

December Birthdays & Anniversaries
of PBA churches staff and their families

Birthdays

Date	Name	Church
1	Miciah Krenzlin	Guymon, FBC Family Pastors daughter
4	Lisa Flanagan	Guymon, FBC Secretary
16	Ginny Krenzlin	Guymon, FBC Family Pastors wife

Anniversaries

Date	Name	Church
9	Jerry & Deborah Rice	Kenton BC Pastor & wife
21	Mark & Cara McDonald	Beaver, FBC Music Minister & husband

(If your birthday or anniversary was not included, or the date is wrong, please let me know. Lula)

CALENDAR EVENTS

December

- 2-9** Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering and
International Missions
- 5-6** RITS (DOM meeting) OKC
- 13** Christmas Fellowship for Pastor's & Staff
& spouse, Keyes, FBC 7 p.m.
- 20-Jan 2** Office Closed, Merry Christmas and A
Blessed New Year

January

- 10** Singing ChurchMen of Oklahoma,
Woodward FBC 7 p.m
- 14** Tri-Annual Executive Board meeting, 10
a.m.
- 21** Office Closed, MLK Day
- 28-29** Oklahoma Evangelism Conference, OKC
Southern Hills

February

- 15** VBS Training, OKC Southern Hills
- 18** Office Closed, Presidents Day

March

- 3-10** Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering and North American
Missions
- 3** Daylight Saving Time Begins, set clocks
up 1 hour

Panhandle Baptist Association

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Tom Freeman, Interim Associational Missionary

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Lula King, Secretary

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Moises Avalos, Hispanic Liaison

Office Hours: Monday-Thursdays
9am-noon & 1-5pm

Ministries of PBA:
Gibson Baptist Camp
"GBC"
Hardesty OK
Baptist Collegiate Ministries
"BCM"
Goodwell OK
Disaster Relief Trailer

One Body, One Spirit, Working Together

*Panhandle Baptist
Association
newsletter*

December 2018



Tom & Karen Freeman
Lula King
David & Amanda Coffey,
Abigail, David & Jacee
Moises & Maribel Avalos

Tom's Thoughts

December is the last month of the year. It is also the month in which we celebrate the second greatest event in the history of mankind, Christmas, the birth of God's only Son. The first greatest event is the Resurrection of the same Jesus from the dead. For this reason one of my favorite hymns is "Christmas Has Its cradle" and it is found on page 152 in our *Baptist Hymnal* ©1991. The verse which reminds us of the connection between the two greatest events, is at the end of the first stanza, 'Christmas has its cradle and Easter has its cross.'

Paul David Tripp in his new Christmas devotional, *'Come, Let Us Adore Him,'* wrote, "When we are familiar with things, we tend not to celebrate them as we once did. Familiarity tends to rob us of our wonder. And here's what's important about this: what has captured the wonder of our hearts will control the way we live." To this he added, "And when other things capture and control my heart, little room remains for wonder and worship. Familiarity often means that what is very important may no longer exercise important influence over us in the way it should." He used these words to explain the personal reason for writing the devotional, however they also speak to the subtle changes of the celebration of Christmas which perhaps has become too familiar. Once we greeted each with 'Merry Christmas,' now it is 'Seasons Greetings or Happy Holidays.' This has been noticed, and responded to by some who wear buttons with the truth, *'Jesus is the real reason for the Season.'* Another outcome we see in this subtle change is the diminishing of the attendance in the worship services of these two holidays.

My prayer is that this Christmas, we as the Lord's *'children of the light'* push back the darkness, with the Light of the World. May our celebrations, private and public be honoring and glorifying of our Lord. Reminding those with whom we come into contact, of the truth that it is the same man whose birth was in the Christmas cradle, and Who's death was on the Easter cross. May the expression of wonder of the Birth be the focus of our celebration.

From Karen and I, we wish you a very special and blessed holiday, Merry Christmas!

in His love,
Tom Freeman

Above & Beyond Offering

For Gibson Baptist Camp

Sunday, November 18, 2018

Suggested date

To benefit special needs at camp:

Tractor Repair

HVAC in Manager's House

Annual Steam Cleaning of Kitchen Vents

Miss Charlotte Diggs Moon- get to know her!

"Why should we not ... do something that will prove that we are really in earnest in claiming to be followers of him who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor?" Lottie Moon, Sept. 15, 1887, Tungchow

Throughout her career, Lottie Moon wrote letters home urging Southern Baptists toward greater missions involvement and support. One of those letters triggered Southern Baptists' first Christmas offering for international missions—enough to send three new missionaries to China. Below are excerpts from several of her writings:

I would I had a thousand lives that I might give them to ... China! - August 27, 1888, Zhenjiang

Please say to the new missionaries that they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility and constant self denial. They must live, the greater part of the time, in Chinese houses, in close contact with the people. They will be alone in the

interior and will need to be strong and courageous. If the joy of the Lord be their strength, the blessedness of the work will more than compensate for its hardships. Let them come 'rejoicing to suffer' for the sake of that Lord and Master who freely gave his life for them. - January 9, 1889, P'ingtu, China

The needs of these people press upon my soul, and I cannot be silent. It is grievous to think of these human souls going down to death without even one opportunity of hearing the name of Jesus. . . Once more I urge upon the consciences of my Christian brethren and sisters the claims of these people among whom I dwell. Here I am working alone in a city of many thousand inhabitants, with numberless villages clustered around or stretching away in the illuminate distance: how many can I reach? - October 3, 1887, P'ingtu

Moon survived numerous hardships but loneliness and recurring bouts with illness and emotional depression brought on by malnutrition during a national famine induced her colleagues to insist that she return to the United States. In December 1912 she was carried on board a ship bound for America, but she died on Christmas Eve, while the vessel was anchored in the harbor of Kobe, Japan. Her stature and impact have increased since her death. She did not give up, but she gave all.