

December
2014

FBC Newsletter

December Calendar:

- 3rd Men's Basketball Ministry.
- 7th J.O.Y. Café
- 8th Church Board Meeting.
- 9th Women's Missionary Fellowship
- 13th Parent's Day Out
- 17th Men's Basketball Ministry

January Calendar:

- 4th Communion Service
- 7th Men's Basketball Ministry
- 9th Family Game Night
- 12th Church Board Meeting.
- 13th Women's Missionary Fellowship
- 21st Men's Basketball Ministry
- 23rd Family Game Night
- 28th Annual Bus. Meeting

December Event:

Our 2014-2015 season of J.O.Y. Café will begin on December 7th from 6:00-8:00. Mark the change of day...Sunday!

P.O. Box 47 Kingsbury, IN 46345
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December Devotional

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isa. 7:14.

Upon this prophecy hangs the hope of fallen sinners. Had this word failed, we would all be damned forever. Eternal horror would await us. Hell eternal must have been our doom.

God must be born a babe in time, or sinful man is forever lost. But, O my fellow sinners, rejoice! On this day (Christmas) we celebrate the fulfillment of this scripture. This virgin has conceived; this son - this Immanuel - is born. God in our nature - God with us, we behold in JESUS. He says, "I was set up from everlasting" (as the covenant head of my people) — "My delights were with the sons of men" (Pro. 8:23, 31). O, he has shown how he delighted over us, how he rested forever in his love to us. For he came to visit us in our flesh. "Verily he took not on him the nature of angels," but he became a BABE in human flesh - a MAN in stature; born to save, lived to justify, died to redeem! And redeem who? Fallen angels? No. They are left reserved in chains of darkness. But unto us – us who are "sinners against God," us miserable apostates from God.

Behold "unto **us** a child is born; unto **us** a son is given." Why? That we who are filthy by birth, and polluted by nature, might have a holy birth, and a sanctified nature IN HIM.

"The government is upon his shoulders." He is our KING. He reigns over us, for us, and in us. Our souls and all our concerns are safe in his hands. "His name is WONDERFUL." In his conception, his birth, his person, God and man in one Christ; in his life, his death, his resurrection, ascension, and intercession, wonderful.

He powerfully pleads our cause above: he sweetly counsels our hearts below to come to him; so we find blessed rest in him.

"THE MIGHTY GOD." No less could save us. Jesus is the God of our salvation.

"THE EVERLASTING FATHER." He begets us to himself by the word of his grace. The most tender parent on earth never loved his children as Jesus loves us.

"THE PRINCE OF PEACE." He is ever at peace with us, has made peace for us, bestows his peace on us.

Paraphrased and expanded version of the daily devotional by W. Mason (1719-1791)

Glorious Hymn Verses



*Come Thou long
expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy
people free.
From our fears and
sins release us
Let us find our rest
in Thee.*

How helpless guilty nature lies,
Unconscious of its load!
The heart, unchanged can never rise
To happiness and God.

The will perverse, the passions blind,
In paths of ruin stray;
Reason, debased, can never find
The safe, the narrow way.

Can aught, beneath a power divine,
The stubborn will subdue?
Tis Thine, almighty Savior, Thine,
To form the heart anew.

O change these wretched hearts of ours,
And give them life divine!
Then shall our passions and our powers,
Almighty Lord, be Thine!

– Isaac Watts

Thou alone hast power, I know, to save a wretch like me;
To whom, or whither should I go, if I should run from Thee?

-- Unknown

Quotes

“The immense step from the Babe at Bethlehem to the living, reigning triumphant Lord Jesus, returning to earth for His own people - that is the glorious truth proclaimed throughout Scripture. As the bells ring out the joys of **Christmas**, may we also be alert for the final trumpet that will announce His return, when we shall always be with Him.”

Alan Redpath

“Who can add to **Christmas**? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.”

Corrie Ten Boom

“It is here, in the thing that happened at the first **Christmas**, that the most profound unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. God became man; nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the incarnation.”

J. I. Packer



Our Liberty in Christ...not to sin.

"Brethren, you have been called to liberty: only do not use your liberty for an occasion to the flesh" (Gal. 5:13).

Peter was grieved because his Lord asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" It ought to be matter of concern and grief to the loving, generous hearts of disciples, to think they yet need this caution of the Spirit. But, we all do. The most sanctified is yet in the flesh; and the flesh with its affections and lusts are alive: they are ever striving against the Spirit. The holy, happy soul, who is set at liberty from sin, Satan, and the law, in his conscience, is hereby liable to be brought again under bondage to the law and sin. Know the danger; dread your enemy; yes, fear and love your best friend Jesus; cry to him, "Lord keep me continually. You have delivered my once captive soul from the power of the enemy; You have brought me out of the horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings, and put a new song in my mouth of praise to my Jesus and my God." Psalm 40:2-3. O keep me from the deceitful workings of my corrupt, sinful self!

What is this liberty we are called into? Not a perfect freedom from the being of sin, but a perfect deliverance from every curse of the law, from all the wrath of God denounced in the law, from the bondage of being under the law, to do anything to gain God's love, recommend us to his favor, or entitle us to his kingdom. All this liberty we are called into by the faith of Jesus. He is the end or fulfiller of the law for righteousness to us who believe. O, what a glorious liberty are we called unto! Even a freedom from all sin in the conscience; so to live upon Jesus, as to consider ourselves in him, as perfectly free from all sin, entirely dead to it, and our conscience so cleansed by his blood, as to be ever easy, serene, and comfortable, as though we were innocent and never had sinned. O, this is heavenly liberty to new-born souls!

