

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XIX

December 7, 2014

Number 43

FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS MISSIONARY OFFERING, WE WILL BE GIVING TO

THE ROWLEY FAMILY MISSIONARIES TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA!



THE ROWLEY'S
John and Leslie
Jillian (5), Evan (3), and Edison (1)

Every year, our church helps fund missions by giving a Christmas Offering in an unusual way. Instead of sending Christmas cards to other church members through the regular mail, our members are encouraged to bring their cards to the *Missionary Post Office* which is located in the foyer where they can place them in the appropriate mailbox, and deposit the money they would normally spend on postage in the lockbox on the side of the post office.

It's a great way to remember your fellow church members at Christmas AND help missionaries at the same time!

This year, our missionary offering will go to help support the Jeremy Rowley family, Baptist missionaries to Prince Edward Island, Canada!

The Rowley's have attended our church before, and many of our members have met them. They are members of the Vandament Avenue Baptist Church in Yukon, Oklahoma, and are prayerfully working towards getting enough monthly support so that they can go to Prince Edward Island, Canada, and start a new Baptist church there. We will be sharing more about the need for a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching Baptist church in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, please PRAY for the Rowley's, and give as the Lord leads you.

THANK YOU!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kayla Quinnelly
Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly
6:30 P.M. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Quinnelly
Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: LeAnna White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of November 16, 2014

Sunday School ----- 17
Sunday Morning Service ----- 23
Sunday Evening Service ----- 21
Wed. Eve. Service, 11/19/14 ----- 22

Week of November 23, 2014

Sunday School ----- 16
Sunday Morning Service ----- 40
Sunday Evening Service ----- 24

Week of November 30, 2014

Sunday School ----- 19
Sunday Morning Service ----- 35
Sunday Evening Service ----- 24
Wed. Eve. Service, 12/03/14 ----- 26

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of November 16, 2014

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 650.00
Total Received for Week of 11/16/14: \$ 650.00

Week of November 23, 2014

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,123.50
Total Received for Week of 11/23/14: \$ 1,123.50

Week of November 30, 2014

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 712.15
Total Received for Week of 11/30/14: \$ 712.15

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00



INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR NOV., 2014:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 329.66
Amount Received During Nov., 2014 ----- \$ 0.00
Amount SHORT for Noivember, 2014: - \$ 329.66

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Organist
Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
Shayne Hooper, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, Ella Allen ----- Outreach
Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford



Should Children Be Taught About Santa Claus, Easter Bunnies and Good Fairies?

by the late Dr. Bill Rice

Q: *I have a problem that in recent days has caused me to question my stand.*

I was raised in a Christian home and have been saved for several years. My husband is an unsaved church member and doesn't take a stand for or against anything.

I have never taught our children to believe Santa Claus brings Christmas presents or that good fairies leave money for teeth. To me, Christmas is the start of a home in Heaven. I could not believe Christ died if I did not believe He was born. I have received lots of laughs and criticism for this belief. I never paid it any thought until our music director, a student of a great Bible college, laughed and told me how silly I was not to tell my children about Santa Claus, etc.

How do you feel? How did you teach your family when they were growing up? Can I teach my children to love and serve God if I also teach them things that I must tell lots of lies about?

A: My good friend, you are another who is going to cause me a lot of trouble! When I answer this, I'm going to get letters from irate preachers, angry parents, and outraged businessmen. If ever in my life I have wished I were a man of tact, I wish it now. But I do not know any honest way to answer your letter that will also sound kind and make everyone love me.

So - you ask a plain question, and you deserve a plain answer, and here it is -

Any Christian who teaches little children the fable that there is a Santa Claus is, at best, incredibly thoughtless and shallow. How blind one must be not to realize that the Christian who tells children about Santa Claus is bypassing the Gospel of Christ that brings salvation just as much as a modernist (liberal) who teaches that the Bible story is not true.

Surely nothing could please Satan more than for Christians to talk about Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, and good fairies rather than about Jesus Christ.

The Devil Wanted A Detour

Satan tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross in the first place. On the Mount of Temptation, Satan offered Christ the kingdoms of the world without a crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemane, I believe Satan tried to kill Jesus and thus prevent His going to the cross. When Simon Peter insisted that Jesus should not die, the Saviour significantly said, **"Get thee behind me, Satan."**

The idea that Jesus should not die on the cross for sinners was clearly of the Devil.

Substituting Something Good for the Gospel

Today, Satan wants to substitute something else for the Gospel of Christ.

Perhaps the most beautiful story ever told is the true story of how Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem. Angels sang to the shepherds to announce the Saviour's birth. Surely there is no more beautiful story in all the world than this. Christmas is the day set aside by Christians to commemorate this great event.

But, little by little, the fictitious story of Santa Claus has become a tradition. In many places it has been substituted for the true story of the birth of Christ. In almost all places, it is at least on an equal with the story of Jesus. One may walk down the streets of a great city at Christmastime and hear "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" sung in the same collection with "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Many Christian parents tell their children the Santa Claus fable because it is a cute story and an entertaining one. Many do not dream that they are actually aiding the Devil by substituting a lie for the truth. Parents tell the Santa Claus fable lightheartedly while telling themselves that Junior will soon realize that it is not a true story, and when he is older he will understand that the Santa Claus fable was just a beautifully-told tale and not the truth.

