



FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

3375 Church Lane, Duluth GA 30096
Rev. Ronald L. Bowens, Pastor

December 2020

Vol. 8 Issue 12

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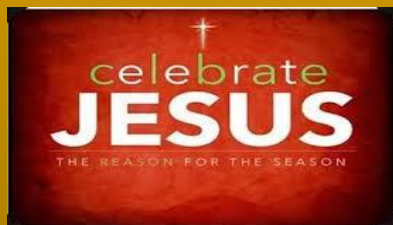
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DECEMBER

- 4 Newsletter Submission Deadline
- 24 Church Office closed
- 25 Christmas-Church Office closed
- 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed
- 4 Newsletter Submission Deadline



Due to the COVID-19 virus, all in-person services, activities and events except the Friendship Market have been cancelled until further notice. Please visit fbcduluth.org for more information. Stay safe!

The Birth of Christ Luke 2:1-20

Jesus' birth was prophesied hundreds of years before his birth in the Old Testament around 1500-1300 BC. In Genesis 22, after Abraham took his son Isaac to be sacrificed, God intervened with a ram in the bush for the sacrifice. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham out of the Heavens and gave him many promises of blessings, one of which in verse 18 is *"And in thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."*

Another prophesy came in the book of Numbers between 1446-1260 BC in Chapter 24, when Balaam listened to God and started blessing Israel, it was spoken in verse 17, *"I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh; there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel..."*. Both these prophesies were fulfilled in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.

The Virgin birth was prophesied in 740 BC in Isaiah 7:14, *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* (God with us). This was fulfilled in Matthew 1:20-25 and Luke 1:26-35.

(Cont'd next page)

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

(The Birth of Christ cont'd)

Jesus had to come to us as the Incarnate, meaning becoming flesh. He was God in human form, He was here from the beginning of the world as seen in John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* To relate to man, He had to come in the form of a baby, growing up as a child, rubbing shoulders with us, showing us He was not better than us because of his great Love for us.

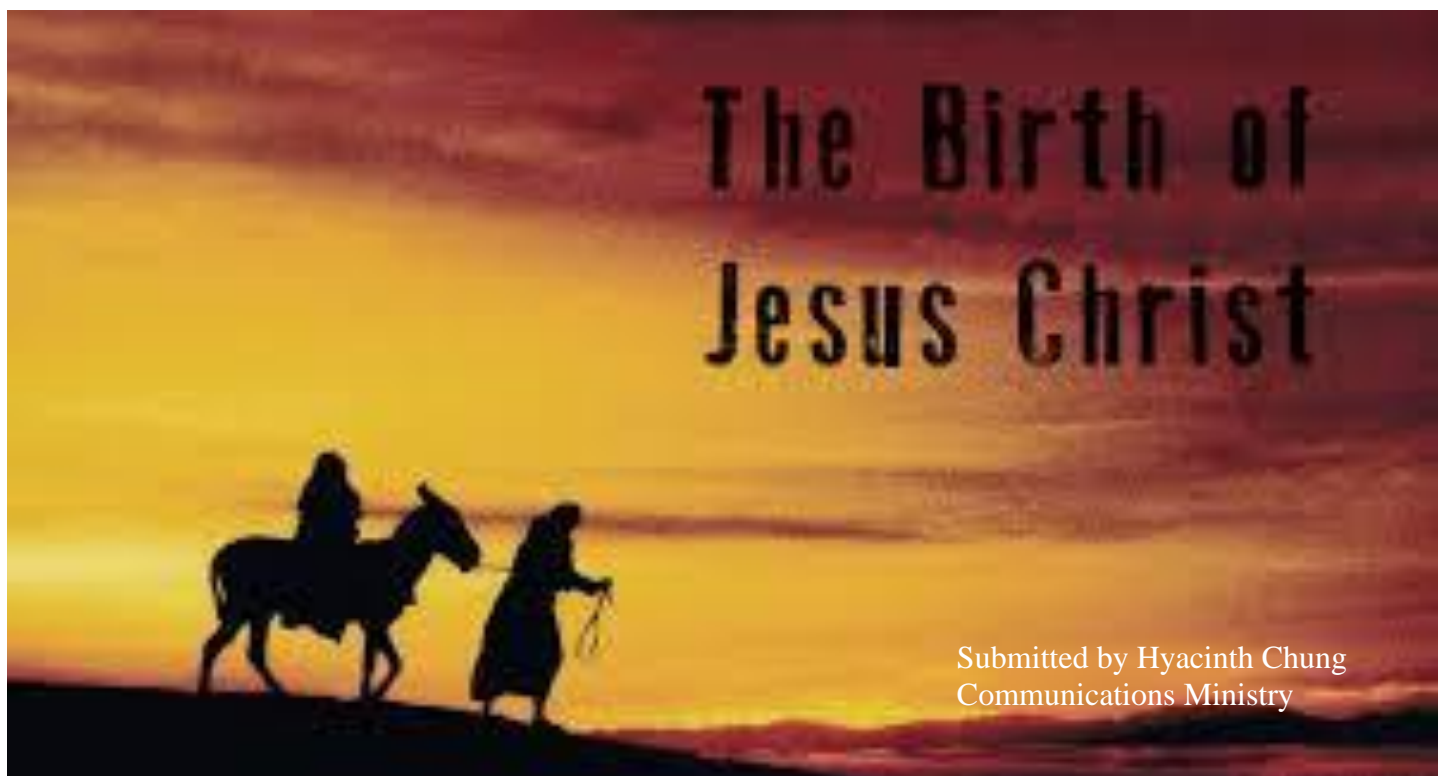
In Luke Chapter 1, Gabriel, the Angel of the Lord, appeared to Mary and told her of her upcoming task, being the mother of Jesus and His responsibilities:

1. He was to be called Jesus (vs. 31).
2. He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High (vs. 32).
3. God will give Him the throne of David (vs. 32).
4. There will be no end of His kingdom (vs. 33).
5. He will be called Holy, the Son of God (vs. 35).

Gabriel gave Mary the assurance that these things will surely take place because, *"With God, nothing shall be Impossible"* (vs. 37).

As we celebrate the holidays with traditional things like Christmas carols, Christmas trees, decorations and gifts, let us focus on the real reason of the season. God wrapped his Son in his Love, entrusted him to Mary for a season and gave us the chance of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

He's no longer the little baby in the manger but the Risen King who gave his life at Calvary's cross for our sins. He adopted us in His royal priesthood and made us joint-heirs with him in Glory. We should remember the great Love God gave us in His Son and emulate such love by giving and sharing with those who are less fortunate. Let us celebrate Christ, the reason for the season.



