

Seeking Out The Old Paths

Volume 11 Issue 12

December 2005

Bethlehem - Birthplace of the Saviour

We understand that one of the things that distinguish God's Word from the writings of other religions is prophecy. There are multitudes of scriptures that are prophetic concerning the first and second comings of Jesus Christ to this earth. We as Christians safely and surely feel that because the Scriptures concerning the first coming of Christ to this earth, i.e., His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension back to heaven were fulfilled in the minutest of details, surely we can believe that the Scriptures in relation to His second coming, the Rapture and Revelation, will also take place as they are promised unto us in His Word, the Bible.

One of the Old Testament prophecies about His birth is found in Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." God through the Spirit spoke to holy men of old and pinpointed the place of the Messiah's

birth as Bethlehem. Why did God choose this town that appears so small and insignificant in comparison with many of the great capitals of countries and kingdoms of that day. Only God knows for sure, but there are some very interesting facts about this little town of Bethlehem



we need to consider.

First, the name "Bethlehem" means "the house of bread." Man may not realize or recognize the fact, but God knows that man has a hunger in his soul that only God can satisfy. John 6:35 says, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never

hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." From the House of Bread came the Bread of Life - Jesus Christ.

Secondly, Bethlehem had a well by the gate that David longed for while in a cave, 2 Samuel 23:13-17. David had a longing for natural water from the old home place, but God knows that man has a thirst, a craving in man's soul that only a born-again experience with God can quench. John 4:14 records these words of Jesus, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." In Bethlehem's stable God uncapped the Well of Salvation - Jesus Christ, the Water of Life.

Thirdly, Bethlehem was the home of Boaz and Ruth. Boaz was the kinsman-redeemer that loved the Moabitess woman named Ruth. As a Moabitess, Ruth belonged to a cursed people who were enemies

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"We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good." Numbers 10:29

Dryden Road
 Pentecostal Church
 3201 Dryden Road
 Dayton, Ohio 45439
 298-6555

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School - 10 A.M.

Morning Worship - 11 A.M.

Evangelistic Service - 6 P.M.

TUESDAY

Youth Service - 7:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service - 10 A.M.

THURSDAY

Family Service - 7:30 P.M.

“Where A Warm
 Welcome Awaits You...
 In This Church We
 Teach Holiness Too...”

Pastor
 Bennie D. Sutherland
 Editor
 Frank Lindsey

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Around Home

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in our church who need a touch from the Lord.

Patsy Roberts, Verna Williams, Edna Pelfrey, Demia Abner, Ruby Carpenter, Sharon Whitley, Bessie Richmond, Evelyn Houston, Brenda Houston, Donna Maggard, Wilidean Curtis, Opal Houston, Odie Boggs, Rachel Thompson, Steve Phillips, Carl Henson, and Ray Driscoll.

We will be in revival with Brother Davy, Sister Kelly, & Sister Odie Boggs, December 27th thru the 31st. Service will begin nightly at 7:30, except the 31st which will begin at 8:00 P.M.

December Birthday's

Viola Alexander	1
Dorothy Hasty	1
Kaitlyn Smith	3
Elizabeth Maggard	6
Tina Hasty	6
Charles Dalton	6
Leah Meyers.....	7
Larry Taylor	7
Mabel Wells	8
Ben Templeton	9
Danny Tussey.....	9
Joe Bill Houston.....	10
Doug Joseph.....	11
Todd Hall	12
Connie Witt	16
Landen Shockley.....	18
Whitney Ward	21
Steve Griffiths	21
Martha Combs.....	22
Becky Swafford.....	22
Bessie Richmond	25
Bridgett Hasty	26
Rodney Boyd	28
Robert Dotson	28
Alison Liette.....	29
Beverly Havens.....	30
Elizabeth Travis	31
Phillip Hoskins Jr.	31

Anniversaries

Leonard & Mildred Witt	2
Cary & Sandy Tussey.....	5
Qution & Tonya Hibbitts.....	10
Todd & Karan Hatcher.....	21
Howard & Nona Rains.....	24
Ken & Donna Maggard.....	28

Wishing you a
 Joyous Christmas and
 Prosperous New Year.
 Pastor & Sister Sutherland



CHRISTMAS, THEN AND NOW

By Robert F. Dotson © 2005

Christmas Day around “the old home place” isn’t like it used to be.

Yes, there are presents and a Christmas tree.

But, gone is the early morning noise,
And the gleeful laughter of two young boys.

You know, it seems like only a day or two ago,

Since they were playing out in the snow.

Their boyish hands forming jolly snow men,
Was a sure sign Winter had come again!

Then, as we all knew when the ground became white,
It was time for them to have a “friendly” snowball fight!

Ah but, tonight as I look at our Christmas tree,

There’s nobody here but my wife and me.

Yes, the house is very quiet tonight,
And soon I’ll get up and turn out the light.

In another place our boys who are grown,
Will celebrate Christmas with a family of their own!

But, this is just Christmas Eve. Have no fear.

Tomorrow the whole clan will be here!

Our boys, their wives, and our grand kids will be coming,
And “the old home place” with activity will be humming!

My wife Linda will have prepared a feast!

“‘Tis food fit for a king” to say the least!

We will open our presents around the Christmas tree,
And what a happy time it will be!

There will be gifts for the grand kids including toys,

And several gifts from us to our two boys!

