



DECEMBER 2012

Dear Church Family,

Its Christmas time! Once again our attention turns to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is very easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas and forget the reason we are celebrating. Christmas is not about the parties or presents, but it is the time of year we celebrate what God has done through his son Jesus. I pray that the holidays are a blessing for each of you and your families.

We are planning on meeting on Sunday the 23rd at the evening service to celebrate Christmas as a Church family. Please plan on being with us at 6:00. We will also have the Lord's Supper during this service.

What a blessing it is to be your pastor. Thank you for the chance to serve the Lord alongside you each week.

Brother Keith Payne

Luke 1:46-49 (NIV)

Mary's Song

46 And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

Wow, Mary considered herself blessed! Now it is easy for us to see on down the road . . . She was definitely blessed. But, would we have felt blessed in that moment . . . Unwed, unplanned pregnancy, having to take a long hard journey in the last trimester of pregnancy, not being able to find a place to stay, giving birth in a barn, having to flee my country with a young child, . .

Would we say dear Lord, I love you but this is too much. Do we say when we are going through trials; "Thank you Lord" and feel blessed that God is working in our life - even when we can't see the whole picture. (Mary didn't know the whole picture - but trusted she was being blessed)

Dear Lord, may I always remember that you are mindful of me and promise to do great things for me.

I am Blessed!

Ladies, Christmas Greetings!

It is hard to believe we are in the last month of 2012. The year has swept by us so rapidly. Thought it would be a great time to recap all that we have seen in 2012.

- ❖ Spring brought us our Ladies Luncheon where we were encouraged to 'Bloom Where We Were Planted', so we set out to bloom.
- ❖ We moved right into our Annie Armstrong Easter Home Missions Offering; where our goal was \$5,000 and we exceeded that.
- ❖ Next was the Georgia Barnett State Missions Offering, set at \$2,000 and we also, by God's grace exceeded that goal.
- ❖ We sandwiched a wonderful Bible study on James into our early summer for 8 weeks, which was very enriching to our souls.
- ❖ We then began mission projects of gathering food and supplies for The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and the Louisiana Women's Correctional Center.
- ❖ We also just wrapped up the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry.
- ❖ Our next project will be the Christmas Love Baskets which we will be putting together on Tuesday, December 18th.

All of that to say you have been faithful stewards in all your giving. We are so very blessed to have been given the privilege of sowing into so many different areas. You are to be commended. We now have one more offering to wrap up this year. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Our goal last year was \$5,000 which we exceeded so this year we are going to do our very best to do it again and possibly even better. Our missionaries are giving their lives daily to live in foreign lands to share the most wonderful news ever told. That God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, JESUS, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Let's give our very best to this special offering because of what God has done for us. On a future note our Women's Ministry will be changing as of January 01, 2013, to Women's Mission & Ministry under the Northwest La. Baptist WMU Organization. We will be meeting to elect new officers on Tuesday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. I look so forward to seeing all of you there as we begin a new year focused on sharing God's love to a lost and dying world, lifting up and encouraging the body of Christ, and above all, serving our Risen Savior.

God Bless All of You and Merry Christmas!
Linda