

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XVI

December 19, 2010

Number 51



Merry



Christmas

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

- Luke 2:11





I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR

***I see the countless Christmas trees
around the world below;
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars
reflecting on the snow.***

***The sight is so spectacular -
please wipe away that tear;
For I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.***

***I hear the many Christmas songs
that people hold so dear;
But the sounds of music can't compare
with the Christmas Choir up here.***

***For I have no words to tell you
the joy their voices bring;
It is beyond description
to hear the angels sing.***

***I know how much you miss me,
but please remember dear,
That I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.***

***I cannot tell you of the splendor
of the peace inside this place;
Can you just imagine Christmas
with Our Saviour, face to face?***

***I will ask Him to light your spirit
as I tell Him of your love;
So pray for one another
as you lift your eyes above.***

***Please let your hearts be joyful
and let your spirit sing;
For I spending Christmas in Heaven
and walking with the King!***

A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light.

Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always
remembers."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam ',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile."

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
“I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother.
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall.”

“So go back inside,” he said, “harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right.”

“But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
“Give you money,” I asked, “or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son.”

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
“Just tell us you love us, and never forget.

To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home,
either standing or dead,
To know you remember we
fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with
that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as
you mattered to us.”



Mary's Usability

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women” (Luke 1:26-28).

A believers' usability isn't dependent upon talents but on **willingness**.

Stories are told of men and women who were greatly used by God throughout history. These were Christians who stood firm in their faith, boldly took a stand, attempted some great feat, and made a difference for Christianity. Yet sometimes when speaking of such people, we forget that God still desires to use believers in the same way today. When talking about “usability” in God's work, Scottish missionary Robert Murray McCheyne perhaps said it best when he wrote the following to a fellow preacher upon the preacher's ordination:

“In great measure, according to the purity and perfections of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God.”

A believers' usability isn't dependent upon talents but on willingness and holiness. Jesus' earthly mother is a perfect example of how God is looking for those surrendered to Him.

We really don't read much about Mary before her encounter with Gabriel in Luke 1:26. Mary wasn't a noble or kingly person. She wasn't of royal bloodline and wasn't well-known around Israel. While many expected Jesus to be born of a kingly family, God chose Mary.

What we do know about Mary was that her life pleased God. As Gabriel said, ***“Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee...”*** Even though she was a simple Hebrew girl, Mary lived each day to please God. She followed His commands and kept a pure testimony.

I'm sure many girls in that day dreamed of being a mother to the Messiah, but God was looking for a pure, willing vessel. Notice that His qualifications weren't much, but they were important.

Mary was used because she was pure and willing to follow God. Think of others who've been used through the ages. Abraham was willing to leave his home. Isaac was willing to be sacrificed. Joseph was willing to be mistreated. Elijah was willing to confront an evil king. David was willing to a simple shepherd boy. Job was willing to be tried. John the Baptist was willing to live as an outcast. Paul was willing to give up everything for God's work.

The one thread that ties together the great men and women of

You Can Help Missionaries Overseas By Giving To Our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Through Our LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE!

Every year, our membership helps fund overseas missions by giving to the Lottie Moon 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 **Lottie Moon 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! Don't forget to bring your cards this month!

Christianity is a willingness to be used however God desired. Do you desire to be used of God? Don't look at your past, your weaknesses, or your lack of talent and assume God can't use you. Convincing Christians of their weaknesses is how the devil sidelines many believers God wants to use.

Think about Mary's life. She wasn't anyone special, yet God used her in perhaps the greatest way possible in her day. She was the earthly mother of God's Son!

God desires to use you today. While He's not looking for talent or success, He is looking for willing, pure believers who follow His Word. Make sure your life is being lived to honor Him. Live a godly, pure life, and allow Him to work through you.

- Dr. Paul Chappell, Pastor
Lancaster Baptist Church - Lancaster, California

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebart
Cradle Roll 2: Janet Bridges
Wed. Evening Service ---- Volunteers Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of December 12, 2010

Sunday School ----- 19
Sunday Morning Service ----- 39
Sunday Evening Service ----- 28
Wed. Evening, 12/15/10 Service ----- 24

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of December 12, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 792.00
Insurance Fund ----- \$ 6.00
Lottie Moon Offering ----- \$ 20.00
Total Received for Week of 12/12/10: \$ 818.00

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

INSURANCE FUND REPORT THIS MONTH:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
Amount Received since 12/05/10 ----- \$ 21.04
Amount Still Needed By 01/06/11: \$ 252.04



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.**



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
Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnely, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Dwayne English ----- Outreach
Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White