

Exeter Church of Christ



March 1, 2020

320 East Firebaugh / 592-2909



When History Changed

"Whether he was born in 4 B.C. or A.D. 6, in Bethlehem or Nazareth, whether there were multitudes of the heavenly host to hymn the glory of it or just Mary and her husband. When the child was born, the whole course of human history was changed. That is a truth as unassailable as any truth. Art, music, literature, Western culture itself with all its institutions and Western man's whole understanding of himself and his world—it is impossible to conceive how differently things would have turned out if that birth had not happened whenever, wherever, however it did. And there is a truth beyond that: for millions of people who have believed since, the birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it."

- Frederick Buechner

Today's Word: "Change-Maker"

Some ways the coming of Jesus into history changed the world



Zack Ludden was in Porterville yesterday, directing their annual youth rally. He is in Porterville again today to assist with the baptism of one of their youth.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE: This Saturday, March 7, there will be a memorial service in our church facility to celebrate the life of **Peggy Shackelford**. The service is scheduled to begin at 11:00 am. Note the sign-up list on the bulletin for assisting with refreshments and a copy of the obituary that is also posted.

IT'S A BOY! Congratulations to **Melvin & Patricia Nalls** on the birth of another grandchild. **Ezra Elliott** made his first public appearance February 25th, tipping the scales at 8 pounds, 7 ounces, stretching out to 20.5 inches. He was welcomed home by his parents, **Dr. Kannon & Elsa Nalls** and big brother, **Justus**.

Congratulations on Your New Grand Baby!



Shelley Douglas had hernia surgery Thursday evening and is home now. **Jean Hogue** has been low on energy lately and will have an ultrasound tomorrow in Visalia. **Bill Kirkpatrick** is waiting for results from a scan he had last week. **Richard Pfeifer** was down with the flu last week. **Ron Hull** is waiting to schedule an MRI for hip and leg pains.

Six Ways Jesus' Birth Changed the World

Children. In the ancient world children were routinely left to die of exposure, particularly if they were girls. Jesus' treatment of and teachings about children led to the forbidding of such practices, as well as orphanages. A Norwegian scholar named Bakke wrote a study of this impact, simply titled: *When Children Became People: the Birth of Childhood in Early Christianity*.

Education. The ancient world loved education but tended to reserve it for the elite; the notion that every child bore God's image helped fuel the move for universal literacy. Love of learning led to monasteries. Universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, and Harvard all began as Jesus-inspired efforts to love God with all ones' mind.

Compassion. Jesus' compassion for the poor and the sick led to institutions for lepers, the beginning of modern-day hospitals. That's why even today, hospitals have names like "Good Samaritan," "Good Shepherd," or "Saint Anthony." They were the world's first voluntary, charitable institutions.

Humility. The ancient world did not value the virtue of humility. Jesus' life as a foot-washing servant would eventually lead to the adoption of humility as a widely admired virtue. Historian John Dickson writes, "... it is unlikely that any of us would aspire to this virtue were it not for the historical impact of his crucifixion."

Forgiveness. In the ancient world, virtue meant rewarding your friends and punishing your enemies. An alternative idea came from Galilee: what is best in life is to love your enemies, and see them reconciled to you.

Humanitarian Reform. Jesus consistently championed the excluded. His inclusion of women led to a community to which women flocked in disproportionate numbers. Slaves — up to a third of ancient populations—might wander into a church fellowship and have a slave-owner wash their feet rather than beat them. One ancient text instructed bishops to not interrupt worship to greet a wealthy attender, but to sit on the floor to welcome the poor.

Adapted from John Ortberg, "Six Surprising Ways Jesus Changed the World," The Huffington Post (8-13-12)

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

JOHN 13:35. ESV



THANKS to all who helped with the **Marcia Searle** memorial service yesterday -- arranging tables in the fellowship hall, providing refreshments, helping in the kitchen, and doing follow-up work afterward. The family was very appreciative.

Church of Christ

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Church web site: www.exeterchurchofchrist.org

Sunday

Bible class 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Bible class 7:00 PM

How has Jesus Changed The World?

1. He split our calendar in two: B.C. and A.D.
2. He showed us God is love.
3. He refused a crown to bear a cross.
4. He occupies no grave.
5. His sermon on the Mount set forth the highest standard for how we should live.
6. He modeled forgiveness in a world of stone throwers.
7. He transformed fishermen and tax collectors into world changers.
8. He healed the sick and raised the dead...enough said.
9. He challenged religion devoid of compassion.
10. He willingly accepted a cruel death so that we might have life.



- Bill Shuler