

From This Corner
Star Struck
Larry Baird

What would this season be without its stars? Some of the most magnificent Christmas eves in my memory have been clear nights. The panoply of heavenly lights is awe inspiring. Even the best displays of seasonal electrical lighting pale in comparison.

I am not, therefore, surprised by the inclusion of the star struck Magi in the whole narrative of the birth of Christ. These star watchers capture our imagination precisely because we relate to their fascination with stars and their significance. Millions of people have “seen things” in stars. They have seen dippers, lions, scorpions, and fish. Some have even been led to think that the stars determine all sorts of things as in the practice of astrology. Christianity has largely frowned upon the reading of stars, and rightly so. Such can lead us to many things and patterns that are decidedly not holy. Yet we are thankful that the Magi practicing this risky ritual got it right.

What they got right is that one star shines brighter than all of the rest. This is the star that led them and can lead us through the dangers, toils, and snares of life to Jesus. Matthew 2:10 says “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” Star struck ... completely overawed by the something and someone that shone before them in the middle of the night. They did what only the star struck can do. They bowed down and worshipped him.

The world this Christmas is a characteristically unenlightened place. It is once again time for we who are followers of Christ to demonstrate what it means to be star struck so that we, like the Magi, might point the world to the Savior.