

# YouthCross

## Experience Christian Magazine



a  
LOVE  
Out of  
Bethlehem

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Be

Blessed

Always



# Editorial

As this year comes to an end, I want to thank each of you for being part of this magazine. Your readership and articles have been greatly appreciated.

The final theme of this magazine for 2024 is “A Love out of Bethlehem”. The love of Christ, the never-ending, merciful love of our God. Love – something we all need a little of in this season.

This past year has had its good, and its bad has come as well, but we made it through. We got through everything by the grace of God. For that I am grateful and thankful to God, because I know how many times I almost fell through and gave up. This year has been challenging but I feel like we’ve grown as individuals. There was just something about this year and something is coming in 2025, something better, something brighter.

As we embark on the year to come, let us step into 2025 with love in our hearts and just try to be better people. Let us remember to keep Christ Jesus at the centre of every aspect of our lives and trust His guidance to lead us in everything. Let us grow into individuals beaming with the love and light of God. God knows our hearts and He knows the plans He has for us, let our feet be guided by His grace and May the wisdom given through the Holy Spirit influence our every decision.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

From the YouthCross Family and my Family to yours

Have a blessed 2025!

**Britney Jenine**  
**Editor-in-Chief**





# A LOVE OUT OF BETHLEHEM

BY LORRAINE PILLAY

The birth of Jesus Christ is a reminder of God's love for humanity and the depth of His divine love.

**John 3:16, "for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life".**

God's love is expressed through the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to teach, heal and lead people back to God. God's love is a gift to people, and those who believe in Jesus Christ will have eternal life. God's love is a call to action for people to love one another, as God loved them.

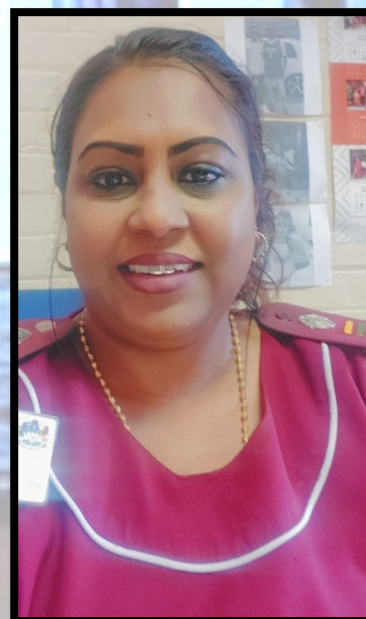
Bethlehem means "house of bread"; and from this house came the one who revealed Himself as the Bread of Life. This Christmas, and every day, we will be tempted to seek satisfaction in the temporary pleasures and perishable possessions of this world, only to be left hungering again for satisfaction of our deepest needs-for steadfast love, abiding peace, enduring joy, unshakable hope, lasting meaning, redemptive justice, abounding grace and a glory beyond our own. Jesus invites us instead to set our hearts and hopes on Him-The Bread of Life born in the house of bread who came down from heaven and gives life to the world, because those who come to Him will never hunger and never perish. This good news and great joy, in the house of bread, the city of David, a Savior was born to us, and He is Christ the Lord.

**Matthew 2:4-6, "and when He had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, He enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to Him. In Bethlehem of Judea, for this it is written by the prophet: "but you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My**

**People Israel".**

Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and family, while for others it is a time of loneliness, grief, sorrow and loss. No matter what this season holds for you, the promise of Christmas will bring you a lifetime of hope. The child in the cradle becomes the king on the cross. In the midst of Christmas, rekindle your connection to the Christ of Christmas who offers everlasting hope. Heal your heart by embracing the God who is always near, always for you, and always in you. Jesus said that the greatest commandment in the Old Testament was to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus taught that people should love one another as He loved them, by serving others and putting aside status. Christian love is characterized by selflessness, sacrifice and genuine care for God and others.

The typical example of the love out of Bethlehem is none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.





