

# The Witness

Volume XX, Issue I

Newsletter

January 2023

## It's Over! What now?

It's over for another year. Christmas. The torn wrapping paper has been gathered together and trashed, all the mess cleaned up. The gifts received will become a part of the routine or will fail and join the wrapping paper. All those decorations will be taken down and stored. The store crowds will dwindle (following the after-Christmas, after-New Year sales). Visiting family has gone home. Everything will go back to normal (whatever that is). The adrenaline of the season will be replaced with the dull onset of deep winter. Little wonder that January and February will result in the all too common time of depression.

However, it was not so for those who celebrated the first Christmas. Christmas marked renewal and a fresh beginning. "And they (the shepherds) came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ... Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them." (Luke 2:16-17. 20) At Christmas they had discovered "Christ the Lord."

Their lives were different. Their discovery resulted in joy and excitement. Their lives produced praise and glory to God. They shared the news of this special person with everyone they could find.

When they returned to their normal life, they were full to the brim with a new sense of purpose. For them Christmas was not an end, but a new beginning. Their after-Christmas spirit demonstrated a transformed life.

Perhaps we have lost this sense of perspective in our method of celebrating Christmas. We have embraced the secular meaning of Christmas, and rather than producing a refreshed joy, Christmas has an opposite effect. Santa, jingling bells, big feasts, overspending, and even family get togethers don't have lasting meaning. Christ has been left out, and we are reaping the result.

However, it is not too late to recapture the original after-Christmas spirit. Encounter Christ the Lord today. He is always available. This encounter truly transforms. Let this January be a new start. A chance to allow Christ to continue to be our source of joy. To be the center of our life. To join together as a church to share Him with a world that has lost its way.

Pastor Danny

---

## What is your personal plan for ministry?

A new year, a new opportunity to be involved, and a new chance to minister to others. What's your personal plan? What should be the church's plan?

Now is a great time to revisit your personal ministry. Do you have one? The scriptures indicate that every Christian is gifted, that every Christian has a stewardship to serve the Savior by ministering to others. Get involved with current ministry. Start a new ministry.

An example could be the bus ministry. We could bring in many more kids if we had someone to lead the bus ministry. To call kids and parents, to coordinate with bus drivers, or to drive a van. Additionally, there are many opportunities to serve on Wednesdays (Teens, Children, Kitchen).

The greatest limitation to ministry is not the harvest itself. The harvest is ready. The need is for workers in the harvest.

A new schedule of church-wide activities will be developed and published shortly. What would you like to see on the calendar? What types of activities? Some possible new/old items: A Valentine Party/Dinner for all those that Jesus loves (i.e., everyone), a gospel group night, a congregational singing evening, potlucks, sunrise service, etc.

Let Danny, David F., Mike S., Margaret, Jim E., or Bob C. know what you think. What can we do for the church and/or for the community? What events should we have? Be part of the solution.

Danny

## Well Happy New Year 2023!!!

If you are like me, it will take until around June before you get accustomed to writing "2023".

What an exciting time in the Lord. A new beginning with this new year. We have all had our own personal ups and downs in 2022 (Some more downs than ups). But with God's help, we made it to 2023 and a new beginning.

I believe God has gifted each of us with this new year because He knows our potential. All the things that have happened to us He will use for our good. Romans 8:28 is my Life Verse. *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."*

It does not matter how bad we have messed up or how bad things seem to be right now, God will use them for good when we love Him and continue to ask Him for guidance. God always sees our potential. God sees what we can become not what we are. He sees where we can go not where we can remain. So, keep looking up and loving God!

A little update on our Praise and Worship Team: Our Audio/Visual group is continuing to grow and improve. We worked out some major bugs in our sound system. We have a full crew of Audio/Visual now with Ethan Rovell, Jim Erwin, Harold DeFreese, Marilee Mott, and Janice Parker. They are doing a great job and looking forward to more training this year.

The Praise Team of Kathy Freeman, Bob Clopton, Wayne Miles, Laura Nolen, and our newest member Gay Folmar is doing an excellent job learning some new and old songs. I also appreciate Sheri Jackson and Elaine Case for continuing to fill in on piano.

Everyone did an excellent job on the Candlelight and Christmas Morning Services.

I feel extremely blessed to be a part of such a talented and loving bunch of people!

I am looking forward to a Blessed and Exciting 2023!!

God Bless you all  
Bro Steve



**Don't miss mid-week activities at FBC Yantis!**

**Prayer Meeting on Tuesday mornings, 7am.**

**Ladies' Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am. Starting back Jan. 3rd.**

**Men's Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm.**

**Jesus Kids, Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30pm**

**Youth Service, Wednesday from 3:30-6:30pm  
Wednesday Programs start back Jan 11th.**

## At A Glance

November's Gifts:	\$18,753. <sup>59</sup>
2022 Gifts So Far:	\$242,407. <sup>66</sup>
2022 Budget:	\$262,763. <sup>00</sup>

## Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**  
Cell: 620-397-1753  
Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**  
In the office Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 2:30pm

**Church Phone: 903-383-2393**  
**Church Fax: 903-383-2384**  
**Church Website: www.fbcyantism.com**

In this busy holiday season, if you have missed any church services, you can watch them either on the church Facebook page or the church YouTube channel!

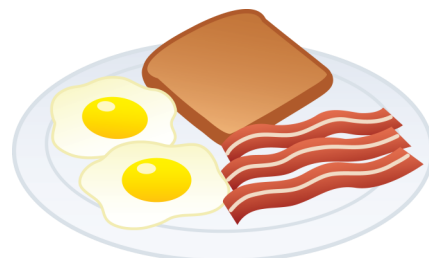


<https://www.facebook.com/FBCYantis/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@FBCYantis>

## Lottie Moon: Reaching the Nations Together

Though the Christmas season has come to an end, you can still give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Gifts for this collection are going to be taken through January. Remember that 100% of this offering goes directly toward IMB missionaries on the field. The IMB is funded through the cooperative program, but most of the budget actually comes from Lottie Moon! Let's pray and give!



Men's Breakfast Occurs Quarterly. The next breakfast will be Saturday, February 4th at 8am. All men are encouraged to attend! This is an uplifting time of faith and fellowship.