



Pastor and First Lady Hackett

GOD NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 6, 2020

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 12

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST- ONE HEART AT A TIME- ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Giving The Gift of Encouragement...*Pastor Keith S. Hackett*

Brothers and Sisters, it is obvious that we are living in perilous (2 Timothy 3:1-5) and discouraging times, unlike ever before according to some. We are entering a time and season in which we traditionally celebrate with family but due to the pandemic we must isolate from them. Despite these drastic measures which we find ourselves living under, this does not negate what the church needs to continue doing in order to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church, the children of God, Disciples, Followers of Christ are those who are united to God through saving faith in Jesus Christ and thus are members of His body.



I must admit that we have been lacking in the area of encouragement which should be fundamental to the unification and edification of the body of Christ. **WE MUST ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER!!** The word translated “encouragement”, or “exhortation” is the Greek word *paraklesis*, related to *paraclete*. *Paraklesis* basically means “a call to one’s side”. Encouragement carries the idea of bringing someone closely alongside, in order to “exhort”, “urge”, “give joy”, and “comfort” him or her. Interestingly, when Jesus conversed with His disciples on the night of His arrest, He spoke of the Holy Spirit as the “Helper” or “Comforter” (John 14:16 and John 15:26), which is why the Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as the ‘Paraclete’, the One who comes alongside to exhort and encourage us.

The Bible is full of encouraging scriptures and is a command that comes from God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the unction of the Holy Spirit to the entire body of Christ (*i.e. to every believer; blood bought, born again disciple of Jesus Christ*). So, the question you may ask, “Why don’t we encourage each other more?” I want to share with you a simple checklist for encouragers found in 1 Thessalonians 5:11-23, where Paul is encouraging the church of Thessalonica during some discouraging moments in the church’s life. I pray that each of us will read, study, meditate, and then apply these gifts of encouragement to those around us. Remember encouraging one another is a ‘must’ for the church as we represent the kingdom of God. Finances may be tight this season, but the gift of encouragement is priceless and should be given day-after-day and year-after-year.

Gift Giving for Encouragers

Scripture	Example	Suggested Application
1 Thess. 5:11	Build each other up	Point out to someone a quality you appreciate in him or her
1 Thess. 5:12	Honor leaders	Look for ways to cooperate
1 Thess. 5:13	Show leaders great respect	Hold back your next critical comments about those in positions of responsibility. Say “thank you” to your Leaders for their efforts.

(Continued on page 4)

HAVE A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: [PAGE 2](#) DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS/HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE AUSTINS/HAPPY 106TH BIRTHDAY [PAGE 3](#) QUARTERLY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT A GLANCE/DEVOTED WOMEN NEWS [PAGE 4](#) CONCLUSION OF GIVING THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT [PAGES 5 THROUGH 7](#) SPECIAL HEALTH SECTION NOTES ON COVID 19 [PAGE 7](#) SMITH FAMILY MEMBER HONORED [PAGE 8](#) WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE [PAGE 9](#) REVELATIONS 2 BY DENISE [PAGE 10](#) ACTIVITY PAGE/ 6-8 Y. O. STUDY NOAH’S ARK AND OBEDIENCE [PAGE 11](#) ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS [PAGE 12](#) CHURCH INFORMATION/JANUARY 2021 GNL DEADLINE

No In-person worship services during December, 2020

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Audrey Jones</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Deloris Ezell Jeanie Gregory	16 Angela Fritts	17	18	19
20	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22	23 Nancy Beason DuJuan Burrell, Sr	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26
27 Eulalia Banks Brittany Marshall Sarah Toney	28	29 Francine Dow	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve/Watch Night</i>		

December Dates

- First day of winter, Dec 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2020

December Anniversary



Best Wishes to Deacon Larry Austin and Sis. Jacque Austin. They will celebrate their 49th Wedding Anniversary on December 18th 2020.



Mayor Steve Holt and Councilwoman Kaytrina Simmons recognized 106 Year old Lillie Cunningham

Sister Angela Cooper's Aunt, Ms Lillie Cunningham, recently turned 106 years old.

