CHRISTINGLEThe Christ Light

The *Christingle* goes back to the year 1747. John De Wattville, a Moravian pastor in a small castle church in Marienborn, Germany, wanted to instruct the children of his congregation at a December evening service about the birth of Jesus. Using a candle, a red ribbon and an orange, the Christingle tradition from which to tell about the Christ child began. Later four skewers and dried fruits were added. Pastor De Wattville was a Moravian bishop and quickly what he did that evening spread throughout all the Moravian mission stations around the world in the 1700s. It went to Suriname, South America;



Labrador; Southern Africa; Tibet; the Caribbean Islands; Pennsylvania; and to England.

The **orange** symbolizes the world and has a **candle** inserted at the one end (in Labrador often an apple was used if oranges could not be secured). This speaks of Jesus' birth and of the fact that light came into this dark world of sin. Jesus truly is the Light of the world (Luke 1:79; 2:32; John 1:5,9). The **red ribbon** around the orange tells us that Jesus is the Saviour of His people (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11). It is the blood of Jesus which atones for our sins. The four skewer sticks remind us of the four corners of the earth (North, South, East, and West) and that the message of the birth of Jesus must be taken to every people group of this world (Matthew 2:1-5; 28:19-20). The Moravians were a great missionary people taking this Gospel story to some of the most difficult places of the world. On these four skewer sticks were placed sweet and dried fruits or nuts. These are reminders that through our Lord Jesus, people and nations receive Gospel fruit or blessings. What wonderful blessings came with the birth of Jesus—joy, peace, favour, praise and thanksgiving, good news, salvation, restoration, eternal life, and more (Luke 2:10,14,20).

Tonight we share this Christingle story with you. May you go out and bear witness of Jesus, the light of the whole world and the Saviour of sinners, the source of real riches and blessing.

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