

Reverend Carl and Mrs. Carmen Jones

GREATER SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

GOODNEWSLETTER

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

FROM GOT QUESTIONS:
SHOULD CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS???



The debate about whether or not Christians should celebrate Christmas has been raging for centuries. There are equally sincere and committed Christians on both sides of the issue, each with multiple reasons why or why not Christmas should be celebrated in Christian homes. But what does the Bible say? Does the Bible give clear direction as to whether Christmas is a holiday to be celebrated by Christians?

First, let's look at the reasons why some Christians do not celebrate Christmas. One argument against Christmas is that the traditions surrounding the holiday have origins in paganism. Searching for reliable information on this topic is difficult because the origins of many of our traditions are so obscure that sources often contradict one another. Bells, candles, holly, and [yuletide/yule](#) decorations are mentioned in the history of pagan worship, but the use of such in one's home certainly does not indicate a return to paganism. While there are definitely pagan roots to some traditions, there are many more traditions associated with the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of the Savior of the world in Bethlehem. Bells are played to ring out the joyous news, candles are lit to remind us that Christ is the Light of the world ([John 1:4-9](#)), a star is placed on the top of a Christmas tree to remember the Star of Bethlehem, and gifts are exchanged to remind us of the gifts of the Magi to Jesus, the greatest gift of God to mankind.

Another argument against Christmas, especially having a Christmas tree, is that the Bible forbids bringing trees into our homes and decorating them. The passage often cited is [Jeremiah 10:1-16](#), but this passage refers to cutting down trees, chiseling the wood to make an idol, and then decorating the idol with silver and gold for the purpose of bowing down before it to worship it (see also [Isaiah 44:9-18](#)). The passage in Jeremiah cannot be taken out of its context and used to make a legitimate argument against Christmas trees.

Christians who choose to ignore Christmas point to the fact that the Bible doesn't give us the date of Christ's birth, which is certainly true. December 25 may not be even close to the time Jesus was born, and arguments on both sides are legion, some relating to climate in Israel, the practices of shepherds in winter, and the dates of Roman census-taking. None of these points are without a certain amount of conjecture, which brings us back to the fact that the Bible doesn't tell us when Jesus was born. Some see this as proof positive that God didn't want us to celebrate the birth, while others see the Bible's silence on the issue as tacit approval.

Some Christians say that since the world celebrates Christmas—although it is becoming more and more politically correct to refer to it as “the holidays”—Christians should avoid it. But that is the same argument made by false religions that deny Christ altogether, as well as cults such as the Jehovah's Witnesses who deny His deity. Those Christians who do celebrate Christmas often see the occasion as an opportunity to proclaim Christ as “the reason for the season” among the nations and to those trapped in false religions.

As we have seen, there is no legitimate scriptural reason not to celebrate Christmas. At the same time, there is no biblical mandate to celebrate it, either. In the end, of course, whether or not to celebrate Christmas is a personal decision. Whatever Christians decide to do regarding Christmas, their views should not be used as a club with which to beat down or denigrate those with opposing views, nor should either view be used as a badge of honor inducing pride over celebrating or not celebrating. As in all things, we seek wisdom from Him who gives it liberally to all who ask ([James 1:5](#)) and accept one another in Christian love and grace, regardless of our views on Christmas.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-Christmas.html>

Merry Christmas & Happy Birthday Jesus!!!

Thanks You Greater Salem
INSIDE THIS ISSUE: [PAGE 2](#) DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ADVENT WREATH [PAGE 3](#) DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY/ DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT A GLANCE [PAGE 4](#) HEALTH NOTES TIPS FOR A HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON/ DECEMBER PUZZLE [PAGE 5](#) NEWS FROM THE PEWS [PAGE 6](#) FALL FEST [PAGES 7 & 8](#) BLACK HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS- HISTORICAL LEGACY OF WATCH NIGHT/ [PAGE 8-9](#) YOUTH SUNDAY PHOTOS [PAGE 9](#) STUDY AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES/ [PAGE 10](#) ACTIVITY PAGE [PAGE 11](#) EVANGELISM TEAR OFF SHEET ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BELIEVE [PAGE 12](#) - CHURCH INFORMATION/JANUARY GNL DEADLINE



