

Lines From Larry

Immanuel



Tis the season where we sing songs that say, "Immanuel." The word first occurs in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (NIV). It occurs again in Matthew 1:22-23, "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")" (NIV). The first time it occurs was around 700 years before the birth of Jesus. The second time it was used was to describe the birth of Jesus.

Tis the season where we see Nativity scenes picturing the birth of Jesus. The stable where Jesus was born because there was no room in the inn. The feeding trough where Jesus was laid because there was no crib for a bed. The livestock were calm because they knew Jesus was the one who created them. The shepherds came to see Jesus after the angels told them that Jesus had been born. People had been expecting Immanuel for around 700 years and now He was here. God in the flesh was dwelling amongst us.



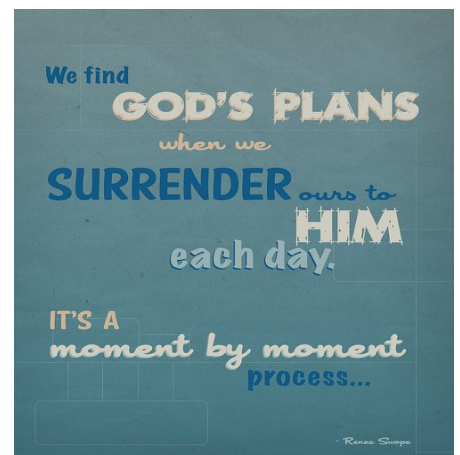
*Lord &
Savior*

There was excitement in the world because Jesus was the Savior that God had promised to send in Genesis 3:15. Jesus was going to pay the price for the sins of all mankind just 33 years later. Herod felt threatened by this new baby and wanted to kill him. The wise men went to the home of Mary and Joseph and worshiped Jesus. When Jesus was twelve years old he talked to the leaders in the Temple and they were amazed at his teaching and knowledge of Scriptures. When Jesus was 30 years old he began his ministry. Jesus taught people how to love one another and live for God.

Jesus lived on Earth 2000 years ago. Jesus lived to die. But God raised him from the dead and he ascended into heaven from where he came. There is more proof that Jesus lived among us, yet many refuse to believe in Him. For those who surrender their life to Jesus, they will one day go to heaven where Jesus lives. Everything changed because of a baby born who was called Immanuel.

Jesus is the reason for the season.

Larry



Those serving in December

	3	10	17	24	31
Children's Church	Brenda & Judy	Joni & Peggy	Brenda & Judy	None	None
Communion Med & Prayer	Roger K.	Heaven	Scott	Rodney	Blaine
Com. To Shut-ins	Roger K.	Andy	Nate	None	Rodney
Communion Prep	Betty Donaldson	Betty Donaldson	Betty Donaldson	Betty Donaldson	Betty Donaldson
Front Door Greeter	Betty D.	Ben	Brenda H.	Blaine	Dennis
Greeters	Blaine & Tina	Barb & Roger K.	Alice & Jace	Sue & Jimmy	Marc & Diane
Musician	Marcia	Cheryl	Cheryl	Cheryl	Cheryl
Nursery	Alice	Angie	Heather	Heaven	Hillary
Offering Prayer	Nate	Andy	Blaine	Scott	Roger K.
Opening Prayer	Larry	Marc	Nate	Jancye	Rodney
Screen	Heaven	Marcus	Ruby	Marcus	Nate
Scripture Reading	Angie	Rodney	Tina	Blaine	Larry
Sound	Rodney	Nate	Andy	Nate	Rodney
Vocals	Joni, Jancye & Tina	Hannah, Shawna & Jancye	Joni, Jancye, & Tina	Jannah, Shawna & Jancye	Joni, Tina & Hannah

Announcements

December 2:



at 8 AM.

December 3: Birthday Sunday.



Collecting for St. Joseph's Food Pantry.

December 6: G3 (Games, Grub & Gab) at 11 AM

December 10: Holiday Meal at 11:30 AM
Caroling in the evening.

December 14: Board meeting at 7 PM.



December 17: Sunday.



Open house at Larry & Joni from 2 - 5. Holiday snacks & drinks provided

Birthday's

12/1	Jim Fish	12/19	Roger Kingery
12/2	Wes Kircher	12/20	Jessica Carroll
12/4	Jacob Sheldon		Annabelle Click
12/7	Olivia Carroll		Marc Hortenstine
12/8	Diane Virden	12/21	Vicki Stapp
	Gordon Finely	12/22	Alexander Eckhardt
	Ruby Lovejoy	12/24	Wendal Burrus
12/10	Nathan Shade	12/25	Debbie Etcheson
12/12	Mindy Moreland	12/26	Heather Hinton
	Megan Kircher		Brian Lay
12/13	Peggy Hunt	12/31	Brooklyn Hortenstine
12/14	Holly Sargent		Nicholas Hortenstine
12/15	Matt Hortenstine		Korina Otto
12/19	Jim Bolyard		



Christ Our Deliverer

by Randy Robison

Christmas can be difficult for many people. Loss, loneliness, financial pressure, family division, and other stresses seem to magnify at a time when we are supposed to be celebrating a season of hope, joy, and peace. When the holidays start to feel like bad news, that's exactly when we need to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

The prophet Isaiah foretold of the coming of Christ when he said:

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives
And freedom to prisoners.” (Isaiah 61:1)

Jesus echoed this passage as He taught in the synagogue in Nazareth:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Could you use a “favorable year”? Then let Him be your deliverer. Let Him bind up your broken heart, restore your sight, set you free from oppression, and give you liberty.

I know, this is easy to say, but harder to do. So allow me to share a key step to deliverance as illustrated with God's chosen people in the Old Testament when they were living in slavery. After Moses fled his adopted palace for killing an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite slave, he carved out a home in the Midian desert where he married, had a son, and tended to his father-in-law's flocks. Meanwhile, back in Egypt the Israelites continued to suffer. God appeared to Moses and said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings” (Exodus 3:7).

This is the first truth you need to know about your suffering: God sees it. He is aware. “Are not five sparrows sold for two cents?” Jesus asked. “Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows” (Luke 12:6-7). Suffering can bring a sense of isolation, but you are not forgotten.

So God called Moses to deliver His people out of bondage. He said, “I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8). That's the second truth you must understand: He wants to deliver you. And not just from one bad situation to a lesser one, but to a place of fulfillment and fruitfulness. We are not supposed to live in bondage. Paul wrote, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free” (Galatians 5:1). If you have been convinced that freedom is unattainable, you have bought into a lie. When you give yourself willingly as a servant of God, He does not want you under the command of anything else. God doesn't share His slaves. And those who come as slaves, He raises up as sons and daughters, making us heirs in His kingdom (Galatians 4:7). You are meant to be free.

Our deliverance is usually beyond our capability. Sometimes, our problems are our own fault. If we think we can deliver ourselves, we're doomed to fail. We have to say “deliver us from evil,” as Jesus instructed us to pray, because our deliverance is beyond our grasp (Matthew 6:13). Our hope lies in the fact that it is never beyond God's. In our weakness, He is strong.

Moses went to Pharaoh and demanded the release of the Israelites. Of course, Pharaoh refused. God unleashed a series of plagues on the Egyptians, forcing that mighty empire to beg the Israelites to leave. Their attitude turned around so completely that they showered the Israelites with gifts as God's people left. That godless culture was defeated and God's people walked away from their lives of slavery. And that's the first step you and I must take to obtain the promise of deliverance.

How many times do we stay stuck in bondage simply because we don't walk away? Granted, there are things we can't escape that easily. If you're battling health issues, it's not so simple. (Unless your problems are self-induced by a poor diet or lack of exercise.) But many of our prisons have open doors if we'll just choose to leave. With God's power, we can walk away from anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, strife, jealousy, and so many other shackles. We can leave bad habits behind by staying away from places that draw us in, cutting off avenues of temptation and sin, and removing ourselves from situations that do nothing but keep us bound. If you're waiting for deliverance, take a good hard look at whether or not you need to simply walk away from your Egypt. You may not know exactly where you are going, but if you can get out, just leave that which enslaves you behind.

After Jesus read Isaiah's promise of deliverance in the synagogue, He closed the book and told the crowd, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21). Today can be the fulfillment of that promise in your life. Walk away from your captors. Leave the chains behind. Set your eyes on Christ our Deliverer and keep walking until your freedom is complete.

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may you know
the comfort & joy
of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!

Offering	Attendance
10/29 \$3101.00	10/29 75
Pastor Appreciation \$883.00	11/5 96
11/5 \$3736.00	11/12 92
Birthday Sunday \$6.00	11/19 90
St. Joseph's \$121.00	11/26 79
11/12 \$2027.00	
Thanksgiving offering \$1199.18	
11/19 \$1856.00	
Penny Sunday \$95.61	
11/26 \$1940.00	

Ramsey Christian Church

Fellowship Time: 8:30 AM

Worship Service: 9:00 AM

Sunday School & Adult Electives: 10:30-11:00 AM

Tuesday: Ladies Bible Study: 8:30 AM

Wednesday: J.A.M. 5:45 to 7 PM

Missions

Bond Christian Service Camp
Inner City Mission of Springfield, IL
Lighthouse Pregnancy Center
Lincoln Christian University
Northwest Haiti Christian Mission
Pinehaven Children's Ranch-Montana
St. Louis Christian College
Tim Doggett-Africa
Jeff Stone—Assembly of God World Missions