# GOD CAN TURN A MESS INTO A MESSAGE.

BY ALLISON KISTEN

Sarah will tell you: *There's nothing too hard for God.*

Hagar will tell you: *Even in the wilderness God is still there.*

Rahab will tell you: *Your past does not matter, God can use anyone.*

Hannah will tell you: *God answers prayers.*

Ruth will tell you: *It's not over until God says so.*

Esther will tell you: *God can turn a nobody into a somebody.*

Elizabeth will tell you: *You will give birth to greatness.*

Mary will tell you: *It shall be unto you according to God's word.*

Martha will tell you: *Dead things can be a life again.*

Dorcas will tell you: *God never forgets*

You are chosen by the One who will never unchoose you. Your mistakes doesn't remove your calling, your flaws don't remove your anointing, and your weakness doesn't remove your value. If the kingdom of God only used perfect women none of the women I've mentioned would have been used by God. Yes, living holy will be unpopular - it may even get lonely, but it will always be worth it cause your calling will require suffering. Sometimes we so ashamed of ourselves that we automatically feel like Jesus does too, but He's not. He knew you'd struggle, He knew you'll make some wrong choices and He knew you'll go through some rough phases, but He still chose you by choosing the cross. Jesus will meet you at your well in your season in His perfect timing. So if you are obeying the Bible you'll definitely look radical to the lukewarm but make sure Satan has to climb over

all that scripture to get to you sis!

Jesus took your shame when He walked out that Grave, He makes all broken things beautiful, remember that.

I'm going to end with this...

You're a daughter of God, a holy princess, a woman created with strengths you're yet to fully grasp and a story that's still been written by the Divine Author Himself, so ladies be where Jesus is. Sit at His feet like the woman with the alabaster box, because at His feet there's peace for the anxious, joy for the grieving and rest for the weary.





# Jesus, Love that came

BY PASTOR COLLIN ISAAC

**Micah 5:2** “But thou, Bethlehem breakthroughs we have experienced, Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

We see something amazing about to take place in Bethlehem which was a poor town.

There is about to be a Saviour of the world. The King of kings being born in this little city, taking it all down in history to be famous for the birth of Jesus Christ. The name Bethlehem in Hebrew means house of bread. We see in scripture in **John 6:35** it says “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall not thirst.” Our state in life

spiritually was as Bethlehem - was poor and of no value. But Jesus Christ who is all sufficient has come to change that because of the love He has for us. **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”. Today, when we look back of 2024, He has brought us through trials and challenges, and He has been our strength and refuge. We thank Him for the victories and

knowing that they are a result of His love, grace and mercy. As we reflect on how far we have come, we are reminded of His promises, knowing in scripture in **Psalm 138:8** it says “The LORD will fulfil His purpose for me, your steadfast love, o Lord, endures forever.”

This is our blessed assurance, that we don't only celebrate Christmas Day, but we celebrate victory through Jesus Christ who has come to set us free. Let this Christmas be a time of caring and sharing the love of Christ. Have a blessed Christmas and wonderful festive holiday.





# Bethlehem's Love

BY LORRAINE PILLAY (TLH)

Over two millennia's ago, Bethlehem a humble town in Judea, became a stage for an extraordinary act of Divine Love!

This was not a story of grandeur but of humility. It is by far the perfect love story, swept through the hearts of millions of people across the globe. From the Cradle to the Cross, from the Cross to the Grave, from the Grave to the Heavens above – "Hallelujah". The birth of Jesus Christ signifies a love that transcends time, culture and circumstances – a love that reshaped the world and continues to touch our hearts today.

It's a love that is not transactional or self-serving, but unconditional and inclusive.

## How can we apply this love to our lives?

### 1. Embrace Humility

Just as Christ's birth was marked by humility, we too cultivate a spirit of modesty and gratitude in our lives. This means valuing relationships over status, finding joy in small moments, and remembering the greatness often emerges from the simplest acts.

### 2. Practice Generosity

The love born in Bethlehem calls us to give without expecting anything in return. With the fast-paced lifestyle we lead today, we tend to forget our loved ones need us. Empathy has taken a back seat, reach out to those around that is challenged, or just listen to those/someone who feels unheard.

### 3. Foster Forgiveness

Bethlehem's love is rooted in grace – a grace that forgives mistakes and heals wounds. In our daily lives, we can apply this by letting go of grudges mending broken relationships, and extending kindness even when it's undeserved.