December

BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Audrey Jones	2
			3	4 Gwendolyn Stephenson	5	6
10 Kennedy Marshall	11	12	13	14	15 Deloris Ezell	16 Angela Fritts
17	18	19	20	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22	23 Nancy Beason DeJuan Burrell
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>New Years' Eve 31</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Alexis Sanders	26	27 Eulalia Banks Brittany Marshall Sarah Toney	28 Mya Marshall	29	30



The symbolism of the Advent wreath

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

Special December 2023 Dates

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 3*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 10*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 17*
- First day of winter, *December 21*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 24*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24*
- Christmas Day, *December 25*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31*



We salute Deaconess Jacque and Deacon Larry Austin on their 52nd Wedding Anniversary this month. They were married on December 18, 1971.

Attention Greater Salem Couples!!!

Please let the GoodNewsLetter Staff know about a month ahead of time when you're going to be celebrating the anniversary of your Wedding Day. Please include the date and a photo of your choice. We'd like to share that good news with your church family.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT-A-GLANCE

WEEKLY LESSONS

w/Read the Entire Bible In a Year Selections

Week 14 Read Psalms

DECEMBER 3, 2023

God's Rule Over the Nations

Psalm 47

God is the Sovereign King; all are invited to praise Him and acknowledge His kingship.

Week 15 Read Proverbs

DECEMBER 10, 2023:

A Treasure Worth Seeking

Proverbs 2:1-5; 3: 1-6, 13-18

In these Scriptures, Solomon gives parental advice to young people so they will not negatively impact or shorten their days by making costly mistakes.

Week 16 Read Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

DECEMBER 17, 2023:

The Most Beautiful Bride

Song of Solomon 6:4-12

When marriages are grounded in love, couples view each other with adoration. How can someone describe the beauty of someone they love dearly? The writer of the Song of Solomon beautifully describes mutual adoration for the matchless inner and outer beauty of one another.

Week 17 Read Isaiah

DECEMBER 24, 2023:

God Promised a Righteous Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7

Christ was born to be our Lord and Savior. He would ultimately redeem the world. As our hope, the prediction of the birth of a child finds fulfillment in the birth of Christ. (Matthew 4:12-16).

Week 18 Read Jeremiah-Lamentations

DECEMBER 31, 2023:

Mediator of the New Covenant

Unfortunately, humans often fail in our relationships. How can we repair our relationships? Jeremiah prophesied a day when God would make a new covenant with His people, writing His law on our hearts with the vow to be Israel's God and to make Israel His people.

DECEMBER HEALTH NOTES

FROM THE NURSES MINISTRY

TIPS FOR A HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON

Balance is the key. You can enjoy some of the splurges of the season without overdoing it. For example, if you're going to miss your workout for a holiday event, walk during lunch or ride your bike to work. If dinner is going to be a feast, opt for a light lunch. Save your appetite for the big meal by skipping appetizers or serving lighter snacks like cut-up fruits and veggies.

Eat smart at special holiday events. If you're a guest, eat a healthy meal or snack before you go to avoid overdoing it at the event. If you're the host offer some delicious and healthier options using our recipes and cooking tips (your guests will thank you).

Keep the family active. When the kids are out of school, squeeze in some active chores and trips to the park. Break up the video game marathon with a physical activity break. Take advantage of cooler weather to get moving outdoors.

Holiday hydration. Remember, the healthiest thing you can drink is water! Make it your go-to choice when you're feeling thirsty. You can give it some extra appeal by adding fresh or frozen fruits, herbs or a splash of 100% fruit juice.

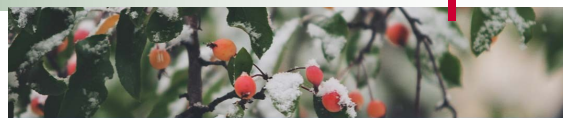
Keep portions in check. Enjoy your favorites without overeating. Put less on your plate and pass on that second helping.