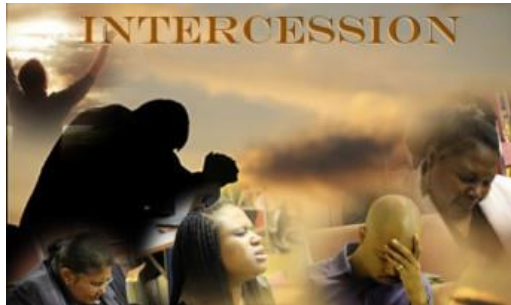
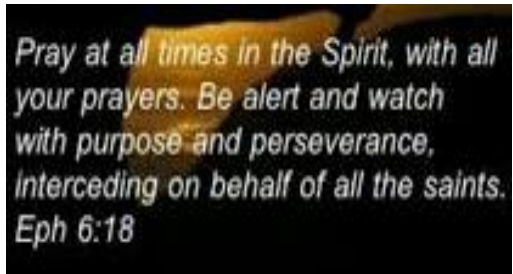
Submitted by Hyacinth Chung
Communications Ministry

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of
Peace. (Isa 9:6 KJV)

Prayer List



REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-IN WITH PRAYER AND CALLS WHILE THE SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT

Bro. Willie Benton	Sis. Essie Foy	Sis. Thelma Matthews	Bro. Antone Smith
Min. Karen Blacknell	Sis. Marlon German	Dea. Jack Leverett	Sis. Latisha Smith
Rev. Kenneth Blacknell	Sis. Barbara Hall	Bro. Laceem McCall	Bro. Xavier Stephens
Dea. Willie Blake	Sis. Crystal Ingram	Sis. Roxanne Motley	Sis. Tiffany Stovall
Sis. Joyce Brooks	Sis. Charlotte Hayes	Evg. Valerie Montaque	Sis. Mabel Thomas
Sis. Sherie Brown	Bro. Emanuel Hazell	Sis. Ruthie Nelson	Bro. Seth Tyler
Bro. Dwayne Bynum	Sis. Dorothy Jamison	Sis. Gloria Peters	Sis. April Walker
Bro. Nicholas Caldwell	Bro. Patrick Jones	Bro. Garvin Potts	Rev. Dwight Wilkerson
Sis. Sherita Caldwell	Miss Quincie Joyner	Sis. Catherine Pressley	Min. Floyd Williams
Bro. Tyler Caldwell	Bro. Dennis Kimmey	Sis. Carrie Rawls	Dea. Clendon Wilson
Sis. Nekka Dean	Sis. Mabel Lawrence	Sis. Peggy Rogers	Sis. Sadie Wilson
Sis. Doris Doyle	Dea. Jack Leverett	Dea. Clarence Slaughter	Bro. Victor Winston, Jr.



If you need prayer, dial
866-875-8245



FOR THOSE GRIEVING
THE LOSS OF
A LOVED ONE

GRIEF  SHARE



GriefShare Ministry Leader

Minister Karen L. Blacknell

678-896-1441

Karen83052@gmail.com

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, a child, family member or friend.

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. The support group is led by caring people who have experienced grief themselves and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

The GriefShare Ministry has received the necessary GriefShare training to be able to provide a warm, caring and comfortable environment to those experiencing the pain of grief. Training is key for effective ministry. GriefShare provides ongoing training to the support group in order to continue to build and maintain a strong leadership team.

Due to the pandemic and sheltering-in-place, GriefShare now meets every Monday from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm via conference call. If interested in joining us, please dial 701-802-5331 and enter access code 2098635#. You must first register with GriefShare. To register, please call Minister Karen Blacknell at 678-896-1441.

The GriefShare Ministry support group members are: Minister Karen L. Blacknell, Rev. Kenneth M. Blacknell, Rev. Garfield Garner, Minister Amelia Brown, Minister Barbara Williams, Sis. Sandra Williams, Sis. Linda Berry, Sis. HaLynn Brown, Mother Gerald Baker, Mother Dorothy Blagmon, Sis. Tyesaha Peak-Lane, Sis. Tradenia Hill, Sis. Cortney Garner, Sis. Hyacinth Chung and Evangelist Deloris Williams.

For those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, help is available @
Friendship Baptist Church, Duluth GA
for **Gwinnett County** residents to prevent **HOMELESSNESS**.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF



Beginning immediately all applications for Housing, Utilities and Extended Stay Assistance for Gwinnett County residents will be accepted **via email only**.

Send your application and/or documents to
friendshipduluth@att.net

Wednesday, December 16th
is the last date to apply for assistance.

We will respond to requests and request the necessary documents electronically.

THANK YOU

FBC FRONT LINE WORKERS

DOCTORS NURSES TRUCKERS
HOSPITAL STAFF POLICE SERVICES
DOCTOR'S OFFICE STAFF PARAMEDICS
SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND STAFF
DENTISTS AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCIES
FIRE DEPARTMENTS MAIL CARRIERS
SOCIAL WORKERS SANITATION WORKERS
CHILDCARE PROVIDERS GAS STATION STAFF
PUBLIC TRANSIT WORKERS DELIVERY DRIVERS
GROCERY CLERKS AND STAFF
RESTAURANT AND TAKE-OUT STAFF

**AND ANYONE WHO IS PUTTING THEIR HEALTH AT
RISK DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.
MAY GOD BLESS AND PROTECT YOU!**



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader



Friendship Baptist Church Outreach Ministry *is here to **HELP** during these challenging times!*

Drive through to get **FREE** groceries:
(Meat, Produce, Dairy & More)

When: Fridays 3:00pm-4:00pm
Saturdays 11:30am-12:30pm

Where: Friendship Baptist Church, Pastor Ronald L. Bowens
3375 Church Lane, Duluth, GA 30096
Telephone: 770-497-8227
Email: friendshipduluth@att.net



FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED

For more information about the Outreach Ministry, please contact:

Diana McGhee
404-312-1232
dianaymcghee@bellsouth.net
or
Catherine Stafford
678-983-7587

HEALTH MINISTRY

Vickie Perry, RN/BSN, Ministry Leader



American
Diabetes
Awareness
Month

WHO'S AT RISK for prediabetes or type 2 diabetes?

You could have prediabetes or type 2 diabetes and not know it—there often aren't any symptoms. That's why it makes sense to know the risk factors:



45+ years old



Physically active less than 3 times/week



Family history of type 2 diabetes



High blood pressure



History of gestational diabetes*



Overweight

*Diabetes during pregnancy. Giving birth to a baby weighing 9+ pounds is also a risk factor.

DID YOU KNOW...

African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and some Asian Americans are at higher risk.



If you have any of the risk factors, ask your doctor about getting your blood sugar tested.

YOUR HEALTH IS A LIFE-LONG JOURNEY: (1) Take care of your body and mind; (2) Get and stay active; (3) Manage a healthy weight; and (4) Practice good sleep habits.

If anyone suspects they may be ill with COVID-19, call 770-513-5631 to schedule a FREE drive-through appointment. A doctor's referral is not needed and no insurance/billing is required.

COVID-19: How to Protect Yourself & Others

Updated April 24, 2020 CDC

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Wash Your Hands Often

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your cloth face covering
 - After changing a diaper
 - After caring for someone sick
 - After touching animals or pets
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that has 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

(COVID-19 cont'd)

Avoid Close Contact

- **Inside your home:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Outside your home:** Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Cover Your Mouth and Nose with a Cloth Face Cover When Around Others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone should wear a [cloth face cover](#) in public.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces [daily](#).
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them.
- Then, use a household disinfectant.

Monitor Your Health Daily

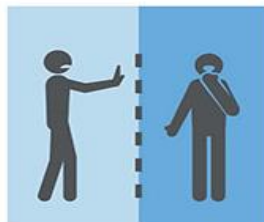
- Be alert for symptoms.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop



STAY HOME
EXCEPT FOR
WORK AND
OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE
COVERING WHEN
GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL
DISTANCING OF
AT LEAST 6 FEET
FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT
NON-PEAK
HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN
WITH WATER AND SOAP
(20 SECONDS
OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING
YOUR EYES, NOSE,
OR MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS
OR AFTER
TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR
MOUTH WITH A
TISSUE OR SLEEVE
WHEN COUGHING
OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT
"HIGH-TOUCH"
SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK
WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE
VISITING YOUR
DOCTOR

Spotlight On...