Strong at 106

Mayor Steve Holt was proud to recognize Mrs. Lillie Cunningham recently, believed to be the oldest citizen in Florence. She is a lifelong member of Rock Primitive Baptist Church where she still serves the Lord faithfully each week. She has also shown an unwavering commitment to serving our community for the last 106 years!

Submitted by
Angela and
Elizabeth Cooper



Sunday School Lessons At-a-Glance

Devoted Women of God News

Sis. Tanisha Hackett, Facilitator of The Women's Ministry, and the Devoted Women of God have ended their bi-monthly classes by completing the book "The Gentle Art of discipling Women" by Dana Yeakley. Classes will resume in the New Year Please contact, Sis. Tanisha with any questions: tanishahackett@gmail.com

The Annual Christmas Celebration will be held in our online classroom on Saturday Dec-19th at 4:00pm. Please bring your own meal so that we can dine around 4:15pm (it may sound strange, but it actually works out). Also we will have games, exchange gifts, caroling, etc. If you would like to exchange gifts, or if you have any questions please contact Sis. Doris Hunter at

soaringtgreatness@twc.com



Women's STUDY GROUP

*We plan on having a wonderful time and hope that you can attend!!!
God Bless!*

by Mark S. Krause

The lessons for this quarter focus on God's calling individuals to specific ministries according to His plans. Those called included John the Baptist, the wise men, Jesus' parents, and (most of all) Jesus himself. The final unit focuses on women in the New Testament who were called to vocations of service to God's people. The New Testament sees a broad calling of all people to salvation and a narrower calling of certain individuals to specific ministries in the church.

Calls Then

The lessons of this quarter begin by examining the ancestry of Jesus, which leads us to consider God's calls in the Old Testament era. Eighteen hundred years before Jesus' birth, Abraham was called by the Lord and told that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:3); this prophecy was fulfilled in his descendant Jesus. Nine hundred years before Jesus, David was called to be king and promised that his throne would be eternal (2 Samuel 7:16)—an heir of David would always reign as God's king. This prophecy also was fulfilled in Jesus (Hebrews 1:3, 8). The calling of Jesus to save us from sin has the background of these ancestors and the effect of fulfilling their calls. A very different calling of God came to the wise men of Matthew 2 (lesson 3) as God called them through a sign regarding a coming king. Their calling eventually led them to Bethlehem, where they lavished gifts on the young child and worshipped Him. The story illustrates God's call on non-Jews to recognize Jesus as king—a call the wise men obediently answered.

Another surprising call came to a Samaritan woman who encountered Jesus at Jacob's well (John 4; lesson 10). Her call came when she realized that Jesus was no ordinary man; she knew she needed to testify to her fellow Samaritans of the marvelous conversation she had just had. Jesus' own call and sense of purpose comes out clearly in our lesson regarding His visit to the synagogue in His hometown, Nazareth. He expressed His call by reading a passage from Isaiah 61. Jesus embodied three things from this text: that God's Spirit was upon Him, that He had therefore been anointed by God, and that He had been appointed to preach good news (Luke 4:18). Jesus acknowledged this prophesied role as His calling by announcing that that Scripture was fulfilled in their hearing that very day (4:21). In all these lessons and others of this quarter, we find examples of people who accepted the challenges and privileges of their calls.

Calls Now

As we ponder how God calls people to ministries today, we can note means and methods in both Old and New Testaments. Some calls were startlingly direct (examples: Exodus 3:10; Acts 9:1-6). Other calls were via specifically directed actions of intermediaries (examples: 1 Samuel 9:15-17; 16:1-13; Acts 10:34-43). That leads to the question of how to recognize calls of God today. As a result, various "tests of calling" have been proposed. Nevertheless, one overarching feature of the calls in this quarter's lessons should be kept in mind for application today: the calls were for people to join God's plan; the calls were not for God to join theirs. And so it still must be.

