

My First Christmas

My how time flies. Thinking back fifty years ago, that Christmas season was different. For the first time I understood. It was no longer about family – in fact I was 1,000 miles from family. It wasn't about presents – I don't even remember what presents, if any, I desired or gave that year. No, it was about the joy and peace that had replaced the sorrow, and darkness. It was about the freedom, peace, and joy that had replaced the bondage and depression. It was about the anticipation that had replaced the hopelessness. It was about a wanderer who had found home.

I had discovered that the Christ of the season was not about religion. He was not just part of a nativity scene. He was real. He had sought me out, and I had encountered Him. I understood for the first time that he had come and died for me. Late in the night at the end of October, I had placed my trust in Him personally, having faith in His work on the cross to forgive my sins. I had entered into a personal relationship with him. The weight of sin, depression, selfishness, lack of control, pride, and a thousand other burdens had melted as He entered my life. I now knew the real Christ of Christmas. For the first time, I engaged in a celebration of Christ's arrival – the one who had radically impacted my life because of what He did when He came. I now understood that He had come to die for me.

What an amazing first Christmas with Christ! Every carol resonated with truth that was fresh and alive. The Christmas carols' calls to worship, caused me to rejoice and to be amazed at what He had done for me. The pictures of the Christ child who had left heaven to become a humble baby moved me as I re-

flected on His vast love for me. When I saw the empty eyes of those around me, I wanted to grab them and tell them about this wonderful Savior who would meet their deepest needs and turn their sorrow to joy.

I wish I could say that I have maintained that same level of wonder and exhilaration through the years. However, I can say that my love for Christ and deep sense of appreciation and wonder for what He did for me remains. Christmas is indeed a wonderful time. A time when I am reminded how Christ came so that He could take a hopeless wanderer like me and make him a part of His family. That is what the Christmas season is all about. Galatians 4: "4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children."

How long has it been since you celebrated your first Christmas as His child? Let's reflect and remember. Let's get that fresh excitement all over again. Let's make Him the center of this Christmas season. Let's share with others the peace that He gives. In the midst of the many events of the season, may we make Him the focus. Let's make this season a time of reflection upon and worship of Him.

Pastor Danny Parker



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.
Of the greatness of his govern-
ment and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.
Isaiah 9:6-7

From the Heart

As we finish out this year, we can't help but praise the Lord for all He has done. He has been faithful and ministered to many souls, including ours. From D-Now, Church camp, VBS, Jesus Kids, and Wednesday Youth, the Lord has blessed our church so much.

Thank you all for praying, giving, encouraging and volunteering on behalf of the Youth ministry of FBC. We pray that many seeds are planted and although we may not see all the fruit right now, we will!

Now, it's time to pray and prepare for a brand-new year of ministry. Please pray and ask the Lord where you can serve. We would love to have you planting seeds with us.

Melaina and I pray you all have a joyful and healthy Christmas.

We love you all!
Bro. Chad

December Youth Happenings

- 1-Wednesday Night Live
- 8-Wednesday Night Live
- 15-Last Wednesday Night Youth for 2021
- 18-Youth Christmas Party (more details to come)
- 24-Christmas Candlelight Service

Worship Matters

And just like that we are in December! Wow, what a year! God has been so good to us all. He is faithful to love us, protect us, and guide us. None of us knows what 2022 will bring to us corporately or individually. However, God is fully aware of the future and is preparing us even now.

Do we trust the Lord? Do we trust His love for us? As we walk in faith, we can know that the Lord is not shocked or surprised by current events and we can boldly face this Christmas with a grateful and merry heart!

Let's come together this season and exalt the name of Jesus.

O Come, all ye faithful by John Francis Wade

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

O come, all ye faithful
O come, all ye faithful
O come, all ye faithful to Bethlehem

O come, all ye faithful
O come, all ye faithful
O come, all ye faithful to Bethlehem

Oh, sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Oh, come, oh come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Merry Christmas Church Family!



Properties Report November

Chair: Jerry Nickerson

A leak was discovered under the steeple. A roofing company will be making the repairs and taking measures to ensure the problem doesn't persist going forward.

Connect with us Online!

Visit our website at: fbcyantistexas.com or our facebook page at [facebook.com/FBCYantis](https://www.facebook.com/FBCYantis)

Our website has info on staff, online giving, and more! Facebook hosts our weekly livestreams and is the best source for updates on the happenings of FBC Yantis!



We also have a Youtube channel. Find the link on our website.

Give online!

Go to: <https://onrealm.org/fbcyantistexas/give/nov>

No account needed.

You can set up recurring gifts as well!

Prayer Meeting

We are called to pray. Open our hearts to God. You are invited to come, pray and fellowship with this group. They pray for our Church family and community every Tuesday morning in the Family Life Center at 7 am.

If you need to get to work, you can come, pray and leave. If you aren't on a set schedule, come, pray and visit.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

These were the results of last year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering giving:

- 422 New Missionaries
- 18,380 New Churches
- 86,587 People Baptized
- 144,322 New Believers
- 769,494 Heard Gospel Witness

Let's be a part of that great work again this year! Please pray and consider giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. 100% goes to the mission field, none goes to admin costs!

Christmas Fellowship December 12th

Join us on December 12th for a church-wide fellowship meal and a concert from the Haystacks choir. Meal will begin at 5pm and the song service will follow at 6pm.

Newsletter Changes Taking Effect in January

Starting in January, the Newsletter will be moving to a primarily digital format in order to save on postage, paper, and ink. The new version of the newsletter will be available for download on the church website, which you will be able to print from home. The link will be posted to the church Facebook page when it's ready. If you would like, we can email the newsletter to you as well. Simply call the church office and give Elizabeth your email address and she will put you on the list! A limited number of print copies will be made available for pick-up in the church office by the first of each month. If you are unable to use the internet and you cannot make it to church, please request a print copy by mail by calling Elizabeth at the church office. 903-383-2393

If we do not hear from you, you will not receive an email or a physical copy. You will be able to find the newsletter on the website by the 1st of each month at fbcyantistexas.com You will select the "more" tab on the top banner of the webpage and select "monthly newsletter" from the drop down. This Newsletter, as well as the October and November 2021 Newsletters, are already available on the website for viewing, so you can check it out and see what it will look like.

We will still be relying on member contributions to make the digital Newsletter possible! So please continue to inform the office of any news, events, or "thank yous" that you would like to be included!

At A Glance

Year to Date Gifts (Through October):
Received: \$ 187,432.⁰⁶ Required: 233,337.⁵⁰
October Gifts:
Received: \$ 23,202.⁴⁸ Required: \$ 23,333.⁷⁵

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Please call if we can be of help. If out, feel free
to leave a message.

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