Communications Ministry Team Member – Michal Patterson



Michal joined the Communications Ministry in the mist of the pandemic and immediately began working with members of the video team to share the word of GOD. Michal began using the talents God has blessed her with to edify His people. She unselfishly devoted many hours each week to setting up video recording equipment, editing video clips for worship services, and producing quality videos.

Michal did all of this while continuing with her studies at Georgia State University and working at her job.

Michal also provides input that helps the Communications Ministry continue to evolve and establish ways to spread the Word during these challenging times.

She has truly been an important asset to the Communications Ministry Team, and we are so happy she chose to serve God through this ministry.

Michal is the daughter of Deacon Michael and Paula Patterson. While attending Georgia State University, she studied Journalism and Public Relations. On December 16th, Michal will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism. She plans to continue her education pursuing a Master's degree in Mass Communications. She also enjoys filming, editing and writing.



Signs of the Season – Christmas

By Christine Smith, Communications Ministry

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

When we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, we are celebrating the First Coming of Christ into the world which was over 2,000 years ago. The exact year and day are uncertain although we celebrate the occasion on December 25th. We know Christ was born in a manger in a town called Bethlehem (O Holy night!). The major signs of the Savior's birth (First Coming) were a star in the heavens, a birth to a virgin, a prophesied lineage and birthplace for the Messiah. There are many Bible verses that refer to and prophesied the coming of Christ way before His arrival. Let's look at a few of those Bible verses during this wonderful time of year and get a little more understanding of each through biblical commentary:

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14 Commentary: The prophet Isaiah drives the point, that a son shall be born and He shall be called Immanuel.

“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:35 Commentary: Mary's

pregnancy would come about through immaculate conception; the direct power of the Holy Spirit of God. The son born to her would be of Adam's race but free of any trace of Adam's sin. He would not be one whom God merely adopted as his son, but one who was actually God's Son. He would be the head of a new creation). Source: Bridgeway Bible Commentary



“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Zechariah 9:9 Commentary: This prophesies the triumphal entry of Jesus. The Messiah is humbly coming (lowly and riding a donkey). This humble entry showed that Jesus was a different kind of King from the more common ones known at that time (i.e., Julius Caesar).

“The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken...” Deuteronomy 18:15 Commentary: Scripture tells us that no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, but that a time was coming when the Lord God would raise up another Prophet, and today, we know Him to be Jesus - the Lord's anointed Prophet, Priest, and King of Israel. Source: <https://dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com/deuteronomy-18-15>

Tis the season, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and may these beautiful verses bless your heart at Christmas time!



We give because that's what God requires of us, that we should be givers and not receivers. We give because we feel good about ourselves when we do this act of kindness. We give because we are meeting the needs of others. We give because we are doing the Christian thing in sharing with others.

This simple act of giving takes the focus from ourselves, from our problems and situations and turns it around for good for someone else. It makes us feel good inside to see the gratitude on the faces of others that we have blessed.

Giving from our hearts fills our lives with joy and nourishes our very souls. The great Gandhi once said, "To find yourself, lose yourself in the service of others". So true joy lies in the act of giving without an expectation of receiving something in return. There are several principles to giving.

1. Giving should be free (Matthew 10:8)

"Freely you received, freely give."

2. Giving is to be in secret (Matthew 6:3-4)

"But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

3. Give according to your ability (Ezra 2:69, 2 Corinthians 8:3, 12)

"According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work."

"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

4. Give when the Lord impresses on you to give more than you able to (2 Corinthians 8:3)

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, ...".

5. We will reap in proportion to that which we sow (2 Corinthians 9:6)

"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will reap also sparingly and he who sows bountifully will reap also bountifully."

6. We are to give cheerfully and not out of duty and against our will (2 Corinthians 9:7)

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity for God loves a cheerful giver."

7. We are to give as the Lord leads us individually (2 Corinthians 9:7)

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity for God loves a cheerful giver."

So, my Brethren, in these trying times when so many people are out of work, shut in due to COVID-19 and going out of their minds with worry, reach out to someone to be a blessing. If you can afford it, adopt a family for the holidays. Minister to the needs of children during this season. Be a Blessing and see what the Rewarder will do for you.

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung, Communications Ministry

The Virus and The Solution by Cheryl Alford

(Originally written and shared in 2011; updated - 1/28/16; again - 10/20/2020)



COVID-19 is an acronym for Corona Virus Disease 2019. As you know, this particular virus has been wreaking havoc for most of 2020 so far. The number 19 represents the fact that it was first reported on December 31, 2019. There are many symptoms associated with it. More than a million people world-wide have been infected. Hundreds of thousands of deaths have occurred. It's contagious and if you get it, you can spread it to another two or more people. It has affected us to the point that our normal everyday living has been disrupted.

Viruses are not new, but COVID-19 is more unusual than past viruses. Experts have not seen anything like it before which is why they have referred to it as "Novel" virus. It's wise to remain extremely aware and cautious to avoid contracting it, especially since they have yet to come up with a vaccine to fight it. While there's discussion as to some potential vaccines, nothing has been formalized. Worse yet, the virus seems to be spiking in several states, all the more reason to make sure to continue staying safe.

COVID-19 is just one of many types of viruses that can wreak havoc. I imagine that some if not all of you who own a computer have had a virus at some point. It's certainly no fun. Your hard drive can be so infected that you have to purchase a new one.

A few years ago, my computer had a virus. It happened that I was going through my emails and saw one from "Federal Express" which basically said, "your package was returned or undeliverable." I wondered why I would be receiving a notice but since it was tax season and at the time, I was preparing taxes, it was possible even though in the back of my mind, there was some concern. Curiosity got the best of me and I attempted to open it. We've all probably heard the expression, "curiosity killed the cat."

Before I knew it, there was a message indicating that someone was attempting to gain access to my credit card information. The message suggested that I provide certain information to prevent this. Long story short, there were several popups about some unknown software and the virus had installed itself on my computer. Not only that, the virus changed the language from English to something foreign so that every time I tried to perform a task, I couldn't understand the commands.



I called my daughter who reprimanded me for opening the email. She instructed me to try to do a full virus scan using my Norton antivirus software. However, the virus blocked my ability to do so. I had to shut down the computer and leave it until she could come over. When she finally showed up, she was able to open Norton and perform a full virus scan. Two Trojan viruses were detected and removed. Had this not been successful, I would probably have had to purchase a new hard drive and would have lost all of my internet information and any other infected software.

You're probably wondering what my point is. I learned from an older pastor who was also a theology professor that if you look hard enough, you can find a spiritual lesson in every situation. I wondered what lesson the Lord would have me to learn concerning viruses.

At the time this was originally written, I had begun sharing Christian acronyms within the words of inspiration presented during the Wednesday Midday Service. I searched the internet for an acronym and definition for "VIRUS". I found the following:

V = Vital; I = Information; R = Resources; U = Under; S = Siege.

Webster provided two definitions: A virus is something that poisons the mind or soul. It can also cause illness within our immune system. From a medical standpoint, a virus is hard to treat because it lives inside the body's cells. Antibiotics tend not to work in trying to cure it.

