

When is the last time something so moved you that you simply felt “wonder?”

A month ago I looked into the eyes of my then six-week old granddaughter. It was wonderful. She is wonderful. I was simply full of wonder!

After the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds who went to Bethlehem to see Joseph, Mary and the baby, “they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2: 17-19)

The people were amazed and Mary treasured and pondered the shepherd’s words. All of them were wonder-full

I urge you this Christmas week to take a time-out from your busy life. Simply reflect on the story of the birth of Jesus and allow yourself to get in touch with the wonder of the moment.

May you be wonder-full of this Lord who loves you!

Merry Christmas – E. Stanley Ott, December 20, 2011 Vol. 10, NO. 29, *WONDER-FULL*

Prayer Suggestions

- ★ When **was** the last time something so moved **you** that you simply felt “**wonder?**”
- ★ May our hearts be filled with **WONDER** as we receive Jesus, God’s gift of love to us ... His willingness to **COME** to us, to be **WITH** us, to be **IN** us... Praise God for the **WONDER** of it all.
- ★ And from carols we sing:
*“He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and **wonders of His love** ...”* (too deep for us to fathom, for He unconditionally loves every one of us on the earth).

*“O, star of **wonder**, star of night, star with royal beauty bright ...* A single star in the night sky showing the way to the manger where the One we know as the Way, the Truth and the Life was born.
- ★ The wonder of a star-lit sky on a clear night ... no skyscrapers here to obstruct our view as we view this part of God’s creation that he called “good...” Our very souls have to be ‘wonder-FULL’ when we pause to realize that Jesus, the Light of the world, shines brighter than all of the stars in the sky combined! Give thanks!
- ★ Here, in this corner of God’s world, we also can view spectacular sunrises and sunsets ... over water, no less ... glorious colors and oh, so bright, light. More parts of creation that the Creator called ‘good.’ Let us seek out these **wonders** on a regular basis, not taking them for granted. How blessed we are!
- ★ Then there is the **moon** – another part of creation God called ‘good.’ ... A cream-colored moon rising over the water and, one week ago, still visible in the western sky early in the morning as the sun rose in the eastern sky ... **wonderment** to behold!
- ★ Let us conclude this time of being “wonder-full” by singing in our hearts the words of Hymn #118, *His Name Is Wonderful*, remembering the words of the prophet Isaiah who said: “..and his name shall be called “Wonderful..” (Isaiah 9:6)