



Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association

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The Voice

DECEMBER 2017

Well, it doesn't seem like Christmas when it has been so warm . . . but wait, is a "White Christmas" really a biblical thing or a traditional / sentimental thing? Personally, I don't mind the snow . . . it's the cold I don't like!

But we often get the traditions of Christmas mixed up with the truth of Scripture concerning the birth of our Lord, don't we? And sometimes, it may even seem that the birth of Christ gets squeezed out of the hustle and bustle altogether. We may remind ourselves, and others, that "Jesus is the reason for the season", and indeed He is. But what about that Reason? Do we celebrate His birth because it was a grand gesture of God's love for mankind? Is it because, as my favorite carol says, "long lay the world in sin and error pining, til He appeared and the soul felt its worth?" Yes . . . but there is so much more to it than that!

There is a Christmas carol that is not very familiar to most of us, though we may vaguely recall it. Let me challenge you to read it (below) and contemplate on it for a bit . . .

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky**

**When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall
And the promise of ages it then did recall.**

**If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King**

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky**

So, as we continue to wander about on this earth "under the sky", are we really struck by the wonder of God becoming flesh . . . and doing so for the sole purpose of dying in our place . . . for on'ry people like you and I? Paul wrote in Romans 5:7-8: For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The more honestly we acknowledge our own sinfulness the more filled with wonder we will be that Christ came to die for you and I.

**Your Fellow Servant
Timothy**

Seeing the harvest at Christ Point Church

By Pastor Noel Gandy,

October and November in Iowa sees the conversation be dominated by one thing: the harvest. Harvest time is something special because you get to see the hard work that so many have done over the course of the past year pay off. Many who have had scant work or were without now have an abundance of work. Many who placed so much of their resources into the dirt are able to recover and turn a profit. It definitely is a unique experience to behold.



I write to exclaim how the harvest has not only been of corn and beans in Southwest Iowa these last two months. The Lord of the Harvest has blessed and blessed abundantly at Christ Point Baptist Church. Over the course of the past two months, we have had six baptisms. This makes 10 for our yearly total! We've had our highest average monthly attendance with successive weeks topping out at 57 and 62 respectively. Lives are being changed. Families have seen their entire family groups accept Christ. It truly is a blessing to be in the middle of where God is working.

I shared an illustration regarding Acts 16 yesterday where we could be a church who's sign outside reads "All are welcome, come on in," or a church who places the sign on the inside which states, "You are now entering the mission field." We certainly want to take the model Paul and others used and actively pursue the lost rather than wait for them to come to us. That's why projects like Operation Christmas Child are so important. In a time where so many of our own families are hurting financially, it was special to see 13 boxes be brought in to send to those who are in need of the gospel.

I'm happy to have partnered with the Gideon ministry these past few weeks to send Bibles to the world. I'm looking forward to our children blessing the patrons of the local nursing homes in December. Those who belong to Christ are called to serve within their capacity. Friends, there is no time to sit on our laurels and wait for the Kingdom to come. There are those in immediate need of the gospel right under our nose if we'll take time to recognize them.

Thank you for your blessings to see this ministry succeed. Partnerships with like-minded believers truly help us thrive. We certainly need your continued support.



Pregnancy Help Centers Lake of the Ozarks

Hello, I am the new Director for the Pregnancy Help Center Lake of the Ozarks. Our mission at the PHC is to protect the unborn and serve the related needs of their family.

There are no easy answers for an unplanned pregnancy. After a positive pregnancy test, every woman has choices to make.

We exist to rescue children, serve families and to end abortion in America because every human life, born and pre-born, is a [unique](#) and precious work of Divine art. We believe:

- Every human being is uniquely made in the image of God.
- Abortion destroys the physical life of innocent pre-born children and devastates the emotional, physical and spiritual lives of mothers, fathers and families.
- Abortion is a gross violation of God's intended design for His image bearers and it is, therefore, morally wrong.

At PHC we're ensuring that women and families facing crisis pregnancies receive compassionate and long-term tangible help that will make choosing life a feasible and favorable decision.

In order to be able to provide these services the PHC has to depend on fundraisers and donations.

We are hosting a

Chili Cook-off January 20, 2018 11am - 2pm 1st Baptist Church of Camdenton

\$20 to enter contest

\$5 minimum donation to eat

Trophies will be given for: Spicy class, Flavorful class and Peoples choice.

Door prizes are given out all throughout the day.

Please come and join us and enter your chili to win or come and eat. The proceeds will go to support the Pregnancy Help Center.

Participants are asked to bring a large crockpot of chili, 1 box of crackers and sampling cups.

Participants please RSVP to : 573-346-3337

Attention All!

Mark your calendars!

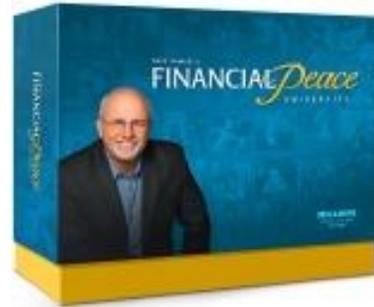
March 24th will be an associational discipleship meeting.

This meeting is for Pastor's, Sunday School Directors, and Teachers.

There will be breakout sessions and loads of beneficial information for you (Not to mention food and fellowship).

Don't miss out on this free event sponsored by your Association.

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY



**TUESDAYS,
MARCH 23-MARCH 20, 2018
6:30 - 8:00**

**TO BE HELD AT
THE FOUNTAIN
104 MAPLE STREET, ELDON**

**Session led by Steve Riegert of
Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church**

Are You Being

Called to *Serve*

As the number one recreational lake in America¹, the Lake of the Ozarks attracts 5.5 million people every year. . . . most of whom do not know Jesus. Reaching these tourists is a task greater than the local churches can accomplish on their own. So consider this your Macedonian call – “Come help us!”²

Spend the summer sharing the gospel in resorts and campgrounds, preaching at campgrounds, and even having opportunity to preach in some of our local churches. Opportunities will also be available for assisting churches in Vacation Bible School, camps, backyard Bible clubs, and even learning the “ins and outs” of a food pantry that serves hundreds.

We will provide housing plus \$300/week for 12 weeks.

Interested parties should email Dr. Timothy Faber for more information:

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7: Pastors' & Wives Christmas Fellowship, Golden Corral, 6:30 PM

December 13: Flatwoods Christmas Program, 7:00 PM

January 9, 2018: Executive Board Meeting, Rocky Mount Baptist Church, 474 Hwy Y, Eldon

January 13, 2018: Pastor's & Wives Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Hwy Z,

January 20, 2018: PHC Chili Cook Off, 1st Baptist Church, Camdenton

January 23, 2018: Tuesday nights until March 20 Financial Peace University, The Fountain
104 Maple Street, Eldon

January 23-25, 2018: Midwest Leadership Conference, Springfield, IL

February 10: Pastor's & Wives Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Hwy Z, Eldon

March 24: Associational Discipleship Meeting Time & Place TBA

There will be no
5th Sunday Sing at
Mt. Herman Baptist Church
on Sunday, December 31.

REMEMBER OUR CHURCHES
WITHOUT PASTORS
SPRING GARDEN
HONEY SPRINGS



And in the fields shepherd were abiding keeping watch over their sheep.