Give yourself the gift of peace.
Don't be afraid to say no to some invitations.
Keep Christ at the center of your holidays.

Resource: www.AmericanHeartAssociation.org

Get vaccinated to avoid serious disease!
COVID-19 - Influenza (Flu) - RSV

We have a limited number of COVID tests available here at the church. Please see a member of the Nurses Guild to get a test kit. Call the COVID-19 Helpline at 502-574-8207 if you have questions.

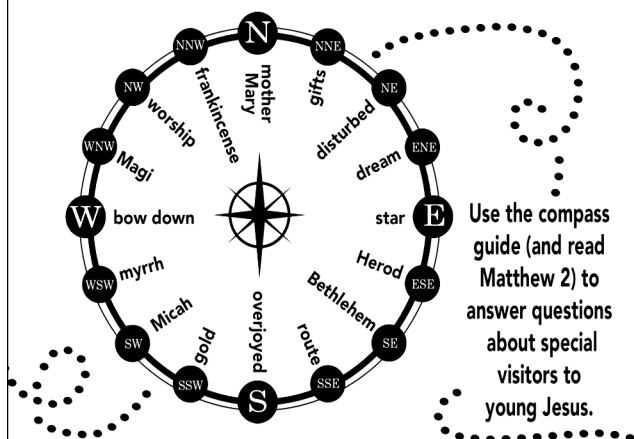


Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT

December 2023

Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

- Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
- Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
- How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
- Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
- In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
- King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
- What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
- When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
- Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
- Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
- Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
- These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
- What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
- The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; frankincense; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

*Mary Fleming Honored by her
alma mater!!!*

Join us in congratulating our daughter Mary E. Fleming, MD, MPH. On Sunday, November 5th, she was inducted into the Louisville Male High School Hall of Fame. Concurrently she has been elevated to the role of Chief Medical Officer at Cayaba Care. Cayaba Care is located in Philadelphia, PA, and offers maternal support to expectant mothers.

Submitted by Lynn and Zel Fleming

*Members visit with Elaine Wright in Indianapolis (10/18)*

Having not had the chance to properly say “Goodbye” to her, several members and friends of the Greater Salem church family went to Indianapolis, IN to visit with Sis. Elaine Wright who recently relocated there from Louisville. Elaine had initially moved from Indy to take care of her mother, the Sis. Tillie Sebree. Elaine was quite involved as a member of the GSBC - including participation in the Greeters Ministry, the Kitchen Ministry, the GoodNewsLetter Ministry, Women’s Ministry, a Sunday School student, as well as serving as Church Secretary for a number of years. Elaine is currently in the New Members Class at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Theron Williams. Pastor Williams is the author of 16 books including “The Bible is Black History”, a series. The visit and fellowship was enjoyed by all.





FAMILY FEUD



GAMES AND LESSONS



DESSERT COOKOFF



CHILI COOKOFF



FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



GIVEAWAYS



BLACK HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

The Historical Legacy of Watch Night !!!



[Getty Images]
(Original Caption)
Virginia- 'De Lord
will take care ob de
colored folk.' -
Seeing the old year
out and the new
year in- Scene in the
colored church at

Grafton, near Yorktown, during the watch meeting

It is a day for poetry and song, a new song. These cloudless skies, this balmy air, this brilliant sunshine . . . are in harmony with the glorious morning of liberty about to dawn up on us.

