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The Voice

of Miller County Baptist Association

DECEMBER 2016

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Joy to the World! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.

The above carol by Isaac Watts and George Handel is one that is often sung during the Christmas season but with very little thought to its meaning. Read it again without singing it in your head. Contemplate the words . . .

Joy to the World! The Lord has come! Yet the world does not express joy at the coming of the Lord. There are many in our world who do not wish to celebrate Christmas, they do not rejoice in the coming of the Lord. And they refuse to acknowledge that He is the King. They reject the truth that God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should have eternal life. The world turns to all manner of counterfeits, trying to find something to distract them from the monotonous drudgery of life – only to find them empty, unfulfilling illusions.

What if there were no Christmas? It seems ironic that the retailers want us to shop for presents to celebrate a holiday they refuse to acknowledge. What if the masses of population did refuse Christmas? There would be no lights, no trees, no presents . . . and no hassle of putting it all up and taking it all down. There would be no fudge, no cookies, no egg nog . . . and there would not be all those extra calories! There would be no parties and programs . . . so we would have a little extra free time. There would be no hustle and bustle and shopping . . . so there would be less stress and anxiety. There would be no worry and fret and credit card debt . . . is this beginning to sound like a pretty good alternative?

But what if there truly was no Christmas . . . what if there was no savior's birth to celebrate? The "celebration" would be empty, hollow, meaningless. There would be no joy, no peace on earth, no good will toward men. No Christmas means no Savior, and no Savior means no forgiveness, no cleansing, no eternal life.

We think it a shame when the world neglects or even opposes Christmas, yet we shy away from it oftentimes ourselves. We speak simply of "the true meaning of Christmas" . . . without ever telling anyone what that true meaning is. We repeat the mantra of the "reason for the season" without ever giving the reason, saying that's what it's all about without ever telling anyone what it's all about . . .

I tell you, they need to hear it – Joy to the world! Joy to the Earth! The Lord has come to reverse the curse of sin and establish His kingdom of truth and grace. The world needs to know what all the fuss is about! They need to know there truly is a reason to celebrate – that God has invaded humanity with His grace – and all

the sin, and all the humbugs cannot squelch His love! If we tell them of Jesus – not just in the manger, but also on the cross, they too would bring a sacrifice of praise to Him . . . So “employ” your song and sing of Christ’s redemption that the world may come to know the joy of knowing Jesus.

Your Fellow Servant
Timothy



MINISTERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thursday, December 8, 6:30 PM

Golden Corral, Osage Beach

All pastors and wives are free

Other ministers

(associates, retired, etc. are welcome at a cost of \$12.00 per person.)

Everyone must make reservations by December 6, 2015

By calling the Associational Office at 392-6591 or

emailing millercba@sbcglobal.net



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 2016

Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$155 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.



By Pastor Noel Gandy



CHRIST POINT
Baptist Church

It's Official! Christ Point Baptist Church has launched and is taking off! September 18th marked the first church service for the new Southern Baptist Church in Shenandoah, IA.

We are in awe of how our wonderful Lord has graciously blessed this work. Many families who were unchurched have plugged in with a Gospel centered church body. We have seen God's faithfulness in calling our family to Shenandoah. We knew it before we came but now we can attest to the fact that God is moving in Southwest Iowa for we have seen it with our own eyes.

Our current meetings have averaged 28 attenders. We welcomed nearly 40 guests for the launch on September 18th. We are encouraged for the days ahead, but are aware the devil is not happy we are taking back surrendered ground.

Would you commit to pray for us here at Christ Point regularly? Please be in prayer that the church and its leadership would continue to stay the course. Please pray for the new families who have a desire to serve the Lord and that God will protect them from attacks because of their boldness.

Once again, we could not continue on in this ministry without the support from individuals and groups from all over. The Lord has been so faithful to place Christ Point on the hearts of many who have given of their time, talents, and treasures. Many of you have ministered to us in special ways.

THE JENSEN JOURNAL NOVEMBER 2016

Greetings from unseasonably warm Kansas City,

My radiation treatments are going well, and I'll pass the halfway mark this week. Shannon and I met with Dr. Lominska this afternoon following my treatment and he was very pleased with how my tumor is responding and visibly shrinking. The last week has been very difficult as I've developed a painful open sore (from radiation burn) on my tongue and virtually lost the ability to taste. To complicate the taste issue, the few remaining taste buds have decided to revolt and anything sweet now tastes bitter. Enough complaining. ☺

God continues to work on us thru this process and mold us into His likeness. Last week, I had many opportunities to share my faith with a number of residents, nutritionists, and staff psychiatrists. Additionally, a local TV station was doing a story on KU Med Center's Head/Neck specialty, and my doc recommended me for an interview. The interview was pretty relaxed and once again, this was another opportunity to share my faith with many people in the KC area. It will be interesting to see how the editing affects the final product, but I'm leaving that in the Father's hands.

Gabby and JJ are doing great back at Whitefield Academy. Their grades are fantastic and school activities are keeping us busy. JJ played volleyball and just began playing basketball which are both new sports for her. Gabby is excited about a senior high dance coming up this weekend. She's got her dress, and Alex and Roni are coming up from SBU to help do her hair and makeup. Being a guy, I don't quite get the whole significance of sisters doing hair and makeup, but whatever. ☺ If it brings the Jensen6 back together for a night, I'm all for it.

Hope you all have a great week and we continue to be so appreciative for you who lift us up daily in prayer.

God bless,
Helmer

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Mission Opportunities this Summer

The Missions Committee is looking at the possibility of a mission trip to Iowa and one to Wyoming this summer. The trip to Iowa would be sometime in August and the trip to Wyoming in mid to late July.

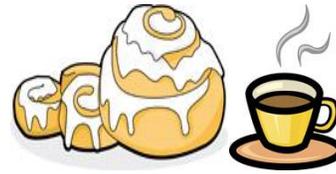
Begin praying now for God's guidance to lead and prepare those who join these groups, those who will be witnessed to and those who help prepare for the journey. More details will be forthcoming as the committee meets concerning these mission events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5: Ordaining Council for Ethan Wallis, Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church
December 8: Pastors & Wives Christmas Fellowship, Golden Corral, Osage Beach MO
December 11: Ordination Service for Ethan Wallis, Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church
December 15 & 16: Food Pantry Open, Rocky Mount Baptist Church
January 10: Executive Board Meeting, Spring Valley Baptist Church
January 14: Pastor's & Wives Breakfast, Blue Spring Baptist Church
January 27 & 28: Food Pantry Open, Rocky Mount Baptist Church
January 29: 5th Sunday Sing, Mt. Herman Baptist Church
February 11: Pastor's & Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church
February 24 & 25: Food Pantry Open, Rocky Mount Baptist Church

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING
TUESDAY,
JANUARY 10
7:00 PM
SPRING VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**PASTOR'S FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST**



**SATURDAY,
January 14, 8:30 AM
Blue Springs Baptist Church**



**Miller County Baptist Association
P.O. Box 391, Eldon, MO 65026**



MEGAPIXL

Blessings to You at Christmas
***"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 KJV***