(The Virus and the Solution cont'd)

A second definition (one that is more closely associated with the acronym) is that it is a computer program usually hidden within another program. It produces copies of itself and inserts them into other programs and usually performs a malicious action.

Understanding these two definitions, I came up with an acronym of my own from a spiritual perspective:

V = Very; I = Infectious; R = Replica; U = Usually; S = Subtle.

When you consider my acronym, the definition you come up with is Satan – a cunning, crafty, sneaky, subtle, sly scoundrel. One who finds ways to implant himself in our mind so that he can take control of our lives. That's what a virus does. It tries to take control of your computer causing it to malfunction. (Sounds like Satan to me.) And let me add a quote heard recently: "the real virus is not what kills the body but the soul: in other words, sin". Satan attempts to control us by tempting us to do just that.

Sometimes, even before we're aware of his presence, he has managed to gain a foothold and when he does, he wreaks havoc in our personal lives, in our physical and emotional well-being and in our spiritual lives. That's what a virus does. It wreaks havoc. It causes destruction, devastation and confusion.

To remove the virus from my computer, we had to activate my antivirus software's full virus scan. Fortunately, the virus had become dormant and we were able to open up Norton. Satan doesn't become dormant. 1 Peter 5:8b says "**your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour**".

Whenever there's a virus, it requires some action on our part. If you leave it alone, it will spread and replicate itself in other areas causing even more destruction. You have to get rid of it. It requires the right tools or equipment. It requires patience and determination. It requires the right mindset.

Just like Norton Anti-Virus software is a good tool for removing a virus and keeping our computer system clean and safe, our loving God through His Holy Spirit will cleanse and purge us of anything that is not like Him. Thank God that we have His Holy Spirit to combat the spiritual virus that tries to bring turmoil in our lives. Thank God we have His word to guide and instruct us when we find ourselves in the midst of a mess. Thank God that He is not only our guide but our comforter as well. He leads us down a path of righteousness for His sake. He makes a way of escape when we fall into temptation. He will create within us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within. He reminds us not to lean to our own understanding but to trust Him.

In the same way my daughter was able to restore my computer, Our God can restore our souls. I said earlier that curiosity killed the cat. The second part of that is 'satisfaction brought him back'. That's what I mean when I say God restores our souls when Satan has infected us and tries to destroy or kill us.

With COVID, experts remind us to wash our hands for 20 seconds, wear a mask, stay home unless absolutely necessary to go out and maintain social distancing of 6 feet. When it comes to Satan, remember what the Word of God says. I quoted part of 1 Pet. 5:8 a moment ago. The beginning of the verse admonishes us to be sober, to be vigilant. We're encouraged to stay alert so that we can protect ourselves from those evil forces that may come against us. I confess that when I decided to open that email, it was the result of a momentary lapse of good judgment.

Verse 9 reminds us to resist the devil; to be steadfast in the faith knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by other Christians. The only way we can resist is to stand firm; not yield to temptation, remain true to the Word and look unto Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith.

(The Virus and the Solution cont'd)

Verse 10 goes on to say, may the God of grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered awhile, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you. We should remain confident that God works thru our trials to strengthen us so that we can grow to be effective, mature Christians.

My daughter made me wait over a week, even knowing how frustrated I was before she came over and very easily and confidently began the process to restore my computer. One of the spiritual lessons I had to learn was waiting patiently and trusting that everything would work out for my good. It's during our time of frustration and anxiety that the Word should come alive in our heart. For me, what came to mind was: Psalm 27:14, wait on the Lord and be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart and Romans 8:28, we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.

So, if you ever receive a suspicious email, do not yield to temptation. Immediately press delete, press escape; just get rid of it or turn off that computer and wait for your help to come and solve the problem.

In the same way, when Satan places temptations in your path, just remember that The word says that no temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able but with the temptation will also make the way of escape that you may be able to bear it. That's a mouthful but it's the Word and we need to stand on it.

One more thing – I found this on Facebook several years ago. It has less to do with the problem and more to do with the solution to the problem from a spiritual perspective. As a matter of fact, it sums up what has been said in so many words. It references the functions of a computer and it reminds us that certain keys perform specific tasks. From a spiritual perspective, it's a reminder that Jesus is better than these keys because each key is limited to one particular responsibility while Jesus can and will perform **all** of these functions in our lives.

Some, if not all of us, are familiar with these functions on a computer: It says that Jesus **enters your life, scans your problem, edits your tension, downloads solutions, deletes your worries and saves you**. The result: you're up and running – good as new. This may not be profound but it is a testimony to the fact that we do not have to give in to temptation. If we do, we can repent and be restored.

Just like Norton Security software worked to eradicate that computer virus, Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, is working to cleanse and purge us of anything that will hinder us from serving Him in spirit and truth with our whole heart, mind and strength. As long as you pay your annual fee for the service, Norton will continue to do its job. As long as we stay focused on Jesus, He will watch over us and prevent us from falling prey to the devil and his schemes and present us faultless to our only Wise God.



Dare to Believe

By Vivian G. Wilkins



Monday, November 9, 2020, started out like any other day with devotion and breakfast. Around noon, I received a call from my daughter, Stepheni, saying she wasn't feeling well. She explained there was an abscess on her lower back causing a lot of discomfort and her husband, Derald, was taking her to the doctor. Following her examination, she was given prescriptions for pain meds and antibiotics--and sent home.

The next day, I called to check on her and she was feeling worse. She said "Mom, I had a restless night." I dressed and went over to her home, and by midday, she was physically weak, delirious and incoherent while laboring to breathe. In our efforts to calm her, we realized that she needed more help than we could provide, so her husband called 911 for assistance. The paramedics arrived quickly and rushed her off to the hospital.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, Derald was the only one permitted to go inside the hospital with her. I praise God that he was able to stay by his wife's bedside, advocating for her care, diligently praying for her and keeping me (his mother-in-law) abreast of things. It escapes definition trying to explain how helpless I felt, as a mother, when unable to help my child--even if she's now a 45-year-old wife and mother. When Derald told me that they sedated her and put her on a ventilator, I literally fell to my knees and cried out to God to have mercy!

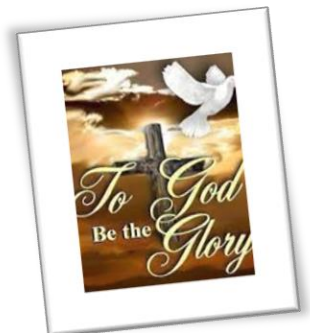
The first few days and nights were critical. Stepheni suffered cardiac arrests twice during this time. Even in the darkest hours, we believed that God would bring her back to us. I pleaded--no, I begged God to spare her. My eldest son (Marlon) died at 35 years old in June 2013 and my husband (James) died 7 months later in January 2014, so I was an emotional wreck at the very thought of losing another loved one, especially my only daughter.

For some reason I thought of Jesus' friendship with Lazarus. He received word that His beloved friend was ill, but chose to delay going to see him. Mary and Martha were mourning the loss of their brother when Jesus arrived. They believed that He could have healed Lazarus had He come immediately. He then was shown where their brother was buried. Jesus commanded that Lazarus rise up--and he did! Afterwards, Jesus wept. Many believe that Jesus wept because He feels our pain and sorrows (and He does) -- yet others believe He wept because His disciples and friends truly didn't know HIM, after all this time together during His earthly ministry. Now let's not be too hard on them, like many of us, we believe He can heal, but we dare to believe in the impossible--that He can resurrect--but it's in His time and according to His will.