Unit 1: The Beginning of a Call

- December 6 - Called to Be Heir - Matt. 1:1-6, 16-17; Hebrews 1:1-5
- December 13 - Called to Be Emmanuel - Matthew 1:18-25
- December 20 - Called to Worship - Matthew 2:1-2, 7-15
- December 27 - Called to Prepare - Matthew 3:1-12

The Women's Ministry shared their gratitude via text this Thanksgiving

- ◆ I am grateful for each day and for God's Love. -MichaelLee Duckworth
- ◆ I'm grateful for so many things. God Is Good and He Is forgiving. -Twanna Scruggs
- ◆ I am most grateful first of all for our Lord and Savior. I am grateful that He did not give up on me and also that He Is so forgiving. -Wanda Ellis
- ◆ I'm so grateful and I would like to share: I am so thankful that Christ Jesus Is in Control of all things and for Romans 8:35-39 Nothing will separate His Love ❤️ from His children. 🙏🙏 -Denise Zellars
- ◆ I'm grateful for another day to live. ❤️ -Tracy Moore
- ◆ I'm grateful for family, especially while we are apart and that our Lord and Savior Is always with us. -Brenda Hackett
- ◆ I am grateful for every day that He wakes me up, and for my Christian Sistas! 🙏🙏🙏 -Francine Dow
- ◆ God Is Good! We made it through a different Thanksgiving and Praises to Him! -Debora Mapp-Embry 🙏

Continued from Page 1 Gift-Giving for Encouragers

Scripture	Example	Suggested Application
1 Thess. 5:13	Live in peace	Search for ways to get along with others
1 Thess. 5:14	Warn the lazy	Challenge someone to join in a project
1 Thess. 5:14	Encourage the timid	Encourage those who are timid by reminding them of God's promises.
1 Thess. 5:14	Help the weak	Support those who are weak by loving them and praying for them.
1 Thess. 5:14	Be patient	Think of a situation that tries your patience and plan ahead of time how you can stay calm
1 Thess. 5:15	Resist revenge	Instead of planning to get even with those who mistreat you, do good to them.
1 Thess. 5:16	Be joyful	Remember that even in the midst of turmoil, God is in control.
1 Thess. 5:17	Pray continually	God is always with you - talk to Him
1 Thess. 5:18	Give thanks	Make a list of all the gifts God has given you, giving thanks to God for each one.
1 Thess. 5:19	Do not stifle the Holy Spirit	Cooperate with the Holy Spirit the next time He prompts you to participate in a Christian meeting.
1 Thess. 5:20	Do not scoff at prophecies	Receive God's Word from those who speak for Him.
1 Thess. 5:22	Avoid every kind of evil.	Avoid situations where you will be drawn into temptation.
1 Thess. 5:23	Count on God's constant help	Realize that the Christian life is to be lived not in our own strength but through God's power

Finally, the reason Paul wanted the church of Thessalonica to encourage one another is to facilitate hope at the second coming of Christ. We are admonished to live holy in light of the coming of Christ and be prepared always for no one knows the time of His return. The gospel is not only what we believe but also what we must live. The Holy Spirit leads us in faithfulness, so we can avoid lust and fraud. Live as though you expect Christ's return at any time. Don't be caught unprepared during the time of pandemic. It is in the worst of times that our deliverance is ever so near.

Encouraging scripture given to each of us with love and urgency by the apostle Paul: *Romans 13:11-14*

¹¹ Besides this, since you know the time, it is already the hour for you^[a] to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over, and the day is near; so let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk with decency, as in the daytime: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires. Amen, Amen, and Amen!!

HEALTH NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2020

From the Nurses Ministry

SPECIAL SECTION ON COVID-19

We are now experiencing an unprecedented surge in the coronavirus pandemic. Many more people are becoming infected and some of us are experiencing the disease in our own families. Below is useful information to help you and your loved ones cope:

You may get tested for COVID-19 at any time

If you are out in public frequent testing is recommended. An appointment is required.