"Love Covers a Multitude of Sin" - 1 Peter 4:10

Many sinners have and do awfully deceive their poor souls by a sad perversion of these words. For they suppose that being charitable to the poor will cover the multitude of their sins from the sight of a holy, sin-avenging God. O fatal mistake! Hence they are encouraged in

their sinful practices, from such a vain, unscriptural notion. It is thy mercy, believer, to be delivered from such delusion, by the truth as it is in Jesus. For to atone for sin was his blessed work. He hath done it effectually by shedding his precious blood. And every believer in

Jesus is the only blessed man, whose sins are covered by his all-perfect righteousness. Here is the true source and spring of charity, or rather LOVE, love to God and man. "We love God, because he first loved us."—1 John 4:19.



Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,

which shall be to all people: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord

*Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

From “gotquestions.org”

Question: "How should Christians respond to the "War on Christmas"?"

Answer: Many people perceive that there is a concerted effort to eliminate the word “Christmas” from public discourse—sort of a “war on Christmas.” The stories seem to be coming more frequently: a grade-school choir sings “We Wish You a Happy Holiday” instead of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” for their “Winter Concert.” A library invites “holiday displays” from the community provided the displays have no religious connotation—the stable may have animals in it, but no people. It is possible to do all one’s Christmas shopping and never see or hear the word “Christmas” in the stores.

Of course, there’s nothing wrong with saying “Happy Holidays” or “Season’s Greetings.” But if someone says “Happy Holidays” for the sole purpose of not saying “Merry Christmas,” then we are right to question what’s going on. “Why is the word Christmas censored?” we wonder as we wander through the malls. Why do some public schools celebrate everything from Kwanzaa to Labafana the Christmas witch, and ban the Nativity, all in the name of “inclusion” and “tolerance”?

One reason put forward by those seeking to avoid the word Christmas is that it would offend non-Christians. But, according to a recent Gallup poll, only 3 percent of adults in America say it bothers them when a store makes specific reference to Christmas. The exclusion of Christmas, then, is not really a way to “adapt” to a more diverse culture, but a way to engineer a more secular culture.

Many times, the arguments against

Christmas programs and displays are couched in political terms, but the bias against Christmas goes much deeper than that. This is primarily a spiritual battle, not a political one.

How should Christians respond to the ubiquitous use of “Happy Holidays” and the exclusion of Christmas? Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Celebrate Christmas! Let the joy of the season show in your life. Teach your family the significance of Jesus’ birth and make the Christmas traditions meaningful in your home.
- 2) Wish others a Merry Christmas. When confronted with a “Happy Holidays,” get specific, and wish the greeter a “Merry Christmas!” You may be surprised at how many respond in kind. Even if you’re met with resistance, don’t let it dampen your cheer. Ebenezer Scrooge’s nephew was rebuffed year after year, but it never stopped him from wishing his humbug of an uncle a Merry Christmas and inviting him to Christmas dinner.
- 3) Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). The Christmas season is a wonderful opportunity to share Christ’s love and the gospel message. He is the reason for the season!
- 4) Pray for those in positions of power (1 Tim 2:1-3). Pray for wisdom. Pray for revival so that Christmas, instead of being “offensive,” would be honored by all.

Read more at:

www.gotquestions.org

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It is a common misconception that the wise men visited Jesus at the stable on the night of His birth. In fact, the wise men came days, months, or possibly even years later. That is why Matthew 2:11 says the wise men visited and worshiped Jesus in a house, not at the stable.



Our first J.O.Y. Café of the 2014-2015 season is planned for Dec 7th from 6:00-8:00.

We are trying something new this year by holding this event on Sunday evenings. SO PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE.

The music for the evening will be by various members of our church family.

There will also be a time of devotion given by an unknown person at this time.

The food menu is: Lasagna, garlic bread, salad and desserts.

Come join us...

Quotes on Christmas

"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts!"

Benjamin Franklin

"Christmas can be celebrated in the school room with pine trees, tinsel and reindeers, but there must be no mention of the man whose birthday is being celebrated. One wonders how a teacher would answer if a student asked why it was called Christmas."

Ronald Reagan

"When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?"

G.K. Chesterton

"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

Charles Dickens

Women's Missionary Fellowship Note

We would like to invite any ladies who are interested in WMF to our January 13th meeting at 6:30. We meet nearly every second Tuesday of the month.

Library News

Be sure a check out the many videos, DVD's, books, and CD's in our library.

And remember that there are several DVD's that are of our church family at various events like VBS, Men's Canoe Retreats, the WMF Mother-Daughter Banquets, Family Camp, Men's Basketball, our Spring Church retreats at Shiphewana...etc.

"If we are the children of God our Father, then we ought to bear the family resemblances."

Alistair Begg

Thru the OT in 2 Years Reading

December 1-7
Joel & Obadiah

December 8-14
Amos

December 15-21
Jonah & Micah

December 22-28
Nahum & Habakkuk

Dec 29-Jan 4
Zephaniah & Haggai

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.fbckingsbury.org

Email us at:

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Joseph's Song by Michael Card

How could it be, this baby in my arms
Sleeping now, so peacefully
The Son of God, the angel said
How could it be.

Lord I know, He's not my own
Not of my flesh, not of my bone
Still Father let, this baby be
The son of my love.

Chorus

Father show me where I fit into this plan of yours
How can a man be father to the Son of God
Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a king, how can I raise a king?

He looks so small, His face and hands so fair
And when He cries, the sun just seems to disappear
But when He laughs, it shines again
How could it be?

"We venture to assert, that if there be any day in the year, of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Savior was born, it is the 25th of December....Regarding not the day, let us, nevertheless, give thanks to God for the gift of His dear Son."
Charles H. Spurgeon

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