

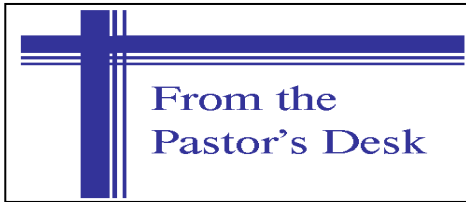


Discover A Place to Call Home

THE MESSENGER

December 2021

Volume 1, Issue 111



How has Christmas changed the world? I guess to answer that question, we need to know what is meant by "Christmas."

As far as we know, the early church did not celebrate Christmas until the 4th century and that was in response to and a replacement for a pagan winter solstice holiday. Most likely, the birth of Jesus took place in the spring rather than in December (as shepherds would not have been tending their flocks at night until spring). Even the year of Jesus' birth doesn't exactly match our calendar. It would have taken place in about 6 to 4 BC when Herod the great was still alive. With all this, we haven't even addressed any of the modern Christmas traditions that have developed over the years.

None of these things are what I mean when I say "Christmas", but rather the truth of God physically coming into the world in the person of Jesus Christ as a baby. How has that reality changed the world?

The world's population in the 1st century was about 200,000,000 (100 million less than the US population today). Of those, at the foundation of the church there were only 120 Christians. That's .0000006 of the world's population. Two thousand years later the population has grown to over 7,000,000,000 and a third, or

2.5 billion people make claim to the name of Christ in some form or fashion.

At the foundation of the church, the church was confined to one very small geographic area, Jerusalem. But now, the church expands the globe reaching some of the most remote sections. The areas of greatest growth are in areas of Asia, Africa and the middle east.

Matthew Parris is an atheist. I believe he is a British citizen, but was born and raised in Africa. After a recent trip back, he wrote an article for The Times that argued the relevance of Christianity as the only hope for Africa.

He writes:

"I have become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work or secular NGO's, or government projects and international aide efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa, Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good..."

Christians black and white, working in Africa, do heal the sick, do teach people to read and write; and only the severest kind of secularist could see a mission hospital or school and say the world would be better without it. I would allow that if faith was needed to motivate missionaries to help, then fine: but what counted was the help,

not the faith. But this does not fit the facts. Faith does more than support the missionary; it is also transferred to the flock. This is the effect that matters so immensely, and which I cannot help observing...

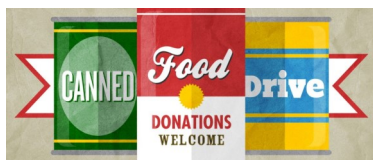
(Both growing up in and on a recent trip back to Africa) I observed Africans who had converted and were strong believers... (these) Christians were always different. Far from having cowed or confined the converts, their faith appeared to have liberated and relaxed them. There was liveliness, a curiosity, an engagement with the world - a directness in their dealing with others - that seemed to be missing in traditional African life. They stood tall...

Something had changed in the faces of the people... something in their eyes, the way they approached you direct, man to man, without looking down or away. They had not become more deferential towards strangers - in some ways less so - but more open...

It would suit me to believe that their honesty, diligence and optimism in their work was unconnected with personal faith. Their work was secular but surely was affected by what they were. What they were was, in turn, influenced by a conception of man's place in the Universe that Christianity had taught."

So, when we ask the question, "How has Christmas changed the world?" - of all things, an atheist gives us the answer.

Pastor Mark



We collected 88 pounds of food for Grace Ministries in November. Thank you for the support of this ministry. For December, we'll be setting out 3 Advent Boxes in the Fellowship Hall and Foyer to collect food. There will be lists of items on each box. You can sign up to donate items from any box you wish. Purchase your items and return them to their specific boxes. The deadline to fill these boxes is December 19th.

Thanks to everyone that helped us with the blanket Ministry for Hospice. We delivered 10 blankets for the month of November.

Our Angel Tree is up and ready for Evergreen Residents. There is a tag for each resident with their needs listed on it. Please write your name on the top of the tag (leave this part on the tree). Cut off the bottom part to take shopping with you. Return the wrapped gift with the shopping tag attached to the gift by noon on December 14th. These gifts will be delivered by Team Kids and Youth Group on December 15th.