To find testing locations go to <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-testing>

COVID-19 Hotline: 800-722-5725

Norton Healthcare Respiratory Center: 502-861-4600

Watch for symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



When to seek emergency medical attention

Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

If you know or suspect you have COVID-19 or you are in close contact* with an infected person – Protect yourself and others

***Close contact:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Let close contacts know that you tested positive or have symptoms so that they can take precautions and get tested.

Limit contact

COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets, created when someone talks, coughs or sneezes. Staying away from others helps stop the spread of COVID-19.

The person who is sick should isolate

The sick person should separate themselves from others in the home.

If possible, have the person who is sick use a separate bedroom and bathroom. If possible, have the person who is sick stay in their own “sick room” or area and away from others. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from the sick person.

Shared space: If you have to share space, make sure the room has good air flow.

Open the window to increase air circulation.

Improving ventilation helps remove respiratory droplets from the air.

Avoid having visitors. Avoid having any unnecessary visitors, especially visits by people who are at higher risk for severe illness.

Caregivers should quarantine

The caregiver, when possible, **should not** be someone who is at [higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#)

Caregivers and anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should stay home. See below for when and how to quarantine.

Stay separated: The person who is sick should eat (or be fed) in their room, if possible.

Wash dishes and utensils using gloves and hot water: Handle any dishes, cups/glasses, or silverware used by the person who is sick with gloves. Wash them with soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.

[Clean hands](#) after taking off gloves or handling used items.

Do not share: Do not share dishes, cups/glasses, silverware, towels, bedding, or electronics (like a cell phone) with the person who is sick.

When to wear a mask or gloves

The **person who is sick** should wear a [mask](#) when they are around other people at home and out (including before they enter a doctor’s office).

The mask helps prevent a person who is sick from spreading the virus to others. It keeps respiratory droplets contained and from reaching other people.

masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is not able to remove the covering without help.

Wash and thoroughly dry your cloth mask often, if not daily. Disposable masks should be changed daily.

The Caregiver should put on a mask and ask the sick person to put on a mask before entering the room.

Wear gloves when you touch or have contact with the sick person’s blood, stool, or body fluids, such as saliva, mucus, vomit, and urine. Throw out gloves into a lined trash can and wash your hands right away.

Wash your hands often; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; and frequently clean and disinfect surfaces.

Note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical grade masks are reserved for healthcare workers and some first responders.

Clean your hands often

Wash hands: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Tell everyone in the home to do the same, especially after being near the person who is sick.

Hand sanitizer: If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

Hands off: Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Clean and then disinfect

Clean and disinfect “high-touch” surfaces and items every day: This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, and electronics.

Clean the area or item with **soap and water** if it is dirty. **Then, use a household disinfectant.**

Be sure to **follow the instructions on the label** to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for several minutes to kill germs. Many also recommend wearing gloves, making sure you have good air flow, and wiping or rinsing off the product after use.

Most household disinfectants should be effective.

To clean electronics, follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. If those directions are not available, use alcohol-based wipes or spray containing at least 70% alcohol.

Bedroom and bathroom

If you are using a separate bedroom and bathroom: Only clean the area around the person who is sick when needed, such as when the area is soiled. This will help limit your contact with the sick person.

If sharing a bathroom: The person who is sick should clean and then disinfect after each use. If this is not possible, wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom before coming in to clean and use the bathroom.

Wash and dry laundry

Do not shake dirty laundry.

Wear disposable gloves while handling dirty laundry.

Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people’s items.

Wash items according to the label instructions. Use the warm-

est water setting you can.

Clean and disinfect clothes hamper. Wash hands afterwards.

Use gloves when handling trash

Place used disposable gloves and other contaminated items in a lined trash can.

Use gloves when removing garbage bags, and handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands afterwards.

Track your own health

Caregivers should stay home and monitor their health for COVID-19 symptoms while caring for the person who is sick.

Caregivers should continue to stay home after care is complete.

Caregivers can leave their home 14 days after their last close contact with the person who is sick (based on the time it takes to develop illness), or 14 days after the person who is sick meets the [criteria to end home isolation](#). [Use CDC's self-checker tool](#) to help you make decisions about seeking appropriate medical care.

