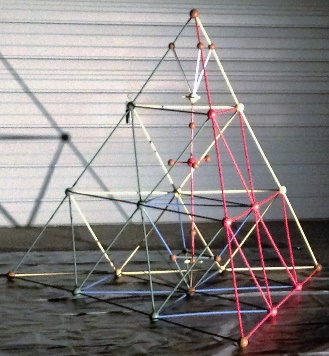
The CHRISTMAS WITNESS TREE is a life sized, lighted version of the “*Christmas Witness Prism*.” This three-dimensional prism is a visual depiction of the mysterious nature of the one and only, true and living God who wants to have a personal relationship with us as revealed in the Christian Bible. The design uses equilateral triangles, balls and color to communicate the “witness” message

The exterior of the “tree” has three faces and a base all created with equilateral triangles, the ancient symbol for the trinity. The green face represents the CREATING BEING (God the Father), the red face represents the REDEEMING BEING (God the Son), and the yellow face represents the ENERGIZING BEING (God the Holy Spirit). The base is blue representing GRACE, God’s beneficial engagement with human beings. The “oneness” and the dynamic interaction of the trinity is visible as you look at the outside of the “tree”. The right edge of each face is the color of the next face with no side being complete without the other demonstrating their interdependence

This triune God, the great “I AM”, together created the material world in all of its splendor and created human beings with a nature like theirs so there could be the a divine-human communion. Human beings are represented by the brown balls throughout the “tree” structure.

The interior of the “tree” (prism) depicts the **relationship** between the great “I AM” and human beings. Everything God created was good as was the dynamic relationship with human beings. To be like God, human beings needed to have the power of choice. No relationship is truly genuine unless it is freely chosen by the parties involved. When human beings chose to disobey God in order to be “as wise as God” the relationship was broken. This act of disobedience is called sin and is depicted by the **black spikes** coming from the brown ball representing human beings as a whole, at the center of the blue base. **Separated from God, we human beings chose to live guided by OUR OWN WISDOM and live as if we are the center of the universe**. Chaos, disharmony, selfishness and disrespect for human life are the result of our sin. God’s heart is broken and we are left with a deep sense of loss.

Grace and love moved God to initiate a way of restoration of the broke relationship. The plan is revealed in the interior of the “tree.” The great “I AM” engaged in a miraculous self-giving. The CREATING BEING decided to send the REDEEDMING BEING **to become one with human beings** by the life ENERGIZING BEING when the virgin Mary courageously submitted to become the person by whom Jesus became a human being. This is depicted by the green manger and the brown ball with the three yellow pegs. This is the “miracle of Christmas.”

The red stick leads upward to the red cross which represents the life of Jesus. Jesus lived a life of obedience to the CREATING BEING and gracious engagement with human beings. **Sin was revealed when Jesus was betrayed by one of his own disciples, denied by other disciples, abused by the soldiers and crucified by command of the Roman governor as demanded by the religious leaders.** The red also reminds us of the blood Jesus shed bearing on sin on the cross. However, Christ arose from the dead on the third day and revealed himself to his disciples over a period of forty days before his ascended back to the oneness of the great “I AM.”

Ten days after Christ’s ascension, the ENERGIZING BEING (the Holy Spirit) came to the believers and quickened them with the ability to live a dynamic life of love for God and others.

MY WITNESS is this: I have confessed my sin of selfishness and living out of my “own wisdom”; I have accepted Jesus who has taken my sin upon himself when he died on the cross; I have received Jesus forgiveness and cleansing of my heart from my selfish; and I am living by faith in communion with God; and I am being energized by the Holy Spirit to experience the love and peace of God and have love for others instead of selfishness.

THE GOOD NEWS: You too can experience a vital relationship with God by taking the following steps …….

… confessing your sin and selfishness,

… accepting Jesus who has taken your sin to the cross,

… receiving forgiveness and cleansing of you heart from selfishness,

… living by faith in communion with God,

… being energized by the Holy Spirit enjoying the love and blessing of God and love for others.

Jesus said, “And **you will be my witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere…to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NLT)