

JANUARY 2010

## YOUR LIGHT HAS COME



*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Is. 60:1*

**What** a glorious promise this verse from Isaiah is and how appropriate for this time of the year when we look at our lives and make resolutions to change. Isaiah's words are part of the longer section where the Lord declares that Israel will be restored to honor and "I will glorify my glorious house." In Ephesians 2:19-22, Paul tells us that we are "...members of the household of God...with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone...a holy temple in the Lord...a dwelling-place for God." Each of us is a house for God and to each of us is given the promise of glory.

God's glory is like the geese taking flight over the lake from this year's display at the local Botanic Gardens 'River of Lights'. The image is clear and recognizable. Our lives are meant to mirror that light. Like the reflection in the lake, however, our image is blurred.

As W. H. Auden says in "*For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*," "Once again as in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and failed to do more than entertain it as an agreeable possibility, once again we have sent Him away..."

What if our New Year's resolution was to be more fully the reflection of the Glory of the Lord? Would we be able to rejoice and live as the chorus of the Oratorio suggests?

*He is the Way.*

*Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;*

*You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.*

*He is the Truth.*

*Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;*

*You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.*

*He is the Life.*

*Love Him in the World of the Flesh;*

*And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.*

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you," says Isaiah. Would your life be different if you believed that God's glory really did shine through you? What adventures might you experience in 2010?

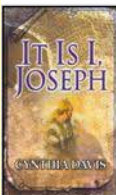
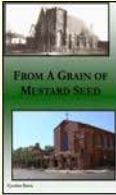
(If you want to read the whole section of the Oratorio, I have posted it on my website under the Footprint News page: <http://cynthiadavisauthor.com/FootprintNews.htm>)

## Signings & Sightings

**Dancing in the Footsteps Bible study continues. You can still join at:**  
**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dancinginthefootprints/join>**

**Jan. 10-Feb. 14—Epiphany to Lent at [footprintsfromthebible.blogspot.com](http://footprintsfromthebible.blogspot.com)**

**February 20—4th Annual Authors for Literacy Event in Moriarty, NM**



Book excerpts, reviews, and study options can be found at:

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## Recipe from Footprints

### **Homemade Chalk for House Blessing at Epiphany**

1 c. Plaster of Paris

1/2-1 c. water

2-3 T. tempura paint

Mix plaster and water in a disposable container (paper bowl or old coffee can) until desired consistency. Divide into smaller bowls and add paint to desired color. Pour into soap or candle molds or toilet paper rolls to dry. After they dry, peel off paper or pop out of molds. Use in the traditional Epiphany House Blessing, above.

*Chalk has been mined and used since ancient times for drawing and marking. Colored chalk involved grinding the stone and mixing in pigments made in a variety of ways. Whether children in the Bible played with chalk is anyone's guess, but all children love drawing, so they could have.*

*Using chalk as a house blessing is a very old Eastern tradition, gradually being rediscovered by Western Christian groups. You can use store-bought chalk or make your own. A brief blessing service is below. For a more complete service, including blessing the chalk in church, see: <http://fullhomelydivinity.org/articles/Epiphanyfullpage.htm>.*

The blessing of the house begins with all members of the household standing outside the main door to the home. Usually the head of the household leads the blessing, but any member of the household may be designated.

*Leader: Peace be to this house.*

*People: And to all who enter here.*

*Leader: Wise men came to Bethlehem to honor the Savior and offered him gifts:*

*People: Gold for a great king.*

*Leader: Incense to the true God.*

*People: And myrrh for his body, for he would suffer and die.*

The initials of the legendary names of the wise men are written with blessed chalk on the door or the lintel of the house, framed by the numbers of the new year: **20 C + M + B + 10**. Then everyone enters the house and gathers for the blessing of the house.

*Send your blessing, O Lord, upon this house and on all who shelter under its roof. Inspire us as you inspired the wise men of old who sought your Son: give us courage on the journey, discernment to find the right way, and whatever we may need to complete the tasks to which he calls us. And, at the last, may we find our rest and fulfillment in his presence in the home he has prepared for us in your heavenly kingdom, where he now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

