

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

*Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1b-2*

*Text for Today: There came wise men from the east to Jerusalem saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."*

How many people labored under those same Judean skies and failed to notice the brilliant burning ball in the east? Surely most people were so engrossed in their own business that they failed to observe the spectacular show. Of all the players recorded in the Christmas story, apparently only the wise men saw the star.

Many people in Decatur have enjoyed participating in the "Imagine 21" training offered by the Pacific Institute – a training which seeks to facilitate personal growth and the achievement of goals. A concept of this training is to learn to recognize our "scotoma." The word "scotoma" comes from the Greek word "scoto" for darkness, a loss of vision, or a blind spot. This expression refers to the tendency of humans to see only what we expect to see, and to often fail to see something because we are not looking for it.

What are you looking for in your life? Are you expecting trouble at every turn? You surely will find it. Are you thinking that everywhere you look, you will be inundated by the crass commercialism of the holiday season? Yep, you'll find that, too.

But what if we have the courage to look for the astounding entrance of Jesus into our hurting, hoping world? I believe that He is waiting for us to look up today, and to follow his star. When we are expecting to find Christ, we will not be disappointed.

Prayer: Dear God, We don't want to miss the miracle! Help us lift our eyes to your empowering presence in our lives. In the name of your son and our savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Claudia Quigg*