Thank you,
Steve & Ida Jones



Prayer Walk

December 5th at 9:15am
Meet in JLBC Fellowship Hall



Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer
Meal for Everyone at 5:20pm
Adult class in Fellowship Hall at 6pm
Youth & Team Kids class at 6pm



Deacons' Meeting

December 12th at 4 pm

Family Business Meeting

December 15th at 7pm



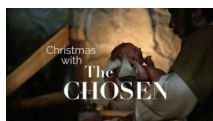
Mark Lowry Christmas Event Viewing

December 1st at 7pm

JLBC Fellowship Hall

Hot cocoa, coffee & water served

Bring a dessert to share



JLBC Private Viewing

The Chosen: Messengers

December 5th at 4:00pm

Tickets are \$10 each

Viewing at Cinemark Theater



Children's Christmas Presentation

December 12th at 6pm

Youth Group Singing

December 12 & 19th at 11 am

Scripture Song Service

December 19th 6 pm



MEETING MINUTES

***We spent less money in October 2021.

***A new faucet was installed in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen and the water heater was replaced in the Fellowship Hall at no cost due to warranty.

***We are using a new cleaning service and it is going well.

***New speakers have been purchased for the sanctuary.



Rathgeber House Report

We fixed a mini Thanksgiving meal of roast, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, apple & pumpkin pies. Thanks to Norah Bronaugh, Cyndi McGill, Kathy Janeke, & Fran Koch. Since December is a busy month, who would be interested in making sandwiches, chips, dessert, candy, or snacks for the 21st?

Thank you,
Fran Koch
940-636-8215

PASTOR & DEACONS

Please feel free to call any of us at any time.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Mark Simons | 940-867-5066 |
| Rick Griffin | 940-249-8461 |
| Bill Lindenborn | 940-781-2504 |
| Marvin Maherg | 940-636-2207 |
| Robert Ritter | 940-631-7437 |
| John Naas | 501-607-0713 |

MARK SIMONS – PASTOR

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www.jlcburk.com

Office hours: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Monday – Thursday

Located on Kramer Rd across from Burkburnett High School

LOTTIE MOON OFFERING
give generously this Christmas season

JLBC Annual Lottie Moon Dinner & Auction

December 4th at 5:30pm

JLBC Fellowship Hall

You may bring donated auction items to church office during business hours.

DECEMBER 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----|---|
| | | | 1  MEAL @ 530 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7 | 2  Faith Mission 7:30 PM | 3 | 4 |
| 5  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM | 6 | 7  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP | 8  MEAL @ 530 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM | 13 | 14  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP | 15  MEAL @ 530 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM | 20 | 21 | 22   ARTICLES DUE | 23  | 24 | 25  |
| 26  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  | 31 | |

November 2021 Sunday School Attendance Record

| | |
|-------------|----|
| November 7 | 47 |
| November 14 | 41 |
| November 21 | 41 |
| November 28 | 35 |

Average Attendance: 41
Average based on 4 Sundays

November 2021 Financial Report

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Tithes | \$ 9,453.09 |
| Estimated monthly budget needs for 2021 - 2022 | \$14,301.00 |
| Designated | \$ 740.05 |



December 2021 Deacon of the Week

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Nov 29-Dec 5 | Robert Ritter |
| Dec 6-12 | Rick Griffin |
| Dec 13-19 | Bill Lindenborn |
| Dec 20-26 | Marvin Maherg |
| Dec 27-Jan 2 | John Naas |

Prayer Chain

If you have an e-mail address and desire to be on the prayer chain, please call the church office with your email information.

Questions? Call Jennifer @ 569-1211

We're on the web!
www.jlbcburk.com

Jan Lee Baptist Church

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:45 AM |
| MORNING SERVICE | 11:00 AM |
| ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE | Resumes in Fall |

MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| MEAL | 5:30 PM |
| PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY | 6:00 PM |
| YOUTH & TEAM KIDS ACTIVITIES | 6:00 PM |



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