is it! The King is born!" and the decision was inevitable: Prepare, leave everything behind to honor this King!

What was it like when you finally arrived at the side of baby Jesus?

Well, when we finally arrived after many months of preparations it was nearly a year later. Jesus and Mary lived in a house, but we saw that spectacular star again and our hearts were exceedingly excited by this sign! This was really God's sign to assure us that this King was the expected Redeemer of this world! He was Immanuel, "God with us!" There are no words to express that encounter with Jesus!

Can you explain to us the significance behind the gifts that you brought to Jesus?

These offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh, were the most valuable that our country produced, to express our respect and homage to this new-born King. For me, as Magi, it was even more: I wanted to offer my most valuable possessions, my all, to this Lord Jesus Christ. My friends and I came from far to do him homage and we give to him, also, our hearts, our property, our all.

If you had the chance, what would you say to us Christians celebrating Christmas today, 2000 years after the birth of Christ?

What astonished me was that even the stars obeyed to honor this child. This was not a normal King, but "God with us". Pagans celebrate this kind of events with all kinds of ornaments and festivities that distract your attention from the real KING. To honor Jesus is to give HIM your life!

Faith to your feet!



EDITOR'S NOTE

Wow, this term has flown by hasn't it?! There's already so much Christmas stuff going on. There's the play, decorating, attending parties and don't forget sorting out presents! Speaking of which, let's not forget the amazing, free gift of eternal life and a restored relationship with God that's made available to us through Jesus. I pray that we're not leaving that Christmas present left unwrapped under the Christmas tree this Christmas.

Have a joyful Christmas!

RKN



OH ' CHRISTMAS TREE ! ...



The use of the Christmas tree was already common more than 1000 years BC.

Did you know.... The ring-shaped Christmas cookies were meant to honor the spirits, like a laurel wreath for winners.

Polished copper balls were used as witch-balls to frighten evil spirits. When a spirit would see his own image in the ball he would be scared and flee. Our Christmas ball is derived from this belief. The Christmas balls as shiny reflecting objects were thought to protect the houses. About 1900 the gas flame made blowing glass common. The glass ball finds its way to the Christmas tree.

After the second world war (1940), people had more and more money to spend. The shiny Christmas balls become popular, together with silver birds, rings, silver candles and trumpets . So most of the houses were well "protected" against the evil spirits???

The star had a different meaning! It had nothing to do with magic and witchcraft. The peak stands for the star that shows the way to Jesus! Wise people followed that way 2000 year ago! Missing Jesus makes Christmas Christ-miss, but following Jesus makes John 14:23 reality:

"If you love me, you will keep my words:
and my Father will love you,
and we will come unto you,
and make our abode with you."

Birthdays December

30th Holly Sehorn
31st Mr. Sinco



Jesus born in August ?

The bible gives clear directions about the date of birth of Jesus. Let's follow the directions, starting with the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist. In Luke 1:5 we read that Zacharias was a priest of Abia's group. Abia's group was the 8th out of 24 groups of priests (1 Chron 24). Each group served 7 days (1 Chron 9). The first week of the year (Pesach), all priests served, so Zacharias served the 9th week of the Jewish year. This is the 2nd week of the Jewish month Sivan. Luke 1:24 tells us that shortly afterwards Elizabeth got pregnant, most probably the 3rd week of Sivan. In Luke 1:36, Gabriel tells Mary that it is Elizabeth's 6th month! Simple counting gives for this moment the last week of the month Heshvan or the beginning of the month Khislev. Luke 1:39-42 tells us that Mary travelled immediately to Elizabeth and the bible speaks already of the child in her womb. Adding 9 months pregnancy and correcting for the shorter Jewish lunar-months gives that Jesus' birthday must have been somewhere in "Ellul", so... in August/September! That's the month shepherds and sheep were at night outside in the field.

Nisan March April	Tammuz June July	Ab July August	Heshvan Oct Nov	Shebat Jan Febr
Iyyar April May	Sivan May June	Ellul August Sept	Kislev Nov Dec	Adar Febr March
			Tishri Sep Oct	Tebeth Dec Jan

KIDS CORNER

Map 1 and 2 are you ready for the last few days of school?

From what we here at the Malango minute have heard is that you guys have a busy week. A Christmas play Wednesday, crafts for your parents and then finishing off all your school work for Friday sounds like a very busy week. We will be praying for you guys!!!!

Can you find the right path to get to the End???