I called upon family and friends-- every prayer warrior I knew--asking them to uplift Stepheni by name. And from our lips to God's ears, we asked Him to heal her body from head to toe--and He heard our fervent prayers.

#Hallelujah, to God be the glory!!!

The following Monday (November 16th), the ventilator was removed and she was responsive to the doctors' commands. That evening, Stepheni called me and simply said "**Mama, God saved me!**"



(Dare to Believe cont'd)

We are forever indebted to the medical professionals, the paramedics and other essential workers who showed such compassion to Stepheni. Some of them asked her "if Derald was a preacher?" because they saw him reading scriptures and praying over his wife daily. It's interesting that we never know how God uses any of us as "living witnesses."

Philippians 4:6-7 says ***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace that surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."***

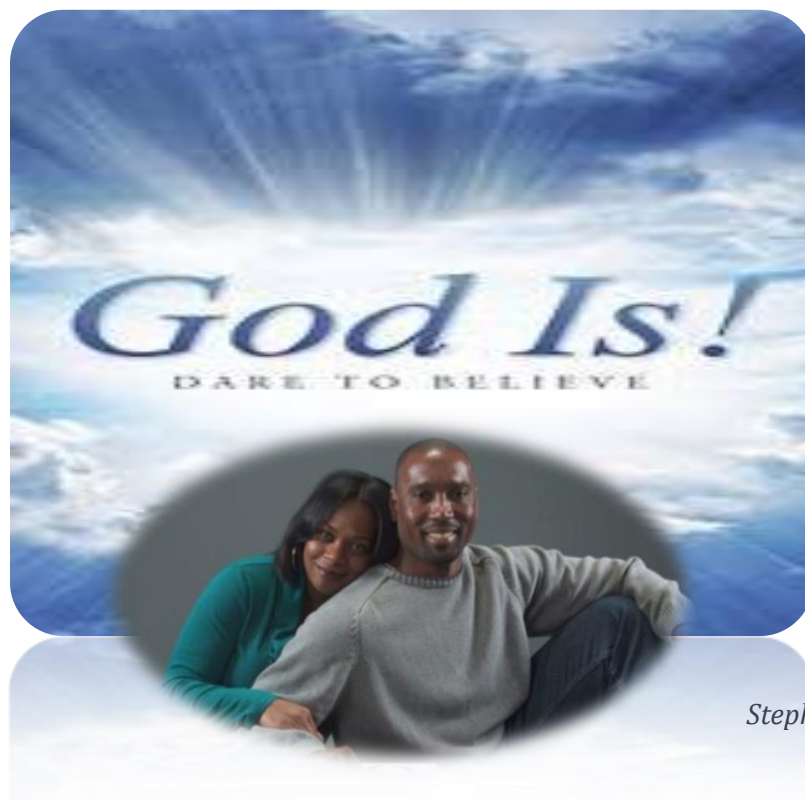
We dared to rest in that peace that God gave to us--and on Sunday, November 22nd, Stepheni was discharged from the hospital and home for Thanksgiving with her family. This has been quite traumatic, from seeing a vibrant woman one minute, and the next, seeing her fight for her life. Each day is better as she recovers slowly--but surely.

The outpour from people with personal stories on how Stepheni has impacted their lives over the years is unbelievable--especially her colleagues and her students. Borrowing from a quote by William Arthur Ward: "The good teacher explains; the superior teacher demonstrates; but a great teacher inspires." Admittedly, I'm biased and feel that she encompasses all of the aforementioned.

As we enter the holy season of Christmas, let us remember the reason we celebrate. If you don't know Jesus Christ, the Promised Messiah, get to know Him. He's the antidote needed for today's hate-filled climate and the Balm in Gilead that can heal the sin sick souls of men.

In closing, please give thanks to your loved ones near or far. For sure, the Wilkins-Woods family will do so, praise God!!!

(Vivian Wilkins is a longtime friend of Paulette Tapp)



Stepheni and Derald Woods

“We Can Do All Things through Christ Who Strengthens Us”

Written by Rev. Artis L. Johnson



I often hear Christians regularly recite Philippians 4:13. This uplifting, soul-stirring, take-on-the-world promise is one of the basic foundations and tenets of our faith.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” NKJV

These words should be more than personal platitudes but genuine semaphores of encouragement. The Apostle Paul wrote these words while enduring some of the worst trials of his life. Despite the threats of pain, suffering and death, Paul realized that God, and He alone, gives us strength in ways that go beyond the present age of good times and the “all is well” moments. Thankfully, Christ’s strength reaches right down into the abyss of our turmoil, trouble and pain. And it’s there that we can truly do “all things.” The following are three (3) surprising ways this happens:

1. Through Trials

Because of social media and the world’s portrayals, we often think of victory in a very limited perspective --- we envision famous and rich champions with trophies or medals. We think of spotlights, fame, parades and celebrations. But, in life, true victory often happens far away from the crowd.

In Christ, we should expect with certainty to experience joyful times, just as anyone does. But what truly sets us apart as Christians is that we can find victory in the most difficult trials. James knew that type of struggle very well, and yet he could honestly say with conviction:

“²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything”—James 1:2-4

The Master’s strength helps us to not only endure the tough times, but also to grow during them. Believers aren’t meant to just slog through the pain; we are meant to see our faith blossom right in the face of our enemies and battles. That’s the kind of strength Jesus gives.

2. Through Contentment

Every human being experiences the constant struggle to be content. There are times when disappointments, setbacks, and delays keep hammering away at us. If not for a sound relationship with Christ, we’d quickly trip and stumble our way into bitterness and entitlement. After all, this world tells us that we “deserve to be happy,” and it’s easy to accept that into our mindset.

But in Christ, we move our eyes off the things we don’t have, the frustrations that surround us, and we put them where they need to be, on God. Paul’s words from prison show this spiritual truth in action:

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”—Philippians 4:12 NIV

(We Can Do All Things...cont'd)

Jesus gives us the strength to see beyond our present circumstances and to trust in Him to provide everything we truly need.

3. Through His Victory

Our greatest victory comes from the realization that it's His victory, not ours! We can face any situation and be content no matter what happens because of one important fact:

***"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
—1st Corinthians 15:57 NIV***

Jesus died in our place and came back to life as a true Conqueror with ALL POWER, and all He accomplished gets credited to our account. We didn't earn a single bit of it, but we're guaranteed so much:

Through His Victory We Gain Peace:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."—John 16:33 NIV

Through His Victory We Received Life:

***"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit"
—1 Peter 3:18 RSV***

Through His Victory We Have A Fresh Start:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come!"—2nd Corinthians 5:17 RSV

Christ won the victory, and we get to share the prize. Now, that's how we can truly do all things through Christ.

Stay strong and be encouraged my Friendship family. Continue to keep Pastor Bowens and his family in your prayers.

Remember, it's a fixed fight and we already have the victory!

**I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13**





WORK

Part Three of Five Devotionals

WHAT IS NORMAL?

