

The Grapevine



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

Luke 2:11 KJV

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Your Name

This is the time of the year when we read the story of the birth of Christ. Well, many do. In our world today, many don't really want to hear about the birth of a Savior. Our world seems to be just interested in themselves. But just take a moment and think about the whole reason of Christmas.

Oh I know what many think, it's the presents, the tree, the lights, the food, family gatherings, traditions. But the real reason is Jesus. God coming to earth. He came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly. He came so that our guilt can be wiped away. He came so that we can have access and a relationship with our Heavenly Father. He came so that we can know what it means to have a relationship with a "real" Father who loves us unconditionally. He came so that we can have a "new name."

Wait, you don't want a new name? You like the name that you have? You like one that is chained to sin? You like the one that is condemned to hell for all eternity? You like the one that has a reputation of evil?

You see, when you come to this One who was born in a stable, to a virgin named Mary, on a dark night long ago, you're made a new creation. You're given a new name. The songwriter said it best, "There's a new name written down in glory!! And it's MINE!!"

You see, one of the reasons that I love studying the genealogies in Scripture is because God thinks that your name is important. He thinks it is so important that He keeps a record of names. He keeps a record of those who are His children. Not that He needs to because He's all knowing. He does it so that we know that He loves us. Just as your parents keep a record of your family. God, your Heavenly Father, has your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Only when you accept the gift of Jesus. Only when you accept the gift of salvation. So come on. The gift is all wrapped up for you. It has your name on it. Accept it and join this awesome family. Merry Christmas.

Pastor Rob

Cautiousness

Is recognizing that the majority is often wrong

“Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14

Under cover of darkness, a group of scouts quietly scrambled up a mountainside. These men had been handpicked by their leaders. The report that they were to bring back would determine the course of the whole nation.

The men found a place of hiding from which they could view the countryside and waited. Soon the morning light filled the sky and the men looked out over the breathtaking landscape. One of the silently resolved that this mountain would become the heritage for his children and their children.

Meanwhile, the other scouts stared in disbelief at the massive walls of a nearby city and the colossal size of the giants who guarded it. “How can we possibly conquer such a stronghold?” murmured most of the men.

But two of the twelve reminded the rest, “Did not God promise to give us this land? Has he not already destroyed great armies and nations who opposed us?”

The scouts, divided in opinion, returned to their camp. The majority quickly spread their discouraging report. When the two courageous scouts gave their report and challenged the nation to trust God and obey Him, many people picked up stones to kill them. Minds were already made up. The people would listen to the majority opinion.

The decision to not go in and conquer the land cost the nation forty years of wandering in the wilderness. During all those years, the commitment made by that faithful scout was never forgotten. It gave him strength, vigor, and purpose in life.

At the age of eighty-five, he again climbed that mountainside; this time with a group of mighty men who shared his vision and his faith.

This courageous man and his soldiers conquered the walled cities and the giants who lived in them. He was then given that mountain with all of its special significance.

It was on this very mountain that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were buried. They had received God’s promise of this land, and Caleb, by refusing to agree with a mistaken majority, helped to fulfill that promise.

From Numbers 14 and Joshua 14

A Christmas Parable



A man is climbing a mountain, at the top of which he hopes to find God. By ascending the heights, the seeker expects to leave all the cares and miseries of life behind in the valley. But while he climbs, God is coming down the mountain into the toil and grief. In the mists of the mountain God and the man pass one another. When the man reaches the mountaintop, he will find nothing. God is not there. What then will he do? He knows the climbing was a mistake, but in agony of that recognition, will he fall down and despair? Or will he turn to retrace his path through the mists and into the valley to where God has gone seeking him? Love came down at Christmas, but only a few perceived its coming. Reference {John 10:17}{John 10:17}; \reference {John 15:13}{John 15:13}; \reference {1 John 3:16}{1 John 3:16}

Ladies Bible Study has always meant a lot to me and this new season has been outstanding. As I've shared over the past couple of issues of the Grapevine, we're studying the book of Romans and have been in Romans chapter 1. I wanted to share with you some of my "outtakes" of our discussions.

"For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed." What does this mean? I believe that Jesus had to die for our sins so that God could look at us and count us righteous and holy. When you place your trust and faith in the sacrifice of Jesus we are covered by His blood and have forgiveness of our sin.

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." This struck me. Although I know God was there and He loved me, I didn't think those who weren't raised in the church knew about God. Humans are full of all kinds of wickedness but this says that somewhere deep down we know right from wrong. We have some sense of God as a power that created the world. Some people choose to ignore this. And God has give us free will to do so. He lets us choose our own path. For me, that's a scary path because people turn their backs on God. For me that would be a horrible way to live. I'm human like everyone else and I skirt the edges sometimes. However, I try to live my life by my faith in God.