### 4. Be a Light in Darkness

Just as the star over Bethlehem guided the wise men, we are called to be guiding lights for others. Whether it's through volunteering, mentoring or simply being a source of encouragement. These small acts can leave a lasting imprint on someone's life. Our purpose is then fulfilled as a child of God, we as individuals can feel the freedom of God's goodness.



### 5. Celebrate Unity

The shepherds, wise men and angels all come together in celebration of Christ's birth. This reminds us to look beyond differences – be they cultural, social or ideological and find common ground. Love thrives in unity, and we can create it by fostering understanding and empathy.

### 6. The Timeless Message

A love out of Bethlehem reminds us that true love isn't confined to grand gesture or perfect circumstances. Let's pause for a moment, look at the goodness of our Saviour Jesus Christ – how He manifested Himself to the world in the simplest way. In a world that often feels divided, the love born in Bethlehem reminds us that unity is possible through understanding and grace.

This Christmas let us reflect on the love that came out of Bethlehem – not as a distant historical event, but as a living, breathing force in our hearts.

Let's live to inspire

Every scar has a story

What would mine tell?

Are you ready to start this Christmas to aspire, inspire and reset?

Wishing you and your family a fantastic and blessed Christmas.

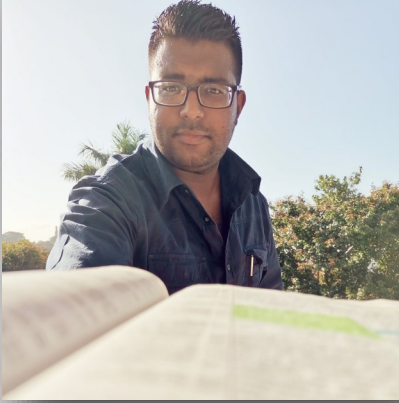
Luke 2:8-14

Inspired by a Love out of Bethlehem



# NATIVITY POEM

BY KRISTIAN M. MARION



I lift my head, I see the Star  
From the East, I travel afar  
To put an end to the suspense  
The mystery of recent events

I come bearing presents  
Gold, Myrrh and Frankincense  
An angel is telling them  
To journey to Bethlehem

Listening to what the angel said  
The shepherds search for the Good  
Shepherd

They find the baby who has a manger for a  
bed

God in the flesh slept in swaddling spread

Star of David, shine so bright  
Navigate us through the darkest night  
Take us to the One True Light  
A baby in a manger, oh, what a sight!

The God of heaven in a human shell  
To fulfill the promise of Immanuel  
Living waters from a perennial well  
Angels of heaven to sing and tell.

Prophecies far beyond the years  
Manifested for eyes and ears  
A lamb so tender to wipe all tears  
A lion so fierce to drive all fears.

The innkeeper refused a stranger  
So they settled for a stable with a manger  
A flight to Egypt to escape the danger  
No one knew He was a life changer.

I see the star, The bright Morning Star  
He comes to make war  
Wickedness will end, justice will prevail  
Babylon begins to weep and wail

For the One born of a virgin will remain  
And He is here to reign...

If you seek to find the Messiah  
You must call upon His name  
Look into His blazing eyes of fire  
And believe the story of why He came.



# LOVE OUT OF BETHLEHEM

BY SELENA MUNIEN

**“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”  
Micah 5:2.**

**“In Bethlehem in Judea, “they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of My people Israel.’ Matthew 2:5-6.**

As we embrace another joyful season of festivities, a season meant to be one filled with joy, laughter and love, let us take a moment to reflect rather than just go with the motions of the season.

Many may have started 2024 with excitement. enthusiasm filled with new years resolutions and eagerness for what's ahead while others entered 2024 with heavy hearts, burdened minds or souls filled with grief, yet its not how we started that matters but how we finish or rather who we finish it with. I'm not just talking about the ones that occupy the seats next to us at our Christmas table, but the ultimate LOVE personified through our King of kings and Lord of lords JESUS.