Work is a good thing that God has given all of us. Children work at school and do chores at home. Teenagers train in sports, while others get their first job. Adults work at raising kids, serving others, and running companies. Some of us go to work away from our homes, and some of us don't. Some of us get paid to work, and some of us don't. And some of us love our work, and some of us don't. No matter what we do or how we work, God has given us this gift to provide for our families as well as to make a difference in the world.

While our work is a gift from God, sometimes we can develop an unhealthy relationship with it (just like with money). For example, some people overwork themselves to the point of burnout, which may lead to serious health issues. Other times, we may struggle with underworking, whether by choice or due to circumstances out of our control. Working hard and resting well are both incredibly valuable, but ultimately, we must find a better than normal viewpoint and work ethic when it comes to how much we produce.

Let's take a look at the difference between what normal and better than normal can look like in our work lives:

Normal finds its identity in a job, while better than normal knows who we are in Christ.

Normal chooses workaholicism, while better than normal knows when to say "no."

Normal accepts exhaustion, while better than normal values rest.

Normal looks for ways to avoid difficult work, while better than normal perseveres.

Normal sees what we do, while better than normal sees purpose in how we work.

Normal does the bare minimum, while better than normal works with integrity.

The people who live on this planet are unique and diverse. Regardless of how we work, the point is that we choose to work hard at whatever we do. The best way to do this is to see ourselves working for God.

In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people. (Colossians 3:23 NCV)

No matter what our work schedules and tasks look like, let's consider Jesus to be our employer. Yes, we should work hard to do our jobs well and honor our earthly employers. But placing Jesus at the forefront of our minds is even better because we can then honor Him by working hard and resting well.

In what ways do you feel healthy, and in what ways should you make changes? Spend some time thinking through your work life.

Read Genesis 2:15, Proverbs 13:4, Galatians 6:9, Colossians 3:23, and 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

Coming January 2021 Issue *"Better Than Normal, Part Four: Relationships"* (A YouVersion Bible Devotional shared by Paulette Tapp)



Dorian Rogers, Superintendent
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 Phone: 770-309-6245

FBC Sunday School on ZOOM! Please join one of our Sunday School classes every Sunday at 9:45 am. We have begun our Spring Quarter: The study for this quarter will focus on **“Call in the New Testament.”**

Classes Available

Men’s Class

Women’s Class

Marriage Class

Conn3ct Class (Young Adults)

Singles Class

Also, join us for Youth Church and Teen Church. Please go to our website at www.fbcduluth.org for the link to the Zoom classes. See you there!

Sunday school books are available for pick up from the Church office Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm.

From the November 29th Lesson “Impartial Love”: Why can’t a Christian just focus on loving God? Why is loving our neighbor/brother needed? Search the Scriptures: 1. What virtues does James attribute to the poor as a class of people (James 2: 5)? 2. What is the royal law according to the Scriptures? (v. 8) 3. By what law shall believers be judged? (v. 12) 4. What virtue will rejoice against the judgment? (v. 13) Discuss the Meaning 1. What should be the attitude of the believer toward the rich and the poor in our congregations? 2. What are some distinct ways believers in the church today mistreat members or visitors?

Liberating Lesson: In many metropolitan areas, it appears as if highways are built so that commuters don’t have to drive through poor communities. This strategy represents an extreme attempt to keep poor people trapped in a marginalized state where society can avoid the issue of improving their quality of life. But God has called His church to be impartial disciples who do not show partiality toward the rich. Instead, we are to fulfill God’s royal law and show the love of God to all people, treating everyone as we would like to be treated—with no respect to a person’s social status. To the extent that an unfortunate situation involving favoring the rich and ignoring the poor affects African Americans, and therefore African American Christians, we must soberly consider what we can do to help improve the economic conditions of poor neighborhoods. Why are people poor? Is there a way out of poverty?

Application for Activation: At least three times this week make a sacrifice to show practical acts of love to someone. Ask God to lead you and then keep your eyes open for the opportunities. They will come. Do a self-evaluation to discover a time you judged someone unfairly. Repent and ask the Lord to help you fulfill James 2: 13.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sis. Charlene Benn, Ministry Leader



FBC
Youth & Teen
Worship Services

@ fbcduluth.org/onlineclass-4/

TEEN MINISTRY
Rev. Stan & Min. Barbara Williams, Ministry Leaders

A Child's Logic (Proverbs 19:18)

Life Meets Theology, Joel Dorman, August 2020

"If you wouldn't punish me, I wouldn't be in trouble."

This brilliant example of logic came from my lips when I was very young—maybe around four or five years old. The idea is basically true: if my parents did not administer punishments to me, I would not find myself in trouble.

In other words, if they were just more permissive, I wouldn't be in trouble. My rebellion was not my fault, but it was theirs.

Perhaps you can imagine my shock when I heard my own children using these words to my wife (Patty) and me. It's not like I told them. Children don't need to be taught to be rebellious.

What amazes me, however, is not how my children also possess my brilliant logic (yes, that's sarcastic!), but how many adults actually believe this same logic. There are adults who use this same kind of logic I did at four or five. How many times have we heard that others are the cause for their lawlessness? How many times have we heard "society" blamed for someone breaking the law.

It's the same logic: "if you changed the definition of illegal, I wouldn't be breaking the law." In other words, "if you wouldn't punish me, I wouldn't be in trouble." The blame is on the law or the rule and not on the rebellious attitude of the individual. Not surprisingly, this isn't new. Proverbs 19:18 NIV teaches us:

"Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death."

Of course, we have seen rebellious people come from good homes with Christian parents, and this Proverb gives the indication that is a possibility. Yet, there is also the stronger probability of a good outcome when we discipline our children.

The Hebrew word in Proverbs 19:18 translated "discipline" has a double meaning. One of those meanings is "instruction." We teach our children. We guide them towards righteousness. We point them towards Jesus in all we do. We model a life of worship of the Lord in the full view of our children.

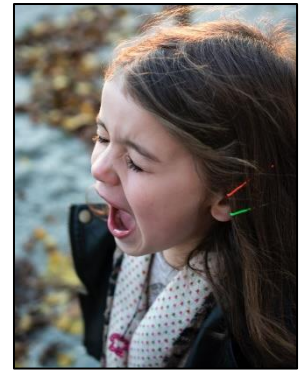
The other meaning is the one we're probably more familiar with: "correction." We must avoid the overly-permissive approach of "lawn mower parenting." A "lawn mower parent" is a parent who mows over all the obstacles in front of their children so they do not experience the natural consequences of life. More formally, we call it "enabling." Scripture warns us that is setting up our children for excruciating pain later in life.



Disciplining our children is not unloving (as I accused my parents when I was so young). Guiding them and correcting them is actually the most loving thing we can do. Disciplining them drives rebellion from their hearts. Disciplining our children helps them cope with the realities of life.

Does a rule need to change simply because our children do not like it? Of course not. Does a law need to change simply because a criminal does not like it? Of course not.

We can change the course of a culture if we raise the next generation with the hope of them enjoying their life in freedom and respect. Parents, the outcome largely depends on us. (Shared with permission)



Celebrating Our History

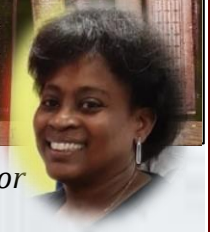
A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

Attributed to Marcus Garvey

BLACK HISTORY

OUR VOICES. OUR STORIES.