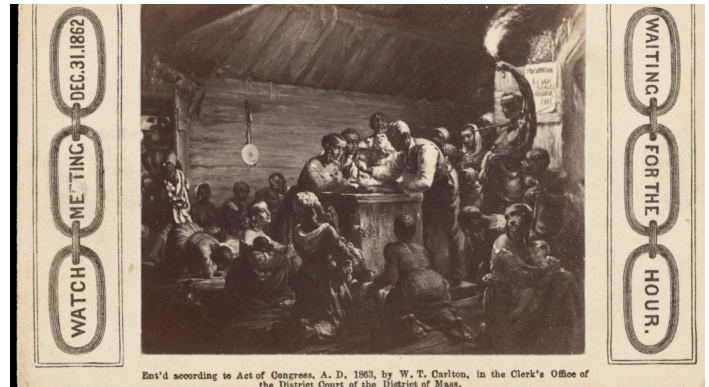
Frederick Douglass December 31, 1862

On the night of December 31, 1862, enslaved and free African Americans gathered, many in secret, to ring in the new year and await news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. Just a few months earlier, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the executive order that declared enslaved people in the rebelling Confederate States legally free. However, the decree would not take effect until the clock struck midnight at the start of the new year. The occasion, known as Watch Night or "Freedom's Eve," marks when African Americans across the country watched and waited for the news of freedom. Today, Watch Night is an annual New Year's Eve tradition that includes the memory of slavery and freedom, reflections on faith, and celebration of community and strength.

Watch Night service is rooted in African American religious traditions. During the first Watch Night, many enslaved African Americans gathered to pray, worship, sing, and dance. At the time, enslaved black people could find little respite from ever-present surveillance, even in practicing their faith. White enslavers feared that religion, which was often used to quell slave re-

sistance, could incite the exact opposite if practiced without observance. They wrote laws that restricted worship and large gatherings, such as that in the 1848 Georgia Slave Code:

No person of color . . . shall be allowed to preach, to exhort, or join in any religious exercise with any persons of color, either free or slave, there being more than seven persons of color present. 1848 Georgia Slave Code



Waiting for the Hour

Despite these laws, enslaved people sought to exercise their own religious customs, including Christianity, Islam, and indigenous faith practices reflective of the homes from which they were stolen. They convened at praise houses on plantations or secretly gathered in the woods, where they practiced their faith under the protective cover of the trees and brush in what became known as "hush harbors." As Charlotte Martin, a formerly enslaved woman from Florida, recounted, "[The plantation owner] would not permit them to hold religious meetings or any other kinds of meetings, but they frequently met in secret to conduct religious services." Charlotte's own brother was beaten to death for participating in such secret worship meetings. But enslaved people persisted in their faith practices as forms of resistance and freedom.

WATCH NIGHT.....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

This spirit is still visible in Watch Night services today. The Watch Night service typically begins from around 7 to 10 pm on December 31 and lasts through midnight, as faith leaders guide congregants in praise and worship. Many congregants across the nation bow in prayer minutes before the midnight hour as they sing out “Watchman, watchman please tell me the hour of the night.” In return the minister replies “it is three minutes to midnight”; “it is one minute before the new year”; and “it is now midnight, freedom has come,” to bless their transition into the new year.

The occasion is customarily marked by celebrations of fellowship and a worship service, followed by a fortuitous meal on New Year’s Day. Celebratory foods include a diverse collection of culinary traditions that can be traced back to Southern superstition, influenced by beliefs across West Africa. Chief among these foodways is the practice of eating collard greens, representing the promise of prosperity, and eating black-eyed peas with rice, also known as Hoppin’ John. Traditionally, Hoppin’ John consists of black-eyed peas, rice, red peppers, and salt pork, and it is believed to bring good fortune to those who eat it. Before finding its way into American traditions, the black-eyed pea (also known as cowpea) traveled from Central Africa to the West Indies and finally to the Carolinas in the early 1700s. Many West African cultures regard the pea as lucky, and memories of its luck remained with enslaved black people in the American South and still endure today. Though Hoppin’ John is a common dish prepared for Watch Night, the foods prepared in observance of the tradition are incredibly diverse and reflective of regional, temporal, and cultural differences within the African American community. Some other common dishes include: candied yams, cornbread, potato salad, and macaroni and cheese.

Initially meant to welcome emancipation, today the Watch Night service encourages reflection on the history of slavery and freedom, as well as reflection on the past year—both its trials and triumphs—while also anticipating what the new year will have in store. It is a continuation of generations of faith that freedom and renewal lie ahead.