As you can see, the Word of God is coming alive in our discussion. It has really opened my eyes and I thank the Lord for His faithfulness.

Regina Sampson



Hello, my name is Ellen Hundley-Cook. Some of you have met me during the few months that I've been attending CW, but you don't know my story. Or I should say, Jesus' story in my life.

It's All About Jesus!

My parents, Owen and Addie Hundley, played a major role in my salvation. From the time I can remember, I was going to the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana). They diligently brought me to all service, Sunday School and the main services Sunday morning, and Sunday night. We also attended Wednesday night "Prayer Meeting." As a child I accepted Jesus as my Savior, and was baptized. All was well until I reached my teens. I started to have a rebellious spirit.

As is "my way," I can't seem to do things half way. It's either all the way, or not at all. So, I rebelled all the way. Eventually, at 17, I ran away from home with a guy that was much older than me. that was 1977. Over the next 13 years I backslid so far into the gates of hell, I don't even want to go there. In 1985 I became hopelessly addicted to crack cocaine. I tried several times to quit on my own. Impossible! I continued this path until 1990. I was so under weight, I looked like I just escaped a Jewish prison camp.

Meanwhile, my parents never gave up on me. they never stopped praying for me. memorial Day weekend of 1990, my Mom called and asked if I would accompany them to West Virginia to visit relatives. I said ye. While in West Virginia, I took a walk up a mountain, in the woods. I wanted to get away to smoke a cigarette, another addiction, a story for another time. Anyway, I ended upon this mountain behind a little country church. It was spring time, everything was so beautiful. I could feel God all around me. I knew from my church upbringing that God would never forsake me. I was so filled with conviction. I started to pray, "Lord, please forgive me. please take this addiction away from me. I promise that I will live the rest of my life for You."

At that very moment a miracle happened. It felt like the hand of God reached right into my body and pulled out that crack addiction. It was gone completely. That was 31 years ago, and I've never looked back. Praise God!

Mom and Dad didn't want to, but I insisted that they drop me off back at the crack house. I had to tell everyone what had happened to me. I wanted to save them. They didn't want to hear it, their hearts were hardened. The following weekend, I went to church with Mom and Dad. Pastor Watts was preaching. I really don't remember the sermon, but I knew that the Spirit was directing every word to me. when they had the altar call, I couldn't get there quick enough. The song was "I Surrender All." I ran to that altar and rededicated my life to Jesus.

Since then I've been living my life for Jesus. I'm feeling strongly led to CW. I believe the Lord is not done with me. I hope to make a difference for Christ here at CW Church. Please, if we haven't met, feel free to approach me, introductions are in order.

Miracles do still happen. God does answer prayers!!!



“The Light”

By Ellen Cook

I was blind, and couldn't see
The darkness dripping over me
Death's shadow was at my door
He knew I couldn't take much more

Time was short—The list was long
Of things that I had done all wrong
Although, I coldn't see the list
My eyes were covered with a mist

The mist that covered my dying eyes
Was thick, and black as midnight skies
But wait—Ahead, a twinkling star
It's beauty called me from afar

I struggled and climbed to reach the Light
I walked, I ran with all my might
Darkness was constantly at my heels
Hiding the list of dirty deals

When I finally reached the gate
Where darkness and light separate
My hand grabbed hold of the latch
I pulled it open without a catch

Then the brightness shown on me
The fog lifted, and I could see
Darkness fled with tail tucked low
He couldn't look upon the glow

I turned to find my list so long
My hear cried out in joyful song
They Light had erased every line
It was clean, and white—and mine

Now I walk in the Light everyday
Helping and learning all the way
When I see the face of the Son
I'll know my work on earth is done



The questions were asked. The answers were given. Here are the results of the poll and we have a tie:

First place: It's a Wonderful Life
 The Grinch

Second place: White Christmas
 Home Alone

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in the polling process.





Taste and See

We'd love to invite you to join Taste and See Home Church for a night of Caroling and Cookies. We're meeting at 198 Oxley Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43228. Once we are finished we will come together for homemade hot chocolate and a Cookie Exchange. Those participating in the Cookie Exchange, please bring 2 dozen cookies. If you are interested in coming, please contact Dawn O'Keefe or Dawn Watts.

Dates for December

2nd Dawn O'Keefe Home 2277 Federated Blvd Apt 105 Columbus, Ohio 43235

*9th Caroling and Cookie Exchange Meet @ 198 Oxley Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43228
Jenn Mullen Home*

16th Dawn Watts Home 2706 Alton Darby Creek Rd. Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Thoughtful thinking at Woody's, "Hmmmmmmm...."