*Sis. Diane Russell, Black History Coordinator
Communications Ministry*

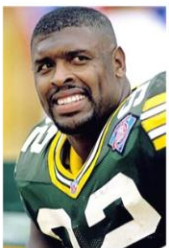


CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Wearing your faith on your sleeve right next to your team number might surprise sports fans when it comes to professional athletes and coaches.

Especially today, when many sports stars' personal lives and antics are splashed across front pages around the world. From their legal and professional troubles — domestic violence, steroid use, or gambling — to their over-the-top consumerist lifestyles complete with high-priced luxury vehicles and plenty of bling, the public is privy to every detail.

Because of that, we often don't hear about those athletes that make religion their focus. Many of America's top professional sports figures rank God as No. 1 in their lives, and they are not afraid to show their dedication and religious beliefs both on and off the field.



Reggie White

They called the Green Bay Packer, Reggie White, the "Minister of Defense" when he played, largely because he is an ordained Evangelical minister. He often praised God during post-game interviews, and said, "God allowed me to use this game as a platform to proclaim the name of Jesus. I know some people do not like what I say sometimes, but God has called me to preach a message and I have to preach the message."



A. C. Green

The retired NBA star's faith is so strong that he insists he was a virgin throughout his basketball career, despite stories about his teammates sending willing groupie to his hotel room. He now runs the A.C. Green Youth Foundation, which promotes abstinence until marriage.



Lolo Jones

The top Olympic hurdler and bobsledder Lolo Jones is a devout Christian who reads the Bible and plays Christian music before competition. She faced some public backlash for criticizing the book "Fifty Shades of Gray" for its sexual content and has said she intends to remain a virgin until marriage.

(Black History cont'd)

African American Athletes in the 1936 Olympics



18 African Americans (16 men and 2 women) competed in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. This was three times the number who had competed in the 1932 Los Angeles Games. The increase in the number of Black athletes who competed reflected the migration of Black people to northern cities beginning in the 1910s. It was also the result of the growing interest of northern colleges in recruiting Black athletes.

The African American athletes on the 1936 US Olympic team brought home 14 medals: 8 gold; 4 silver; and 2 bronze.

African American Medalists			
David Albritton	High jump, silver	Frederick Pollard, Jr.	110-meter hurdles, bronze
Cornelius Johnson	High jump, gold	Matthew Robinson	200-meter dash, silver
James LuValle	400-meter run, bronze	Archibald Williams	400-meter run, gold
Ralph Metcalfe	4x100-meter relay, gold	Jack Wilson	Bantamweight boxing, silver
	100-meter dash, silver	John Woodruff	800-meter run, gold
Jesse Owens	100-meter dash, gold		
	200-meter dash, gold		
	Broad (long) jump, gold		
	4x100-meter relay, gold		

Continued Discrimination after the Olympics

While the 1936 Olympic victories were a source of pride for the African American communities in the United States and a step toward alleviating discrimination in American sports, they did not have an immediate impact on the daily lives of Black athletes at home or on American race relations in general. After the Olympics, the athletes returned to a country segregated by race, to a nation where they were

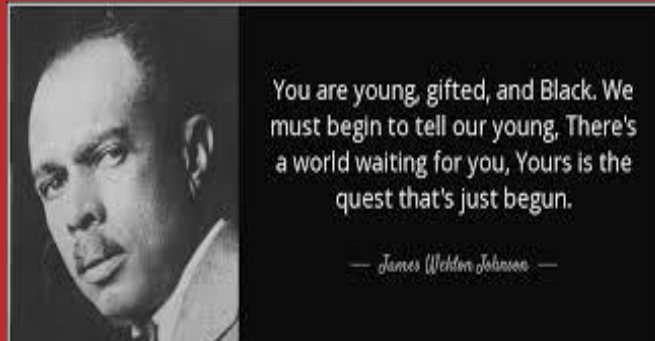
treated as “second-class” citizens. A survey of the press from the time, particularly in the South, indicates that the success of African American Olympians was either downplayed or ignored.



And Olympic victories did not translate into professional opportunities. As Jesse Owens, the most celebrated athlete on the 1936 US Olympic team, wrote in his 1972 autobiography *I Have Changed*:

“After I came home from the 1936 Olympics with my four medals, it became increasingly apparent that everyone was going to slap me on the back, want to shake my hand or have me up to their suite. But no one was going to offer me a job.”

—Jesse Owens, 1972



National Black Anthem

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
 Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
 Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
 Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us;
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
 Let us march on till victory won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
 Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
 Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
 We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
 Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
 Where the white gleam of our star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
 Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
 Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
 True to our God, true to our native land.



Church News & Other Important Information

JOB OPPORTUNITY

<https://www.jobs-ups.com/category/seasonal-jobs/1187/12811/1>



Early Voting

Begins December 14

Election Day

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

<https://abundant.co/fbcduluth/give>

Go to fbcduluth.org and click on: "Giving" tab or text: fbcduluth to 73256.

Contributions can also be mailed to:



Friendship Baptist Church
P.O. Box 604
Duluth, GA 30096

Bible Word Search: Jesus' Life from the Beginning to Eternity

All the words listed below are in the puzzle (left, right, up, down or diagonally). After you have found all the words, unscramble the remaining letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*.

M A S W E H T T A M W E S T N
 F J E S L E G N A J A N I S O
 O O I O P B D H T U L E M I I
 R H M S M R P P H D K L O T T
 G N E G E E F E R A E A N P A
 I T N W T M O S E S D D T A R
 V H E E S L A O E I O G H B U
 E E R H O N B J W S N A E E G
 R A U E N O A E I C W M Z H I
 O P O A O I R L S A A Y E T F
 F O Y L F T A I E R T R A N S
 S S E I G A B J M I E A L H N
 I T V N O E B A E O R M O O A
 N L O G D R A H N T O D T J R
 S E L P I C S I D E V L E W T

ANDREW

ANGELS

ANNAS

BARABBAS

CREATION

ELIJAH

FORGIVER OF SINS

HEALING

JAMES

JOHN THE APOSTLE

JOHN THE BAPTIST

JOSEPH

JUDAS ISCARIOT

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

MARY MAGDALENE

MATTHEW

MOSES

PETER

SIMON THE ZEALOT

SON OF GOD

TEMPLE

THREE WISE MEN

TRANSFIGURATION

TWELVE DISCIPLES

WALKED ON THE

WATER

Mystery Answer: _ _ _ _ _

(Answer on page 32)

Bible Quiz: Jesus' Birth

Select one answer for each question. Then go to page 33 to check your results.

1) Jesus was born closest to which year?

- 10 B.C.
- 5 B.C.
- 0 A.D.
- 5 A.D.

2) Where was Jesus born?

- Nazareth
- Bethlehem
- Jerusalem
- Jericho

3) Why did Joseph and Mary give the baby the name Jesus?

- He was named after Joseph's brother.
- They were instructed to by an angel.
- It was suggested by Mary's cousin Elizabeth.
- It was foretold in the Book of Isaiah.

4) How did the shepherds who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?

- They followed a star in the east.
- King Herod told them where Jesus was born.
- They were told in a dream.
- An angel of the Lord told them.

5) How did the Magi (wise men) who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?

- They followed a star in the east.
- The shepherds told them Jesus had been born in Bethlehem.
- They were told in a dream.
- An angel of the Lord told them.

(Bible Quiz cont'd)

6) Which was *not* a gift the Magi brought to Jesus?