Ending Isolation/Quarantine

I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms

You can be around others after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**

Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

**Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation*

Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others; however, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

Note that these recommendations **do not** apply to persons with severe COVID-19 or with severely weakened immune systems (immunocompromised).

I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days have passed since you had a positive viral test for COVID-19. Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others; however, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance

above for "I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms." I was severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication. When can I be around others?

People who are severely ill with COVID-19 might need to stay home longer than 10 days and up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared. [Persons who are severely immunocompromised](#) may require testing to determine when they can be around others. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.

For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19 Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days **after their last exposure** to that person.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does **NOT** need to stay home.

- Has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
- Has recovered **and**

Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

How Does a COVID-19 Vaccine Work?

A COVID-19 vaccine helps allow the body to create immunity against the virus that causes COVID-19 without actually getting the illness. There are different types of vaccines, but in all cases, vaccines prompt the body to create lymphocytes, which essentially help the body remember how to fight that virus in the future.

It typically takes a few weeks after vaccination for the body to build immunity, so it is possible that someone may become infected with the virus that **causes COVID-19** just before or shortly after receiving the vaccination before there has been sufficient time to provide protection.

According to the CDC, all but one of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States require a series of two shots. The first shot begins building protection. A few weeks later, a second shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12

Sources: CDC.gov (Center for Disease Control);

share.Baptisthealth.com; kyccovid19.ky.gov;nortonhealthcare.com

Smith Family Honored on Veterans Day



Pandemic causes Delay In Military Honors

Private First Class Howard E. Smith (February 21, 1957-March 21, 2020) Nephew of Wayne, Lynn, Donna Faye, and Deacon Kenny Smith was one of 65 veterans who finally was able to receive the traditional military rendering of funeral honors ceremonies last month.. The ceremonies had been put on hold indefinitely Fort Knox partnered with Kentucky Veteran Affairs to organize four ceremonies which honored the 65 veterans.

Nyla Cobb,(niece) Lisa Smith-Cobb(sister) -Swansea, IL , Marla Smith(sister)-Louisville, KY, Howard Smith (father)-Colorado Springs, CO attended the ceremonies and were featured on WLKY.

RADCLIFF, Ky. —With funeral services put on pause in early spring due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, families of dozens of Kentucky veterans had to say farewell from inside their cars at a limited-attendance ceremony.

"During the onset (of the pandemic), we were not able to have a ceremony and it was just so much of a pain to just drop him off here," Lisa Smith-Cobb said. "We had to stay in the car and just pull off (when it was over). It was...horrible and it was very painful for our family."



Opportunities to Be in the Presence of God through the Study of His Word, Prayer, and with Regular Worship while maintaining Social Distance!!!

- ⇒ Sunday Worship services are now streamed online on Facebook live at 11:15 A.M. and then made available for viewing later on the Greater Salem Website: greatersalembaptist.org or the Greater Salem Facebook page.
- ⇒ The weekly Bible study led by Pastor Hackett continues on Facebook Live each Wednesday at 5:30 PM and can be viewed later on the Greater Salem website or Facebook Page.
- ⇒ Bro. LeRoy Winston & Sis. Rosa Battle will be leading the weekly Wednesday Prayer Service at 12 noon via conference call. The conference call information is as follows: Dial (978) 990-5000 and when prompted enter Access Code: 703263#
- ⇒ You can join in with Min. Kern Richardson, Sister Sara Toney and all classes for the weekly Sunday School lesson via conference call at 9:30 AM on Sundays. Just call 978-990-5000 and when prompted enter the access code 721799#
- ⇒ Sis. Tanisha Hackett is facilitating the Women's Ministry's Bible Study . *(Classes will resume in 2021)* They will hold classes via Conference Call. They will meet on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 10:15 AM. For Audio only please call 978-990-5000, access code 703263# to be a part of the class. If you'd prefer audio and video go online at <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/tanishahackett> . All women, ages 18 and over, are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Sis. Tanisha Hackett at tanishahackett@gmail.com
- ⇒ Pastor Hackett and Deacon George Johnson will facilitate Men's Bible Study by Conference call on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. The dial-in number is (978) 990-5432—The access code is 3331448#
- ⇒ Rev. Hall and Sister Mary Stoddard will be leading the weekly Friday Bible Study via conference call at 11:30 am. The conference call information is as follows: Dial (978) 990-5000 and when prompted enter Access Code: 703263#
- ⇒ Tithes and offering can be delivered to the church on weekdays between 10 AM and 2:00 PM. They can be given to the Deacons on duty (587-8869) or placed in the mail slot (after hours). You can also send them to Greater Salem Baptist Church at 1009 W Chestnut Street, Louisville 40203. Call 587-8869 if you need someone to pick-up your tithes and offerings.
- ⇒ If you'd like to take the Lord's Supper, you can do so on every first Sunday of the month. It will be served by the Deacons on the parking lot as well as in the Sanctuary. Please drive through to be served. (As always, remember to maintain a proper Social Distance)
- ⇒ You can get a paper copy of the GoodNewsLetter via mail by contacting the church at 587-8869 and leaving your name and address.
- ⇒ Check with Youth Leaders Mona Fleming, Lynn Fleming, and Renita Ennels for details on Wednesday Zoom Meetings for youth.