So, what harm is done? A great deal. **Every time the Santa Claus story is told - the true story of Jesus is NOT told!** And the emphasis is on Santa Claus rather than on Christ.

After all, how many times have you ever heard someone ask a little child, "What will you be given for Christmas in Jesus' name?" Actually, I doubt if I have ever heard that question in all my life! But I have heard, "What is Santa Claus going to bring you for Christmas?"

There certainly no honor to Jesus Christ in that!

I certainly do not object to the giving of gifts to loved ones at Christmastime. I love Christmas and think it is fitting and right for us to give gifts to our loved ones in the spirit of Christ who gave Himself for us; but I am dead set against telling little children that gifts come from Santa Claus when the Bible says, **"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . ." (James 1:17).**

What About Easter?

Easter is a day on which Christians commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The importance of His resurrection is absolutely impossible to overestimate or over-realize. Paul wrote in **I Cor inthians 15:16-19:**

"For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

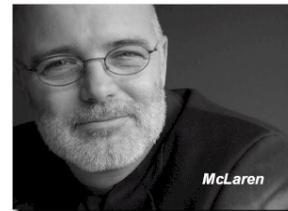
How foolish, then, for any Christian to add silly stories of the Easter Bunny laying eggs right along with the true and vitally important story of Jesus being raised from the dead! Easter ought not to be a time when the primary thoughts of any Christian have to do with Easter eggs, colored chicks, baby ducks, little rabbits or new clothes. Even though the stories may be cute and the clothes attractive, we are shallow to allow ourselves to be duped by Satan to share the Gospel story with these things.

Any Substitute Suits Satan

Just about anything that is used as a substitute for the Gospel is satisfactory to Satan.

It must be a matter of great satisfaction to Satan that many orthodox churches have become so engrossed with satined-glass windows, a beautiful "sanctuary" and a stiff, formal service that soul winning is no longer on the agenda.

Not only should a Christian be careful always to tell the truth - and stories about Santa Claus, Easter rabbits, and good fairies are definitely not truthful - but he ought to be careful never to let anything detract from the story of Christ. □



EMERGING CHURCH'S "3.0 CHRISTIANITY" DESTROYS BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

In a message presented at the Greenbelt Festival in England in August, emerging church leader

Brian McLaren sought to destroy absolute biblical authority by claiming that we have entered a new era of Bible reading.

He divided church history into three parts: Bible 1.0 was the Roman Catholic approach to Scripture whereby the Bible "was read and controlled by the religious elite." Bible 2.0 was the Protestant approach to Scripture by which "the Bible itself was viewed as inerrant" and believers tested everything by it. Bible 3.0 is the new approach recommended by McLaren whereby the multiplicity of interpretations available on the Internet allegedly render any one authoritative interpretation invalid.

He says that Bible 3.0 is to be **"in conversation with everything and everyone."** He says, **"Bible 1.0 didn't give up to Bible 2.0 without a fight. And it's very difficult for Bible 2.0 to imagine a world of Bible 3.0,"** but, **"If we are ready, we are going to discover the Bible as better, deeper and richer than before"** ("Brian McLaren: 'We've entered a new era of Bible reading,'" ChristianityToday.com, Sept. 4, 2014).

McLaren's "deeper and richer" Bible reading is the one-world church's approach which is tolerant of other views and exalts unity, "social justice," etc., over doctrinal purity. McLaren grew up in a fundamentalist Christian home, but he rejected the faith of his parents and his godly grandparents, who were Brethren

missionaries. **He is a dangerous heretic who has robbed many of their biblical faith.**

In response to the Bible 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 thing, we would observe that McLaren's view of history doesn't start early enough. In truth, Bible 1.0 is **not** the Catholic Church - it is the New Testament churches under the direction of Christ's apostles. Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who believe that one infallible faith was delivered in the New Testament Scriptures and is to be contended for (Jude 3). Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who take the words of the resurrected Christ seriously when He said that His disciples are to be taught to **"observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"** (Mat. 28:20).

There is no room for the confusion of multiple interpretations here. Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who believe that Paul committed absolute truth to faithful, born again men who were to teach "the same" to others (II Tim. 2:2). Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who are taught to test, beware of, mark, avoid, and reject false teachers and heretics (Rom. 16:17-18; Eph. 4:4; Phil. 3:2, 17-18; Col. 2:8; II Tim. 3:5; Titus 3:10-11; II Tim. 4:1-4; I John 4:1). This is impossible for those who believe in a variety of acceptable interpretations. **By McLaren's scheme, no one is a heretic.** Rather, all are sincere seekers with different "perspectives."

Further, Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those are taught to study to show themselves approved unto God by **"rightly dividing the word of truth"** (II Tim. 2:15) and who **"have an unction from the Holy One" to know the truth** (I John 2:20, 27).

This means that the Spirit of God leads His redeemed people to the correct interpretation of Scripture.

For more on this see "Beware of Brian McLaren" by using the search engine at www.wayoflife.org.