Information gathered from the *Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture*

Youth Sunday



10/29

Sis. Harmony Miller and MJ



Sis. Barbara Mack sings theme Song, "The Harvest is Plentiful"



Jeremiah King-Shorts and Sis. Miranda King



Malcolm King-Shorts and Bro. Michael King

Arlene Mansfield and Darius Weaver

Dea. Austin shows Pastor Jones Appreciation



Sis. Brenda Hackett on Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Pastor Jones delivered the message from Proverbs 30:24-28 "Life Lessons from Little Things"



DECEMBER 2023 WORSHIP - STUDY - PRAY

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wednesday	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday School - 10AM In Sanctuary or via conference Call at 978-990-5000 access code 721799# Morning Worship -11:15 AM - In person or on GSBC Facebook Live	4	5	6 Noon Day Prayer Service 12:00 PM in sanctuary Weekly Bible Studies 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary -Via Facebook Live or via conference call at 978-990-5000 Access Code 7032638 Prayer Service -7 PM in Sanctuary or via 605-472-5736Access 2239663	7	8	9 Men's Bible Study 10:15 AM In person or Dial-In at 605-468-8738 Access Code: 5398693 Women's Bible Study 12Noon in person or dial-in at 605-313-5598 Access code 6671487
10 Sunday School -10:00 Am Morning Worship -11:15 AM Friends & Family Sunday	11	12	13 Noon Day Prayer Service 12:00 PM Weekly Bible Studies 6:00 PM Prayer Service -7 PM	14	15	16 Men's Bible Study 10:15 AM In person or Dial-In
17 Sunday School - 10:00 AM Morning Worship -11:15 AM	18	19	20 Noon Day Prayer Service 12:00 PM Prayer Service -7 PM	21	22	23 Men's Bible Study 10:15 AM In person or Dial-In Women's Bible Study 12 Noon in person or dial in
24 Sunday School -10:00 AM Morning Wor- 31 ship -11:15 AM 10 AM 31 Sunday School Worship at 11:15	25	26	27 Weekly Bible Studies 6:00 PM Prayer Service - 7:00 PM	28	29	30

Please Note:

- * The Weekly Bible study is led by Interim Pastor Carl Jones
- * The Women's Ministry Bible Study Classes are led by Min. Monica Thomas
- * The Men's Bible Study is led by Bro. Walter Holbrook
- * *Youth Bible Study follows a 6:00 PM Meal prepared for them by the Kitchen Ministry.
- * Sunday Worship services begin at 11:15 AM
- * Tithes and Offerings can be delivered to the church office between 10 AM and 2:00 PM or placed in the Mail slot at any time. VANCO Online Giving can be accessed on the church website, greatersalembaptist.org under the HOME/GIVING heading. You can also call the church at 587-8869 if you'd like someone to pick up your offering.
- * The Lord's Supper is served on the 1st Sunday at the end of morning worship.
- * Paper copies of the GoodNewsLetter are available each first Sunday following the morning worship. Call the church office if you need a copy mailed to you. If you'd like to receive a digital copy please contact the editor via email at hegilmer1@msn.com