SOCIAL DISTANCING ;;;;;;

The Lord's Supper is being served on the First Sundays on the Parking Lot to those unable to attend services.

REVELATIONS

Part 2

By: *Denise L.B. Zellars*



but God did not change His mind about His chosen ones worshiping only Him and living forever with Him. We see God's sovereignty in demonstrating His love and provision for us, His children in **John 3:16**.

Greetings.

What a year this has been! So much has taken place this year, it in some way feels like a few years wrapped into one. But God is too awesome for me to waste precious time complaining, when I can share His goodness.

I first would like to piggyback on last months article, as it is imperative that I clarify a few items before we move into the new year. *Let's re-visit* last months article, *Revelations*. I stated, "the clearest scripture in the bible is perhaps the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this Gospel can be received at a very early age in our lives." By this, I mean that we can know Christ Jesus as our Savior long before adulthood. We can choose to believe –He, Who Is good, and He Is Life, or that which is bad, *death*. For example, (See **2Timothy 3:15 & John 14:6-7**).

1John 5:12 says, He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

With that said, we should know that our choosing is our accepting to believe the truth- *saving faith*. It is important to see that God chose us before He created this world (See **Ephesians 1:4-9 & Ephesians 2:8-9**). Our Salvation has nothing to do with our good works/acts on our part but has everything to do with our Creator's Love in extending His grace and mercy.

There is a song entitled, "I decided to make Jesus my choice." When singing these lyrics, we should know that we "chose" to accept Him because He gives us free will, but know that we cannot choose to accept Him unless He first chooses us (See **John 10:27-30 & John 6:44**).

When taking a trip back to Genesis we see that Adam and Eve's disobedience could not and did not change the plans for God's elect. The dynamics changed, as Sin entered the world due to their disobedience,

Next, let me *re-address* my point on committing. We are incapable of loving and committing to anyone without loving and committing to our Heavenly Father. He Is Love, so how can we have a loving relationship without Him? This point I am wanting to make as it relates to last months article on going to church: Going to Church will always be important to believers in Christ Jesus. However, we will always have individuals who will say "I can worship God at home" and they are partially right because home is one place in which we can worship God *and there is more!* We should be worshipping God everywhere we go and one way we worship Him is through obedience to His Word (See **Hebrews 10:22-25**) ***Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*** His Word is important to the believer!

Our Heavenly Father is our first Love, and we should feel obligated to Him after all He has done. It is essential for Christians to submit to His commands.

Obligation is probably not the best choice of word to explain the overwhelming desire we should feel to worship God, though. We should know that God does not want us to feel forced in worshipping Him, so this obligation is in vain if it is not motivated by true love for Him. We must worship Him in spirit and in truth, not only for what He has done for us, but for Who He Is- The One and only True and Living God- Holy and Righteous in every way. This authentic worship is the only worship that is pleasing to our Heavenly Father (See **John 4:23-24 & Luke 6:46**).

