

Michael and the Zentrons

By the Rev. Andrew Dibb

Young Michael skipped happily through the fields around his home in heaven. He lived in a small village, a bit like the village he used to live in on earth. Michael was excited, because soon it would be Christmas. He could remember things he used to do at Christmas on earth, and he could still feel the happiness of those times. He felt even happier now. It made him feel like singing Christmas hymns as loudly as he could.

Suddenly Michael met an angel in the field. He could tell immediately that this angel was very wise, even though he looked like a young man. The angel looked him in the eye and said: "Good morning, Michael. I have been looking for you."

Michael felt a thrill of excitement. "Good morning, sir," he said politely. "Can I help you?"

"Yes, you can," the angel replied. "The Lord has given you a special task. He wants you to visit a group of new spirits who have just arrived from the planet Zentron."

Michael's eyes opened wide. "Zentron," he breathed. "Where is that?" Suddenly a whole stream of questions flooded his mind. "What would I do there, and how do I get there? Where is. . ."

"Never mind," the angel interrupted gently. "Just follow the path and the Lord will show you the way." Michael noticed a path leading off into the distance. Soon his happiness about Christmas started bubbling up again. He sang all the songs he knew about the Lord and then made up a few more.

All at once he came upon a village. It was quite different from his own. All around he could see little people walking and talking. When they noticed him, they formed a tight knot around him, looking at him curiously while he looked at them. Then one person, slightly larger than the others, spoke to him.

"Good morning, stranger. Why are you visiting the people of Zentron?"

"I was told by an angel to come to you, for there is a special task which I must perform," answered Michael.

"And what is that task, young man?" the Zentron asked.

"I don't know," said Michael in a puzzled voice, "I was just thinking about Christmas, you see, and. . ."

"Christmas?" said all the Zentrans together, "What is Christmas?"

"You mean you don't know?" asked Michael, surprised. "Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. It is a time when all Christians celebrate the fact that the Lord Himself came down into the world. He came to show us that He was a human just like us, and He taught us how to be good and how to get to heaven. Why, we wouldn't be here if it weren't for Christmas!"

"This must be your task," said the head Zentrans, "to tell us about the Lord's birth. You see, on our planet we have no written Word, so the teachings about the Lord have to be given to us over and over again. The Lord often sends people from Earth to tell us the wonderful news. Please, tell us all you know."

So Michael sat down and told the Zentrans everything he knew about the Lord. The Lord was able to fill his mind with wonderful truths that he could teach the Zentrans.

As he spoke, it dawned on Michael that one of the reasons the Lord had been born on Earth, was that the people on Earth are good at telling other people about the Lord. Michael knew that by telling the Zentrans about the Lord he was doing the Lord's work. He thought it would be a wonderful Christmas gift to tell others about why the Lord was born on Earth. "I wonder," he said during a pause in their discussion, "if any boys and girls on Earth ever thought about telling their friends about the Lord?" Then he thought it would be wonderful if they did.

This story is taken from the book, *Michael and the Zentrans and Other Stories*, by Rev. Andrew M.T. Dibb. The illustrated book can be purchased from the General Church Office of Education.

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