



As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the fall season is my favorite time of the year. During the month of December, the weather tends to get colder but our hearts are warm because of all the wonderful memories our minds conjure up during this time of the year.

Though the traditional "American Christmas" experience is quickly fading into the abyss of "political correctness" and anti-Christian sentiments, many of us continue to relish and cherish the warm memories of past Christmases spent with family and friends. What a time of laughter and for some tears as we reflect on past and present experiences that have and continue to shape who we are.

One of the reasons why the "current culture" believes they can remove Christ out of Christmas and still have a reason to celebrate is based upon an opinion shared by many people, the "current culture" does not have a personal connection with Christ or the story of His life. The reason why Christians get highly offended when the name of our Lord is slandered and removed from the public square is due to the personal connection we have with Him.

Instead of getting upset and angry over how Christmas has become overly commercialized and its true meaning diminished, we should look at this situation through the scope of reason and analysis and determine how and why our "current culture" is so hostile to Christ. This anti-Christian sentiment that exists in our "current culture" has been fomented by various forms of media and educational outlets and of course predominately by Satan, the ruler of darkness.

As Christians, this anti-Christ and Christian sentiment should be a wakeup call to us. We should turn this into an opportunity whereby we understand the times we live in and seize every chance we get to share throughout the year the Christmas story with those who have never heard. We should feel sorrow and pity, not anger and animosity, for these folks who identify with the "current culture" by the way they live their lives.

If we are going to change the "current culture" then we must commit our lives to the work of sharing the "Good News" with those who at this time have no understanding or a dim view of Christ and His purpose to save them from eternal separation and damnation. Salvation is a wonderful gift given to us by God, in the person of Jesus Christ and we should offer this gift to everyone we come in contact with.

Take a moment, set your mind with the shepherds who were tending their flocks at night when they received the "good news" about the birth of Jesus, the savior of the world. Luke 2:8-14, *That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.*⁹ *Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified,*¹⁰ *but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.*¹¹ *The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!*¹² *And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."*¹³ *Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,*¹⁴ *"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Tim

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Mission Moment in the Philippines

Dave Daggett and his wife Ivette are IMB missionaries in the Philippines. After 11 years of telling Bible stories to the children of the area where they serve, several of those children and youth are now faithfully serving in a church!

The Daggetts have invested their lives by spending years of arduous labor leading these children to the Lord, discipling and training them to share their faith with others.

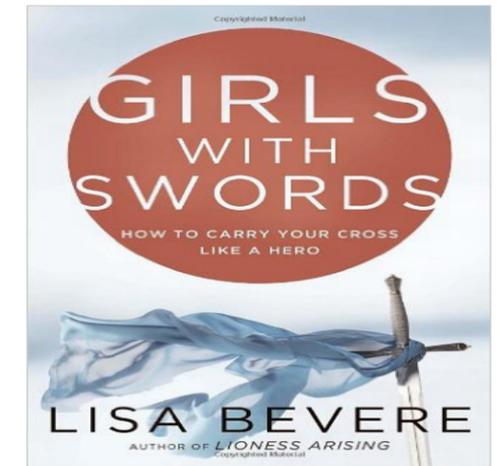
One of the many ways we can be involved in missions is to make a personal connection with these missionaries we financially and prayerfully support. It has been suggested, as a family or individual, write a thank-you card or email to a missionary who is living for Jesus in another culture. Let them know that you are praying and supporting them.

Thank God for the Daggetts and the young leaders they have mentored in the Philippines. Let us pray that God will raise more leaders to know Him and make His glory known.

Psalm 96:1-3. *Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.*



WOMAN ON MISSION
JANUARY 9, 2016 -10:00 AM
POT-LUCK BRUNCH
EMPHASIS: GIRLS WITH SWORDS



At this meeting, Deborah Davis will be delving into "Girls with Swords". According to the author, Satan is seeking to disarm women on every level. She's convinced, it's time women become the heroes God created them to be and stand—courageous, discerning, forgiving, and wise. You will not want to miss this exciting study.

Mission-Fest
July 16-20, 2016
Spartanburg, SC

Missions-Fest in Spartanburg, South Carolina, is a partnership between national WMU®, South Carolina WMU, and Spartanburg County Baptist Network. Spartanburg has a county population of only 291,000 and a city population of about 50,000. Like many cities, close to 75% of those who live in Spartanburg claim to be unreached.

If you think you may be interested in joining others in our church on this mission trip, please see Diane Varady or go to http://wmu.com/index.php?q=webfm_send/39 for more information.

Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy **Rank** - 2nd Class
Assignment - Virginia Beach

Megan Hines - Pastor Tim's Daughter
USNA Class of 2019
MIDN Megan Hines
E - Company / Platoon -10
Annapolis, Maryland 21402

Brandon Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Air force
Assignment - Tucson, Arizona

Joshua Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Navy
Assignment - Great Lakes, Illinois



First Southern Baptist Church
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 church@fsbcsl.org
 (510) 276-3688

Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Morning Worship 10:45 am
 Evening Worship 6:00 pm



CALENDAR

- 1st-6th - Lottie Moon Week of Prayer
- 5th - Annual Christmas Party - 5:00 pm
- 2nd - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
- 7th - Christmas Caroling - 6:00 pm
- 9th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
- 12th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am
- 13th - Christmas Cantata - 6:00 pm
- 14th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- 16th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
- 19th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am
- 24th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm



Roberta King	12/18
Jackie Briana	12/24
Mabrie Huff	12/24
Jesus Christ	12/25
Jean Johnson	12/27
Megan Hines	12/29
Lisa Villafuerte	12/30
Doreen Fellows	12/31

I want you to know what a blessing you are! happy birthday!



First Southern Baptist Church
Newsletter

Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World

Pastor: Tim Hines

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December 2015



**CHRISTMAS
 CANTATA**



On December 13, 2015 our church will host its annual Christmas Cantata at 6:00pm. This year's cantata is named, **Sing Christmas!** This cantata, created and arranged by David Wise and Sarah Huffman, is a Joyful Celebration offered by *The Very Simply Word Series*. **Sing Christmas** is a Christmas carol-driven cantata, and is sure to bring a joy-filled Christmas celebration to those who attend. This musical features some of the most beloved songs of the season with heartwarming narration and congregational singing. Please make plans to attend this evening of worship as we sing together your favorite Christmas carols and songs.

**Sing
 CHRISTMAS!**

Songs include: The Carolin' Reel, which includes Joy to the World!, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Deck the Halls and O Come, All Ye Faithful; I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (Peace on Earth); Candlelight Carol Medley, which includes Silent Night! Holy Night!, What Child is This? And Angels, From the Realms of Glory; Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus', Christmas Praise, which includes O Come, All Ye Faithful, with Joy to the World! And Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Angels from the Realms of Glory and Go, Tell It On The Mountain, featuring Al Thornell.