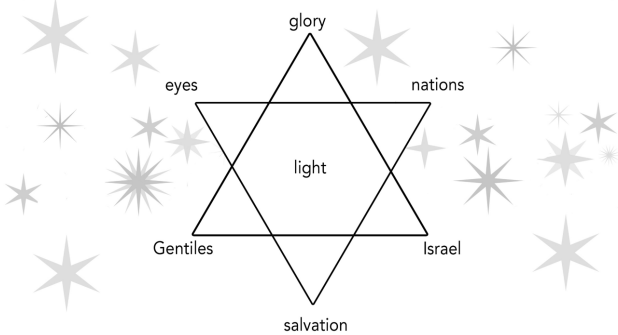


PUZZLE

SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

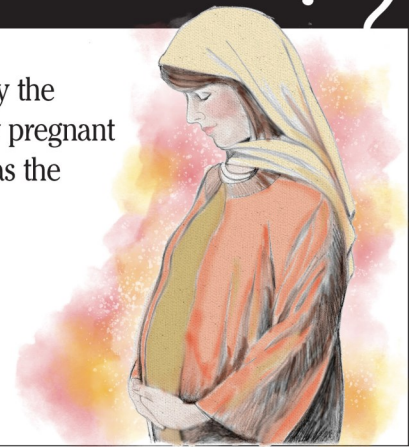
Luke 2:30-32, NIV



Bible Quiz

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon



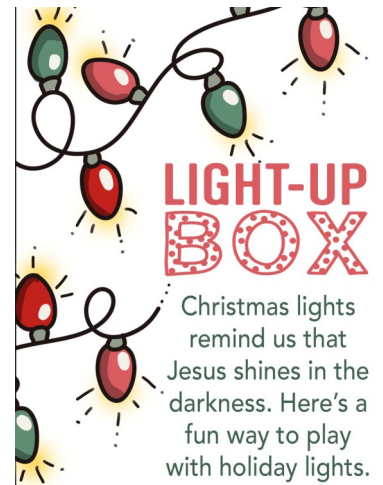
Answer See Luke 1:5, 39-41

Christian Symbols



ROSE

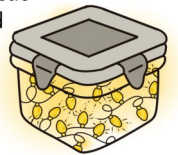
This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.



Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads

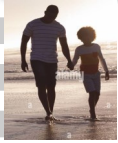


What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
 2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
 3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!



FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY—REMOVE & SHARE THIS PAGE



WHAT DOES IT MEAN "TO BELIEVE"???

Author: Jim Eliff

Sitting on the deck on a balmy evening, my daughter asked again for more clarity on the most important question she could pose: "Dad, what does it really mean to believe in Christ?" I commended her for that question, because it is not asked by most people in the world, nor is it examined closely enough by those who have some of the language of Christianity.

Here's what I told her while sitting under the Big Dipper.

"Do you ever think about how I care for you? You don't worry about your food or a place to sleep. And even if somehow we were to be taken away from our home, you still wouldn't worry much about having what you need every day. You know I'll take care of you."

"But suppose you did worry about it. Suppose that you would not trust me even though I have not changed. What would you do? You would fret about your needs every day. I'm sure you would save your money and count every penny you could find. Then you would have to discover some way to get to a store to buy what you could to eat. Your money would not last long, so you would have to find ways to sell some of the items you own. You would eventually have to go to your neighbors and friends and see if you could do some labor for them so that you could make more money for food. And if this did not work after a while, maybe you would become a beggar, all because you were not willing to trust me. You would make a difficult life for yourself."

"But you don't worry about all of that because you do trust me. You don't question for one minute that I will provide all you need because you know that I love you so much that I will take care of you the best I can—always."

"There are two types of people in the world—those who believe or trust Christ and those who don't. Among those who don't are the rebellious people who run from Christ and don't want to have anything to do with Him. There are also people who rebel in a different way. They refuse to trust Christ and prefer to try to accomplish salvation their own way even though they want to be called 'Christians'."

"These people try hard to do whatever they can to save themselves, but even though they are sincere they are actually disobedient to God's Word. Some of them worry about whether they are doing enough and fret about not being sufficient to earn eternal life, but others actually think they are doing plenty at the moment. That, of course, is a mistake. Their emphasis is on doing enough to earn God's love, and they live a stressful life trying to be accepted by God."

"On the other hand, there are some who reject their self-reliance and all the awful disobedience that it brings, and they trust Christ and what Christ has done on the cross for them. Jesus died to purchase the full

pardon for their sins. They rest in that and have full confidence that everything is done by Christ for their salvation. They trust that Christ's life and death and resurrection is sufficient to satisfy God's requirements and to provide pardon and a future in heaven. They are amazed that such a great gift could be theirs, but that does not keep them from trusting Christ for it. After all, that's what God tells them to do."