I'm pretty sure that there aren't any that can say that they are ending the year in the same way that they have started. Life is tough. If you are like many of us then you would know that there was no shortage of challenges faced, hurt, pain, rejection, neglect, loss and negativity seemed to have been the order of the day throughout this year.

Yet here we are despite it all, able to breathe another breath, see another day and have an opportunity once again to get up and say thank you Lord for your strength and grace for when I am weak you are strong.

Are you able to do that? Or are you still struggling with the challenges you started with or have faced through this year? Let me introduce you to the all-consuming, all knowing, all loving, all caring God - the one that loves you and me so immensely that HE, through the virgin birth sent us HIS only begotten son, Jesus, our LOVE out of Bethlehem.

When I think of this precious Love Gift out of Bethlehem, I am reminded of the song count your blessings one by one and see what the Lord has done. Our blessing may not always be the large flashy visible to all kind of blessing, but the more valued ones that cannot be seen.



# LOVE OUT OF BETHLEHEM

CONTINUED ...

This year I've seen God be my comforter through my grief, my healer through my diagnosis, my peace and strength through rejection, betrayal and heartache.

He's given me peace in my most difficult situation, strength in my most broken state. HE picks me up when I'm down and HE has shown up in situations that were beyond my imaginations. HE's given me the desires of my heart and has fulfilled dreams I had given up on. This my friends is, THE most PRICELESS GIFT anyone can ever receive and it's been given freely to us. We just got to believe to receive this Amazing Love out of Bethlehem.

Do you want the same? Do you want to experience this amazing gift? If you haven't already, won't you accept this most precious gift from GOD himself, won't you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour? HE is the REASON for the SEASON. Despite all the controversies HE is celebrated globally so why not give HIM his rightful place in our hearts, our homes and families.

Let's put HIM first and finish this year strong in Jesus's name. From my home to yours,

Have blessed Christmas and New Year to you and your family.





# Out of Bethlehem

BY PASTOR ADRIEL REDDY

Greetings beloved,

Christmas is a season of praise and thanksgiving as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Many people throughout the world are busy preparing to spend time with families, enjoy the good food and let's not forget the gifts.

When we look at the story of the birth of Jesus before He was even born there was a decree out to kill Him. When you were born God knew the plans that He has for you. Now, just think for a moment, how do you think that makes the devil feel?

At the time of the birth of Jesus there was a star in the night sky and that star represents the light of world. Even when darkness may surround you God will always be the star that will shine bright. Even when you feel like you're lost, the star in heaven will be the one that will guide you. Jesus was born in a manger surrounded by animals because there was no place for Him to be born and that allowed Jesus to have humility. Imagine the King of kings being born in a manger.

The main reason for Jesus being born was so that He could go to the cross to die for our sins. Him being born was saving us from sin. During the festive time we need to celebrate not just the birth of Jesus but the freedom that He has given us. We can't lose focus of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season.

During Christmas we all like to receive but we must remember that we also need to give out and take care of the less fortunate.

At times you may feel like Jesus doesn't care about you and you may feel abandoned but no matter what you may feel towards Jesus or what you say about Him, His love for you is unconditional and never-ending and never-changing. There's a famous scripture that says God will leave the ninety-nine for the one, how many times did we overlook that scripture? Until you were the one that was lost. God's hand is never too short to reach out to and all you have to do is trust Him.

Beloved even as you spend time with your friends and family be safe and take care and let's celebrate the birth of our King Jesus.





# Youth Cross Experience

Thank you to our Team who have contributed towards making  
**YOUTHCROSS EXPERIENCE** a **SUCCESS**.

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- Britney Jenine
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- Allison Kisten
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- Lorraine Pillay (TLH)
- Kristian M. Marion
- Selena Munien
- Pastor Adriel Reddy

If you would like to be part of this magazine, don't hesitate to write to us.

We will inform you about our requirements.

This is a good opportunity to impact someone's life!

Invite us on WhatsApp and let us know what topics you would love to read about. This is also a great way to directly receive our latest Issues .

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**Next Issue:**  
January - March 2025

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Editor-In-Chief



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**Redeemed by Christ**  
**Sealed with the Holy Spirit**

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