There will be gifts for their wives and my wife and me,

Then, it will be quite bare under the Christmas tree.

Later on we will “sit a spell,”

And listen to the stories our boys will tell!

They will talk about Christmas when they were just kids,

And some of the funny things we did!

Ah, too soon it will be time for them to go.

And I’ll long to tell them how we miss them so.

But, as I sadly bid them “adieu,”

I’ll just embrace them and say, “I love you!”

He Gave

Every Christmas season we all should take the time to reflect on the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. What a wonderful gift that was given to the world, to you and to me, and to all those who would receive! We often talk of the gift given to us. We sing of His birth; we see displays of the manger scene. It is printed on cards and posted in store windows. But more often than not we reflect on the gift, and so we should, but how about the Giver?

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 There hidden in that scripture that we have all heard our entire lives, and can recite by memory regardless of Bible knowledge, is a small two letter word that speaks volumes. That word is “so.” In our everyday lives we use this short word to emphasize quality or to indicate similarity, or to even ask rudely why something is important (i.e. so what?). However, one of the more than 15 definitions I found in the dictionary really intrigued me. That definition is “to such an extent.” How awesome it is to know that the very God in Heaven, Creator of the universe, loved us all so much that He gave us His only Son. His love is one that has been unmatched by any other man.

His love has proven to be true over the test of time. God loved us to such an extent that no other word could describe it. His love was more than just a feeling; it was a love that

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Bethlehem from page 1
of God and outcasts in the eyes of Israel. Boaz fell in love with Ruth, bore her reproach and removed it from her by purchasing her dead husband's inheritance back and marrying the widow Ruth. That marriage put her in the godly line of the children of promise and in the family tree of King David and also of the Messiah. Jesus, who also was born at Bethlehem is our Redeemer that loved us and born our reproach and nailed it to His cross, bought us with His own blood, and has betrothed Himself to us as our heavenly Bridegroom and we as His Bride. Oh what love that He has shown unto us to put us into the family and the heart of God!

Fourth, Bethlehem is the birthplace of Israel's great and beloved King David. David - shepherd, psalmist, slayer of a giant, soldier brave, sovereign beloved by both his countrymen and his God, but he was also a sinner. But a greater than David was also born at Bethlehem - Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, and the Shepherd of our souls. Jesus is Slayer of the giants Doubt, Disease and Death. Jesus is the Soldier brave and Captain of the Lord's Host, the Conqueror of Calvary who that old Serpent Satan may have bruised His heel, but Christ bruised (or better rendered, "crushed"), the head of the Serpent - destroying the power of sin and hold of Satan on the souls of men that cry to Christ for salvation and deliverance. And one day that mighty Saviour will be the beloved Sovereign - King of kings and Lord of lords.
Bethlehem may have been an obscure town or village in the eyes of

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other nations, but the birth of Christ there made it a city that is held in esteem throughout time, down to our day. Christ has that power to take nobodies in the sight of this world and make them new creatures in Christ Jesus that are trophies of His mercy, grace and salvation! Thank God He can do that even for me and you!

Brother Kim L. Meyers

What a paradox that a babe in a manger should be called mighty! Yet even as a baby, Jesus Christ revealed power. His birth affected the heavens as that star appeared. The star affected the Magi, and they left their homes and made that long journey to Jerusalem. Their announcement shook King Herod and his court. Jesus' birth brought angels from heaven and simple shepherds from their flocks on the hillside. Midnight became midday as the glory of the Lord appeared to men.

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.

He Gave from page 3
could not just be expressed in words, but required an action. Knowing the outcome of His gift, nevertheless, without reservation He sent His only Son to this cruel world to show us the extent of that love.

Matthew 7:11 says, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" God recognized the world's need of a savior and provided that through His Son. This Christmas time of year, let us not lose sight of the Giver and His sacrificial gift of love.

Brother Phillip D. Hoskins

On Mother's Day we give our entire thought to Mother. We do not joke about mothers or send them cards that feature antelopes leaping from crag to crag or berry nosed Santa Clauses.

Why not, then, give the same wholehearted emphasis to our Lord Jesus Christ on His day? Isn't it time we quit the sacrilege of celebrating Christmas minus Christ?

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man,
I would do my part,--
Yet what can I give Him?
I'll give Him my heart.

WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS

Santa lives in the North Pole...
JESUS lives everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...
JESUS rides on the wind and
walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...
JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings
with goodies...
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your
chimney uninvited...
JESUS stands at your door
and knocks, and then enters
your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line
to see Santa...
JESUS is as close as the mention
of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name...
JESUS knew our name before we did.
He even knows how many hairs
are on our head.

Santa has a belly like a bowl
full of jelly...
JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...
JESUS can offer health, help, and hope.

Santa says, You better not cry...
JESUS says, Cast all your cares
upon me for I care for you.

Santa's little helpers make toys...
JESUS makes life new, mends
wounded hearts, repairs broken
homes, and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle, but...
JESUS gives you joy that
is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts
under your tree...
JESUS became our gift
and died on a tree.

It's obvious there is really
no comparison.
We need to remember WHO
Christmas is all about.
JESUS is still the reason for the season.

Author Unknown

TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph
Woodcrafters Carpenter Shop
Nazareth, 35922

FROM: Jordon Management Consultants
Jerusalem, 26544

RE: Staff Team Evaluation:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel it our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thad-daeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic- depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self explanatory. We wish you every success in your new venture.

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