I had more to say to my precious daughter about how a person who trusts Christ demonstrates the "marks" of a true Christian once she begins the life of trust. But my first and most important job was to make Christ's death and resurrection abundantly clear, and then to show my daughter the path to Him through faith alone. It is amazing that something so coherent, uncomplicated, and wonderful is dismissed by most people. Many cannot bring themselves to give up on the impossible "works" way of salvation. Children are no different. If American parents are religious about anything, it is their insistence on building up a child's self esteem. It is almost impossible for most children to understand that they cannot impress God with how good they are. Yet, when those children gain a clear picture of their sinfulness and complete inability, they will understand better what reliance on God is all about.

Interestingly, a child's trust is the same trust that any young person or adult must have in order to come to Christ.

One day a jailer asked the apostle Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer was the same one it has always been. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved . . ." (Acts. 16:31).

Faith is not complex, but it is absolute—that is, it is a whole turning from any shred of confidence you have in yourself to be saved, and a full, or total resting on Christ alone. And that may be the most difficult and humbling thing you will ever do.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life." (John 6:47)

**Would you like to invite Jesus into your life?
HERE'S HOW...**

Prayer: *You can pray this prayer now: The words aren't so important, but you must mean it with all your heart.*

Heavenly Father, I admit that I've sinned by breaking your Ten Commandments. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ, died in my place for my sins and rose again. I now open the door of my heart and life to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I turn from my old ways to love, obey and follow Him. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

NOW TELL OTHERS!!! -PROOF-

11 ... God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13...that ye may know that ye have eternal life..." 1 John 5:11-13

**NEED TO TALK: Contact a member of the GSBC
Evangelism team for further details at
(502-587-8869)**

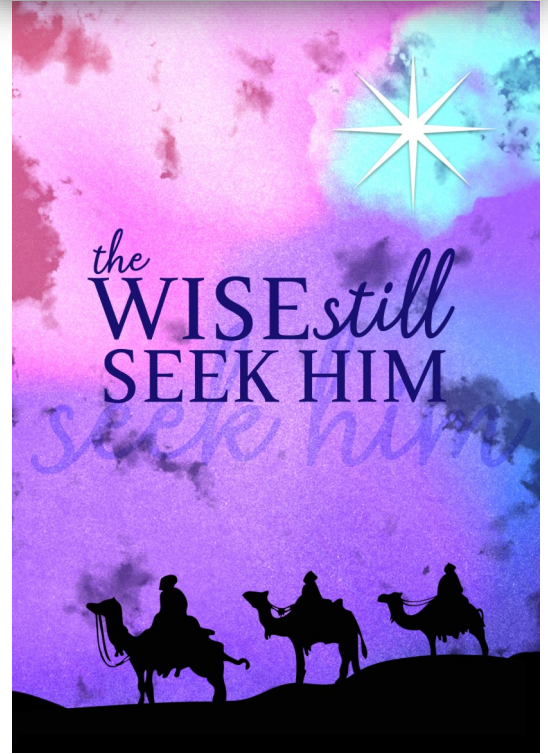


2023
December

A Note from Your GNL Editor

If you'd like to receive a digital copy of the GoodNewsLetter each month send your email address to me or if you have some good news you'd like to share for next month's GNL please give it to me; send it to me at hegilmer1@msn.com; or leave it in my mail bin in the church office!!! **And PLEASE--If you'd like to work with the Good-NewsLetter staff please let me know!!!**

Harold E. Gilmer



On a cold winter morning, Holy Spirit,
enfold me in the warmth of your love.

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

Greater Salem Baptist

1009 West Chestnut Street

Louisville KY 40203

Rev. Carl Jones, Interim Pastor

11:00 am Morning Worship

Office Staff

Monica Little

Lenette Dennison

Telephone Number

502-587-8869

Email:

aagsalem@bellsouth.net

Office Hours

Wednesday through Friday

10: 00 am to 02:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

See Page 9 for a calendar of
in-person and online Worship
and Prayer Services

From:

Greater Salem Baptist Church

1009 West Chestnut Street

Louisville, KY 40203



**Deadline for the January 2024 GNL
12/24/2023**