As Christians/believers we should encourage others to go to Church, too and not make up all kinds of excuses on why we do not have to go to church. If one has ever sincerely prayed for a Church home and truly hunger for God's Word, then this can perhaps be better understood-- Church is

then less likely taken for granted.

In addition, we should have the desire to worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters. If one is staying away from church because he/she may be afraid of contracting the novel Corona virus, you should know the precautions to take to stay safe. Also note that a great percentage of the general public *not* attending church services have contracted this virus.

It is no secret, *nor surprise* to learn that we have had a few individuals in our own congregation that have recently contracted this Corona virus. Of course, we will have folks standing by—only to say "I told you so," but we should know that this is **Not** a time to point our finger, but it is always a time to praise our Good Lord.

It is encouraging to see that after a year of this virus wreaking havoc in this world; we are only recently learning of a few cases within our church. *Folks* this is good news, and we have yet another reason to praise our Heavenly Father, Hallelujah!! This indicates that this virus is not likely being transmitted at our Church, or we would have had many cases within the Church long before now. *Right?* Again, praise God! Looks like we are taking the right precautions — *I'm glad...*

Lastly, we should know that no one is exempt from any thing that happens in this life. We can follow precautions and still contract this virus. Do not be discouraged, Christ Jesus has personally delivered good news long ago and He continues to forewarn us in His Word that this too shall pass! Keep faith in Him! (See **2Corinthians 4:16-18, John 16:33 & Hebrews 11:6**).

Let us remember what is most important for the believer in Christ Jesus: He has given us two commandments (**Matthew 22:37-40**) — *Love Him, the Lord, our God with our whole heart, soul and mind. The second is equally important, love our neighbors as we love ourselves.* Notice that Christ Jesus says **Love** because *nothing else will do!*

Blessings,
-Denise

December 2020!!!

Bible Quiz

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four



Answer: (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)



WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
❄ for	❄ give	❄ come	❄ together	❄ around	❄ after
❄ self	❄ into	❄ settle	❄ eternal	❄ thanks	❄ forgive
❄ God	❄ LORD	❄ says	❄ without	❄ Christ	❄ warmth
❄ love	❄ sins	❄ scarlet	❄ other	❄ light	❄ praise
❄ red	❄ star	❄ white	❄ snow	❄ winter	❄ peace

EXIT

"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the _____.
 "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV



Christian Symbol ADVENT WREATH



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The

candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



Christian Fleming

2 Elephants



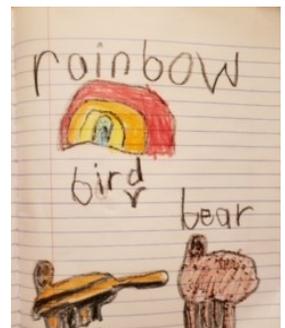
Chris Fleming, Jr

2 Lions



Aria Smith-Turner

A Tiger and Sheep



Michael Jones

A Bird Bear and Tiger

As the 6-8 year olds studied Noah's Ark for the month of November, they learned what it meant to obey.

Noah obeyed God and built the ark as he was told. Even though there was no rain in sight, his friends laughed at him for doing this. Noah friends were mean to him and laughed at him. But Noah continued to obey God. He invited his friends to join him and his family on the ark once it was finished. Noah and his family were saved as it rained 40 days and 40 nights. The youth also learned that when they see a rainbow in the sky to know that is God's Promise to us that He would never destroy the world again with water. We meet every 1st and 2nd Wednesday 7:00-7:30 Via Zoom

FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY—SHARE THIS PAGE

Question:

"What is the origin of Christmas?"

Answer: Christmas is a popular December holiday celebrated by large numbers of people all around the world. Christmas (or "the Mass of Christ") has long been known as the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and the celebration first began to be observed in the early fourth century. However, some traditions associated with Christmas actually began as a part of pagan culture; these were "Christianized" and given new meaning by the church.

