

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

December 23, 2018

Preparing For The Birth Of Jesus

Most of us are busy preparing for Christmas. Presents to buy; cookies to bake; houses to decorate; parties and school programs to attend; stockings to stuff; travel to schedule; beds to make for house guests. Christmas is a great holiday, but there are tons of stuff to get done before Christmas arrives.

But the preparations we make for Christmas are nothing compared to what we are told God did preparing for the birth of Jesus. Even before the world was created, God knew preparations for the coming of Jesus to this world had to be made. *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless” (Eph. 1.4)*. God knew that because of our sins we would need Jesus the Savior. Shortly before the birth of Jesus an angel appeared to Joseph to tell him Mary will *“give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1.21)*.

That, of course, is why Jesus came ... to seek and save the lost (*Luke 19.10*). But between the creation and the birth of Jesus a lot of things needed to be done. Early in the book of Genesis (*chapter 12*) God promised Abraham that through his descendants the entire human population would be blessed (*through the coming of Jesus*). Beginning with Abraham God

slowly and intentionally developed the nation of Israel. By the time of Moses (*400+ years later*) the descendants of Abraham had grown into a mighty people ready for their own land (*another promise made to Abraham*). During this time Moses was inspired by God to prophesy, “*God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him*” (*Deut. 18.15*). From that time the Jews looked for the coming Messiah. Years later, Peter identified this as referring to Jesus (*Acts 3.13-26*).

Developing a nation through which Jesus was to come involved many things over many years. A law and a moral code were needed to develop a sense of sin and the need for redemption (*Rom. 3.19-20*). A bloodline from Abraham through David to Jesus was needed to fulfill the promise and prophecies (*Matt. 1.17*). Prophecies spoken through many centuries gave details about the coming Messiah’s birth and life that could only be fulfilled by Jesus (*i.e., from the tribe of Judah Gen. 49.10, Matt. 1.2-3; the virgin birth Isa. 7.14, Matt. 1.23; born in Bethlehem Micah 5.2, Matt. 2.6; called out of Egypt Hosea 11.1, Matt. 2.15; miraculous healings Isa. 35.5-6, Matt. 11.5; enter Jerusalem riding on the foal of a donkey Zech. 9.9, Luke 19.33-35; the Messiah would be despised and rejected Isa. 53.3, Luke 23.20-23; and many others*). Just prior to the birth of Jesus God prepared the way for him by having John preach about repentance, baptism and the forgiveness of sins (*Mark 1.2-4*).

The 1st coming of Jesus was no accident. God knew before the creation that Jesus would be born into this world to become our Savior. His preparations for this event were intentional and specific so there would be no doubt in the hearts of those who have faith. God sent Jesus so we would listen to what he says (*Deut. 18.15, Matt. 17.1-5*). Are we??

– Joe Chesser

Hugging is Almost Perfect

Hugging helps the immune system, cures depression, reduces stress and induces sleep. It's invigorating, rejuvenating and has no unpleasant side effects. It is all natural, organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and 100 percent wholesome. There are no batteries to wear

out, no periodic check-ups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation proof, nonfattening, no monthly payments, theft-proof, nontaxable, nonpolluting and, of course, fully returnable. Hugging truly is practically perfect,

– Adapted from article by Josh Richardson

I wholeheartedly recommend hugging to all, especially to this congregation. As a loving congregation, we are above average, but we are often hesitant to express out love to one another. We moved up her from the south and the absence of hugging was one of the most difficult adjustments we had to make. My wife took it as her personal project to change that. May I join her in suggesting the hugging is a great custom. It is certainly easier to establish than a “holy kiss.” 😊 Try a hug. wp

Pray that you will use 20 minutes each day to read through the whole bible in 2019.

Sympathy :

Susan's Aunt Carol McMullen of Morton, IL passed away last Saturday, the 15th. She was 81 yrs old.

Guest Speaker :

On the Sunday morning of December 30, we will be having a special guest speaker. Aaron Stevens, the son of Bob and Brenda, will be in town to visit his family and the elders have invited him to speak the morning or the 30th. Aaron is the youth minister for a congregation in Mission Viejo, California.

Reminder :

Please be reminded that we are scheduled to conduct a service at the Villas of Holly Brook on the 30th. This service will start at 2:00 and last only about a half hour. Some of our regulars will be out of town so your participation is truly needed.

Pride Packages For Soldiers:

We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two

weeks we'll be bringing: Pop Tarts, (any flavor but strawberry favorite), Fruit snacks, Fruit by the Foot, Gushers Nutri-Grain Bars, Any flavor breakfast bars of any kind, Protein bars

Birthday : Deloris Crutcher December 25

Reading : **Isaiah 53: 1-9 ; Luke 1: 26-38**

NEXT WEEK : (**December 30, 2018**)

Song Leader : **Stan**

Scripture Reader : **J.J.**

Table & Announcements : **Tim**

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Prayer list :

David Ferguson & Bill Livesay : David (preacher at Lakeland) is donating one of his kidneys to Bill (a member at Lakeside). The transplant was scheduled for the 18th but as they were prepping them for the surgery they discovered fluid on Bill's lung and another blood clot so surgery is delayed. Aside from being frustrating, bill doesn't have time for delays.

Mike Nichols : He is continues with physical therapy at home, but is increasingly discouraged that he cannot yet walk much.

Nancy McConley: Sherry's aunt is waiting to get into a nursing home for care until she heals enough to endure surgery.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Marge, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Debra Robinson : problematic chemo after breast cancer

Delaney West: Monitoring fragment of tumor left after surgery

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Wayne : Ongoing issues related to stroke recovery

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

***Pray that you will use 20 minutes each day to
read through the whole bible in 2019.***

***Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.***

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !