



The Best Christmas Gift

I grew up with one set of grandparents living over a thousand miles away from my home. The reality was that at five years old I had only seen them three times in my life and I had been too young to remember them. On a December day I can remember helping my mom open a package from her parents. In that package there were gifts for the family and one for me, a bright and shiny cap gun with ivory-like grips and rolls and rolls of caps to shoot. I remember asking my mom who had sent me this great and wonderful gift. Patiently she went to her bedroom

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6

and brought to me a picture of her parents. I longed to see my grandparents from that day forward. I never forgot them.

One day, God the Father planned to send a gift to this world. It was the greatest gift that He could possibly send, it was His Only Son! The Father sent His Son, Jesus the Christ, to be born in a stable instead of some great fancy house or palace. The Father had arranged for Jesus to be born in a most holy manner; born of a virgin. Yet, only a few knew about this special gift, so the angels made an announcement to a small group of shepherds. These lowly shepherds found this babe in humble beginnings wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. I can only imagine the joy as they were the first to worship the Prince of Peace that had been sent to take away the sin in the world.

Since the baby grew up without any sin, Jesus became the perfect Savior to live and die for our sin. Yet, the Father had sent His Only Son to be resurrected from the dead after three days and nights in the grave. It was indeed the greatest gift the world has ever known!

I remember going to California when I was six years old, longing to see my grandparents that had sent me the greatest Christmas gift I had ever known. I wanted to hug them and thank them for the gift of the year before. I never forgot their gift. I have never forgotten what they looked like.

I have a deeper longing to see Jesus Christ and to thank God the Father for His great gift! Never having seen them I wait with excitement. I wonder if I will get to hug Jesus and the Father or if I will simply fall to the floor in honor of their presence. I can hardly wait for that day. It is like the song about heaven, "I Can Only Imagine".

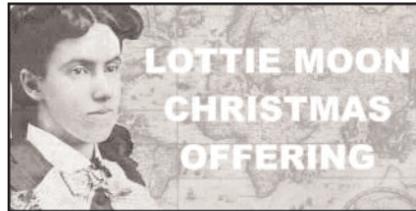
Jesus, just before He ascended into heaven, gave the message of the greatest gift to His Church to share with the world, making Disciples of all people. Sometimes His Church has hidden the message, but it is now time to go everywhere and tell everyone about the greatest gift. So, Church, in your holy huddle this Christmas, what will you do with the Greatest Gift? When we see him, will the Father say, "Well done faithful servants?"
Keep Looking Up,
Dan



Eastern Border Baptist Associations Newsletter

Serving Others in Jesus Name

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



For Southern Baptists, Lottie Moon and Christmas go together as naturally as presents and wrapping paper. Many of us have not considered why we connect Lottie Moon and our Christmas offering to international missions.

Lottie was born on December 12, 1840, and died seventy-two years later on December 24, 1912. Those dates strengthened her connection to the annual offering for missions, but are not the reason the offering is received at Christmas.

Quite simply, the reason we have a Christmas offering for missions is because it was Lottie's idea. She advocated for it thirty-five years before her death. Lottie wrote many letters from China.

Some were published in the Foreign Mission Board's journal.

Lottie was a woman with numerous gifts, but none was greater than her ability to write with clarity and conviction. One particular letter, written on September 15, 1887, had a profound impact that resonates even today, 130 years later. She gave us the clear rationale for scheduling the proposed missions offering at Christmas, writing:

Need it be said, why the week before Christmas is chosen? Is not "the festive season when families and friends exchange gifts in memory of The Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race, the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?"

(Excerpt from IMB.org; article written by David J Brady)

Prayer Needs

- Discouraged pastors to be renewed
- Our churches to be refreshed in the Holy Spirit

Looking Ahead

Dec 22 - Jan 2: Association Office Closed

Feb. 26-27: Evangelism Conference – Sandia, Albuquerque

April 10: EBA Semi-Annual Meeting

Spring: Security training

Budget At A Glance

Tukumcari Baptist Association:

Receipts\$1,079.64
Disbursements\$1,800.00
Ending Balance ...\$16,351.18

Eastern Baptist Association:

Balance Forward
November 1st\$780.04
Receipts\$9,347.38
Disbursements\$9,049.20
Ending Balance
November 30th\$1,078.22

Eastern Border Associations

Tukumcari Baptist Association & Eastern Baptist Association

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Prayer Meeting:
Mondays 10:00 Sandia, Clovis

TBA website: www.yourtba.com
EBA website: www.easternbaptist.net

