

Eisenhower Church of Christ

“CHRISTMAS” And the Disappointed Angels

The angels were so happy when Jesus was born. It was the archangel Gabriel who had the good pleasure of coming to Mary, informing her that she had been chosen to bring forth a son that would be named Jesus (Lk 1:26-38). Possibly it was Gabriel, perhaps it was a different angel, but nonetheless it was an angel who reassured Joseph and explained the wonderful situation so that Joseph would feel free to carry out his plans to marry Mary (Mt. 1:20-25). Again, it was an angel who made the announcement to the shepherds that the Christ was born, he even told them where the child could be found. Then not one angel, but “a multitude of the heavenly host were praising God, and shying, Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased” (Lk 2:8-14). Oh, how the angels rejoiced! But, who would ever have known that the day would come when these very angels would be disappointed?

With exception of the few humans that were involved, only the angels knew the day when Jesus was born. Oh, of course, God knew too. For a few hundreds of years this was the case and all was well. There is no historical evidence that Jesus’ birthday was ever celebrated during His lifetime, during the lifetimes of the apostles, or during the post apostolic days. Undoubtedly, this was exactly as God, intended it for He did not record the date of Christ’s birth in the Book of books, neither did He give any instructions for the celebration of Christ’s birth. Yet man was not satisfied with things as God would have them. Because of the actions men took with regard to the birth of Christ, the angels must have been very disappointed. Disappointed that man would bring shame upon the holy birth.

No one in the beginning of the third century knew when Christ was born. About then, it became a point of speculation and study. Some guessed that He was born on January 2. Others thought Christ’s birth was on March 25. Still, others believed it May 20, or April 18 or 19, or maybe even March 28. Hippolytus speculated December 25. Needless to say there was much confusion and disagreement. And, the truth of the matter was that no one really knew when Christ was born. The angels knew though, and they were probably amused by man’s folly and ignorance in the matter. Man could only guess, but the angels knew when Christ was born.

No, the angels were not disappointed because men would study and try to learn as much as possible about the birth of the Savior. Their disappointment would come a bit later, but they were probably already applying Deuteronomy 29:29 to the situation- “The secret things belong unto Jehovah our God. Yes, the real disappointment of the angels came a bit later.

In the early days of the third century, men were only trying to figure out when Christ was born. However, as time progressed some began trying to establish celebrations on certain days, saying they were celebrating the birthday of Jesus. At first members of the church strongly opposed this practice; therefore, it gained little, if any acceptance. Tragically though, the stage had been set for a future certainty of the celebration of Christ’s birth. By the fourth century the church had apostatized so far that it was almost beyond recognition. Many pagans had become “Christians” to gain popularity or favor. In some cases, generals would command their entire armies to march through a river and thereby be baptized. Indeed, the church was more pagan than Christian.

The pagans had a festival, Brumalia, which was held each year on December 25. This followed the Saturnalia which came December 17-24. These pagan holidays were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be changed by the so, very weakened Christian influence. Some of the stronger Christians did resist and accused those that kept these pagan holidays of being idolaters and sun worshippers, but it was to no avail. Brumalia and Saturnalia were riotous and full of “merrymaking”- some of the “Christians” were glad for an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit or in manner. So, a pagan celebration was “Christianized” and from thence forth called “Christmas,” a supposed celebration of Christ’s birth. Bless the poor angels. How disappointing this must have been for them. What greater shame and mockery and insult could be heaped upon the birth for which they were so happy.

Even today the angels are disappointed when Christians celebrate “Christmas” as a “Holy” day. They want no religious or holy significance placed upon it. For the angels, this is not a happy time of the year. “Christmas” is truly a disappointment to the angels.

—Tommy J. Hicks

Prayer Request

The family of **Toya Zambelli** is requesting prayers on her behalf. On Toya's last visit to MD Anderson, she was told that her colon cancer metastasized to other organs and also still in her colon. Following her colon surgery a few months back, the report she received from the doctors in Corpus Christi were very positive and that she was totally cancer free and that there was no need for radiation or chemo. Needless to say, Toya was totally misdiagnosed. She is in need of prayers.

Concerns Update

Hazel Cavanaugh is still waiting for her test reports. Keep her in your prayers.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Bobbie Braun; Neva Carrigan; Hazel Cavanaugh; Steve Chavez; Cruz Coe; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Todd Drake; John Ford; Gloria Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Linda Horton; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Andrué LaFlure; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Jack McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Patty Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Laura Olivas; Connie Phelps; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Meta Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Teresa Vires; Jill Wallace; Lisa Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Haylee Wint; Jack Wright; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

We have several dear members of this congregation who, because of illness and/or advanced age, are not able to assemble with us on the Lord's Day for Bible Study and Worship as they would like. They mean a great deal to us and we love them very much. These members are: Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Anna Groves; Roberta Hamil; Winford Hambright; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Which is the longest river in Israel?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

Nehemiah was the royal wine steward at the court of King Artaxerxes.

FYI

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Thank You

To Devida, and the rest of the Church of Christ family; Thank you so very much for all your thoughts and prayers. It means so much to me. Take Care and God Bless all of you.

Love always,

Toya & Gary Zambelli

I want to thank everyone here at Eisenhower for all the prayers, cards, and gifts while I was sick and in the hospital.

Thank you very much,

Laura Oliva

To my Minister, Elders, Deacons and all my brothers & sisters; I love you all.

Thank you so very much for the Thanksgiving basket. I enjoyed it and shared it this time...

In Christ,

Hattie Gilmore

Office News

Group #4 of "Strengthening the Family" will meet in the library following the morning service.

Wednesday night, December 30th all bible classes will meet in the auditorium for services.

The "**New Mexico Children's Home**" will be back in Odessa Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 for a food pick up. They are requesting **tomato sauce and tomato paste**. If you can help out with this request it is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations also accepted.

Also, the **Tipton Children's Home** will be here March 8th-10th for their food drive. They are requesting: **Assorted Cereal, Assorted Soup, Ritz Crackers, Assorted Spices, Tomato Sauce, Vegetable Oil, Microwave Popcorn, Enchilada Sauce, Cough Drops, Toilet Bowl Cleaner and Disinfectant Spray.**

Food for thought...

A chip on the shoulder eventually becomes a heavy load.

Ulcers don't come by what you eat but what eats you.

December 27, 2015

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Denny Wilson	Denny Wilson
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	John Wood	Isaiah Armendarez
Second Prayer	Bill Brown	Don Easlon
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	Trinidad Wood
Lord's Supper		
West...	Rudy Ochoa	John Carroll
	Richard Siler	Communion
	Isaiah Armendarez	(In Library)
East...	Cody Wesson	
	Charles Wood	
	Bill Ryan	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon:* Jr. Munoz 363-1309 *Pulpit:* Tony Marrs 553-7349; *Table:* John Carroll 553-2780; *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties:* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Collections:* Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Renew"

(Romans 12:1-2)

Sunday PM

"Recharge"

(Ezekiel 37:1-3)

Our Records

Bible Class... 84

Morning Worship...143

Evening Worship...75

Wednesday...84

Contribution...\$4,187.00