- gold
 - frankincense
 - myrrh
 - silver
-

7) Why did Joseph take Mary and Baby Jesus to Egypt?

- To look for work as a carpenter
 - That was where they lived.
 - To escape from King Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus.
 - To visit Mary's cousin Elizabeth
-

8) Of what religion were Joseph, Mary and Jesus?

- Islam
 - Christianity
 - Judaism
 - Buddhism
-

9) Where did Jesus grow up after returning from Egypt?

- Nazareth
 - Bethlehem
 - Jerusalem
 - Jericho
-

10) One year when Jesus and his family went to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple and his parents could not find him for 3 days. How old was Jesus then?

- 10
- 12
- 14
- 16

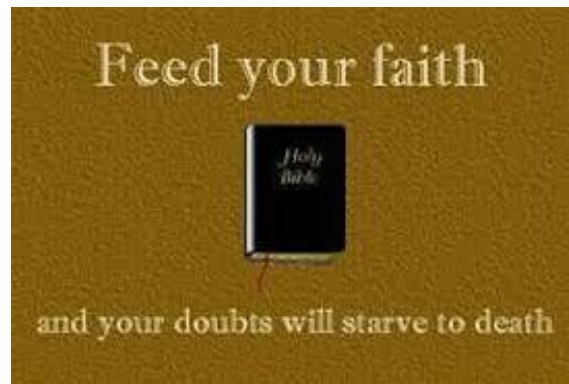
(Answers on page 33)

FAITH

is like Wi-Fi,
it's invisible but
it has the power
to connect you to
what you need.



Password: The Lord Jesus



In your time of need, read God's Word

- When in sorrow John 14
- When in danger Psalm 121
- When you are lonely and fearful Psalm 23
- When you are worried..... Matthew 11:28-30
- When you are depressed..... Psalm 27
- When God seems far away..... Psalm 13
- When your faith needs steering Hebrews 11
- When you grow bitter and critical..... 1 Corinthians 13
- When you have sinned Psalm 51

Available 24/7

Mystery Answer from page 29: LAMB OF GOD

How did you do?

Results for Bible Quiz: Jesus' Birth

1) Jesus was born closest to which year?

The answer is: 5 B.C. In the year 532 A.D., a monk named Denys le Petit calculated that Jesus was born in the Roman year 753 and we number our years of the Christian era since that date. However, it is now believed that Denys miscalculated and Jesus was actually born between 6 and 4 B.C.

2) Where was Jesus born?

The answer is: Bethlehem. The story of Jesus' birth is told in Luke 2. Mary and Joseph were traveling to Bethlehem, a city that is now in the West Bank area of Israel. The inn was full so they settled down in a stable or cave where animals were kept. There, Jesus was born and laid in a manger (feeding trough) to sleep. Born in the most humble of circumstances, Jesus' kingdom was to be a heavenly kingdom of love and worship, not of earthly wealth and power.

3) Why did Joseph and Mary give the baby the name Jesus?

The answer is: They were instructed to by an angel. [Matthew 1:20-21](#), [Luke 1:26-33](#).

4) How did the shepherds who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?

The answer is: An angel of the Lord told them. [Luke 2:8-20](#)

5) How did the Magi (wise men) who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?

The answer is: They followed a star in the east. [Matthew 2:1-10](#)

6) Which was *not* a gift the Magi brought to Jesus?

The answer is: silver. [Matthew 2:11](#)

7) Why did Joseph take Mary and Baby Jesus to Egypt?

The answer is: To escape from King Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus. [Matthew 2:13-15](#). Herod misunderstood Jesus mission on Earth. He thought Jesus would grow up to seize power and become the new king. However, Jesus' grew up to reign over the Kingdom of Heaven, not an earthly kingdom. "Madonna and Child" by Bernardo Daddi (c. 1335)

8) Of what religion were Joseph, Mary and Jesus?

The answer is: Judaism. Jesus was born a Jew and remained faithful to Judaism all his life on earth. Only many years after his death did his followers become known as "Christians."

9) Where did Jesus grow up after returning from Egypt?

The answer is: Nazareth. Nazareth is in what is now the northern part of Israel, near the city of Haifa.

10) One year when Jesus and his family went to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple and his parents could not find him for 3 days. How old was Jesus then?

The answer is: 12. [Luke 2:41-50](#)

OPPORTUNITIES TO **SERVE** AT FRIENDSHIP

WEEKLY

Bible Study (Adult)	Wednesday	7:30 pm	Sanctuary
Intercessory Prayer	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Mid-Week Service	Wednesday	12:00 noon	Lower Level Main Building
New Members' Class	Sunday	9:45 am	Room 209 Family Life Center
Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 am	Family Life Center
Sunday School Teachers	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lower Level Main Building
Sunday Worship	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Teen Church	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Heritage Church
Youth Church Bible Study	Wednesday	7:45 pm	Lower Level Main Building

Classes and Meetings are virtual until further notice

MONTHLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Communication's Ministry	3rd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 135 Family Life Center
Deacon's Meeting	Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	7:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center
Education Ministry	2nd Monday	7:00 pm	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg
Gatekeepers Ministry	4th Saturday	10:00 am	Room 130 Family Life Center
Gospel Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 1 st & 3 rd Sunday	7:00 pm	
Health Ministry	2nd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg
Male Chorus Preparation	2nd & 4th Saturday	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Marriage Ministry	3rd Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 9:45 am	Room 239 Family Life Center
Media Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 130 Family Life Center
Men's Ministry	1st Saturday	10:30 am	TBA Monthly
Minister's Meeting	1st Saturday	3:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center
Money Matters	2nd Saturday	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall
Mother's Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 135 Family Life Center
Outreach Ministry	3rd Saturday	9:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Prison Ministry			
Seniors Ministry	4th Saturday	11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Shepherd's Care Ministry	3rd Saturday	10:00 am	Room 202 Lower Level Main Bldg
Singles Ministry	4th Saturday	12:30 pm	Lower Level - Heritage Church
Usher Ministry	1st Tuesday	7:00 pm	Room 135 Family Life Center
Women's Ministry	2nd Saturday	8:45 am	Fellowship Hall
Youth Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 2 nd & 4 th Sunday	6:45 pm	

SPECIAL MONTHLY SERVICES

Holy Communion	1st Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Baptism	3rd Sunday	11:00 am	Sanctuary
Baby Dedications	4th Sunday	7:30 & 11:00am	Sanctuary



Get plugged in using your gifts, talent, skills and time serving God's people **TOGETHER IN LOVE.**

Communications Ministry

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Vice President

Tina Patterson

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Paulette Tapp

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Friendship Baptist Church has a newly-enhanced website to provide greater communication across all FBC Ministries. Improvements are ongoing. Feedback can be provided to the Communications Ministry at tag49llm@aol.com.

SUBSCRIBE to: www.fbcduluth.org

Submit articles for the next newsletter now through Monday, January 4th.



Mission Statement

Exalt the Savior • Equip the Saint • Evangelize the Sinner

A Purpose-Driven Church

Friendly through Fellowship

Developed through Discipleship

Enlarged through Evangelism

Sharing and Caring through Servanthood

Stronger through God's Word and True Worship

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Leadership

FBC Associate Ministers

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Min. Clyde Conerly

Min. James Cottingham

Elder Chris Evans

Rev. Garfield Garner

Rev. Eugene Graves

Min. Shurron Green

Rev. Artis Johnson

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