

# MSWSBA Messenger

## December 2016

### From the DOM's Desk

As we approach Christmas this year, I am finding this one to be a Christmas of special value. There are many reasons to consider why I would find it more sentimental this year as it is the first one that Heather, Chloe, and I will celebrate with Malachi and also Chloe is old enough to have more awareness of what is going on than ever before. It is not so much, however, the age of my children this year, but rather what the Lord has been teaching me with them. It is most definitely easy to get caught up in material things as children get excited about Christmas, but what I have found this year is that by celebrating the Lord and having fun worshipping Him, our children learn to enjoy Him too. This year we have taken on an experiment in our church of celebrating Advent by doing a family devotional in our homes. It is easy to get our kids to enjoy the same sports teams and hobbies as us because we have fun activities centered around them that turn into great memories and ingrain a love into our children for those things. How much more then shall we do this with God?

For us, this meant getting together to read "The Biggest Story" by Kevin DeYoung, known by the kids as their "Special Book." We make an event of it every night and then follow it up with a video. As Heather and I show the kids excitement they follow along and get excited. Chloe has gotten so into it that she is memorizing stories and wants to teach me. As I write this, I am anxious to get home as she has decided that I need to learn about Adam and Eve, the snake, and Noah. She said she is going to study them and teach me when I get home from the office.

The humility of a child is truly a beautiful thing (Matthew 19:13-15). It is the humility of the child we celebrate at Christmas, Jesus, who is most amazing. There laid God Himself in a manger, swaddled by one of His children who took care of Him and whom He chose to rely on for physical provision as He took on the limitations of a human body. While even the poor were not born with the animals, He took on the full range of humanity to identify more fully with us as He experienced the deepest poverty and rose to the people attempting to make Him king (John 6:15).

The wisdom of God that brought Jesus to that manger stretches beyond that humble circumstance as it speaks volumes in the statement being made by this scene. The manger is not only a statement of the humble humanity of Jesus, but it is also a statement of His Lordship. Here laid the One who referred to Himself as "the Bread of Life" (John 6:35) and "the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11-18). It was there, at Bethlehem (Hebrew for "house of bread") that the Bread of Life Himself was laid in a manger, the very place where the sheep come to feed and be nourished. A metaphoric picture of the life-giving victory that would soon be won! May this Christmas be a time in our families and church families where we learn from this amazing child in a manger and humble ourselves to forgive others, lay down things that we feel entitled to, and just hear the voice of the Good Shepherd that we may come to Him and find nourishment for our souls. May we seek opportunities to share this Bread with others that they may eat and never hunger again!

Merry Christmas,  
Chris Kuenzle, DOM

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 13  
Hymn Sing  
7pm @ Providence Baptist Church

Dec. 24-Jan 1  
Office Closed

Thursday, January 5  
Association Council Mtg  
7pm @ FBC Ewing

Tuesday, January 10  
Missions Meeting  
6:30pm @ Ten Mile  
Camp Meeting  
7pm @ Ten Mile

## Pray For Church's Seeking a Pastor

Wyaconda Baptist Church  
South Wyaconda Baptist Church  
Liberty Baptist Church  
FBC LaGrange  
Providence Baptist Church

Pray For Mohammad Yamout  
Pray that the Lord provides protection for all who are involved in their ministry. Pray that the Lord will provide for them a new place for their Tripoli Center. Plead with God for the lost souls of the Muslims in Lebanon and Jordan and that Mohammad is given boldness and clarity to preach the gospel faithfully.

## From the IMB

### 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.

### Statewide MMO Offering (As of November 30)

630,730

### Statewide Goal

710,000