The exact [date of Jesus' birth](#) is unknown, as the Bible does not give specifics as to the dates of either His birth or conception. But in the second century AD, a Roman Christian historian named Sextus Julius Africanus calculated Jesus' birthdate to be December 25 (nine months after Jesus was conceived, according to Africanus). In spite of the assumptions made in Africanus's line of thinking, the date of December 25 was widely accepted.

At the time of Christ, Roman culture already celebrated a holiday in December: [Saturnalia](#) honored the god Saturn and was celebrated from December 17 to about December 24. Later, the Romans began celebrating Sol Invictus or the "Unconquered Sun," associated with the winter solstice and observed on December 25. When Rome eventually instituted Christianity as the state religion in the fourth century, the Roman church converted Saturnalia and Sol Invictus to a Christian holiday, the Feast of the Nativity, in order to commemorate Jesus' birth, thus providing a spiritually positive alternative to a pagan celebration. The sinful customs and debauchery associated with Saturnalia were "cleaned up," and some of the customs were absorbed into the celebration of Christmas. Christians have "redeemed" December 25 and have celebrated it as the birth of Christ ever since the fourth century.

Given the association Christmas had with the ancient

pagan calendar, the question then becomes, "Since Christmas shares a date with a pagan holiday, is it acceptable for Christians to celebrate it?" It is important to note that Christmas, Saturnalia, and Sol Invictus were all distinct holidays; they were never identical to each other. Also, although some elements of Christmas celebrations (e.g., bells, candles, holly, and yule decorations) are mentioned in the history of pagan worship, the use of such items in one's home in no way indicates a return to paganism. Christians simply celebrate Christmas to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. [Celebrating Christmas](#) is a matter of conscience (see [Romans 14:5](#)).

From www.GotQuestions.org



This article was submitted on behalf of the Evangelism Ministry. If you need to talk to someone about this, you can contact the Church office at 502-587-8869 and speak with Deacon Merrill or a member of the Evangelism Team!!!

The GoodNewsLetter is available online at greatersalembaptist.org



Greater Salem Baptist

1009 West Chestnut Street
Louisville KY 40203

Office Staff

Monica Little

Lenette Dennison

Telephone Number

502-587-8869

Email:

aagsalem@bellsouth.net

Office Hours

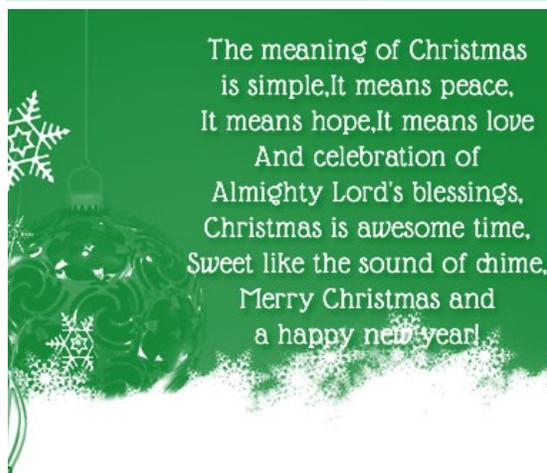
Monday through Friday

09: 00 am to 02:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

See page 8 for online schedules

Opportunities to be in the presence of God through the study of His word and in the Center of Prayer
(See Pages 8 for updated temporary schedule of online audio or video opportunities)



December 2020

Real Joy

What is Christmas without Jesus Christ?

It's a holiday full of stuff.

Money and stress, teaching kids greed,
Some people are saying "Enough!"

"Love one another," our Savior said.

It's all about love, not things.

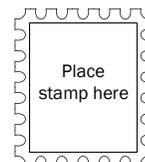
Let's teach our children to serve, and create
The real joy the true Christmas brings.

By Joanna Fuchs
Poemsource.com

**MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST
ONE HEART AT A TIME - ONE FAMILY AT A TIME**

From:

Greater Salem Baptist Church
1009 West Chestnut Street
Louisville, KY 40203



Deadline for the January 2021 GNL
12/20/2020