

November 2007

Cyberspace News

Michigan News

Church website
colornet.org

Christmas
Eve
Service
7:00 pm
Come join us
For a special
Evening.

Sermons
available on
DVD now
Call
734-242-7674
For more
information



The Meaning of Christmas

Elder Charles Moore

The real message of Christmas is NOT that long, long ago, in a galaxy far, far away, Santa Clause was born. No, as the little slogan well says, "Jesus is the reason for the season."

Christmas is all about the fact that Jesus came. We call this first coming of Jesus 'His Incarnation', when God became a man. What He accomplished by coming gives us the real meaning of Christmas. John 1:1-14 teaches some exciting truths of the coming of Jesus that can enable us not only to get a clearer picture of who Jesus is, but who we can be in Him.

Jesus Is God "Over" Us. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."** (John 1:1-3)

Here we see the fact of Jesus' supremacy, that He is God over us. The picture we have here is of Jesus dwelling in that eternal heavenly realm with God. John calls Him "the Word," and indeed He is the perfect revelation of who God is. Jesus, the Word, was with God and was God. Actually, the literal construction of the Greek gives this verse even more force. For it says, "In the beginning was

the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word." The bottom line is this: He is Lord. It is to Jesus we owe our allegiance. He is the God before whom we bend the knee. He is the God whom we worship.

Jesus Is God "For" Us. **"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness did not comprehend it."** (John 1:4-5) John says that the light shines in the darkness.

Jesus, the light of the world, came to shine upon us. The fact that He left His throne of glory to do that testifies to the fact that He cares greatly for us. He did not wait for us to come to Him—He came to us. God is for us. But Jesus' incarnation is not the only reason we know God is for us. Jesus left His throne of glory in Heaven to endure the death on the Cross. He gave up His eternal glory to be born in a stable. And then He gave His life to set us free. He is God for us.

Jesus Is God "With" Us. **"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."** (John 1:14)

John reveals Jesus to us as the Word made flesh.

Jesus clothed Himself with human flesh, and came to live among us. Jesus is revealed as Immanuel, 'God with us'. (Matthew 1:21-23) And this is the great truth of the incarnation. God has come to be one of us. Jesus has identified with us. That is what the babe in the manger is all about. We see in the virgin birth a sign of His divinity. The prophet Isaiah spoke of that miraculous birth, and by it we come to understand that God was made a man. The glorious significance of the matter is that in Jesus, God is with us. In the dying last words of Edward Perronet, he gave voice to the wonder of this. "Glory to God in the height of His divinity! Glory to God in the depths of His humanity! Glory to God in his all-sufficiency! Into His hands I commend my spirit."

Jesus Is God "In" And "Through" Us. **"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came unto His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** (John 1:10-13)

This God, who is over us, for us, and with us, came to live in us and through us. When Jesus came to this world, the world did not recognize Him. His own people rejected Him. But the Scripture reveals that to those who receive Him, He gave the

(Continued on page 2)

right or the power to become children of God. Jesus came into this world so that we could become children of God. This right to become children of God did not come to us because He came but because He died on the cross for us. He died on the Cross in order that our sins could be forgiven. He ascended into Heaven and sent forth His Holy Spirit to live in each of us who receives Him. When a believer comes to Jesus, he or she has the privilege to become inhabited with God. The mystery of the Gospel is that Christ lives in us. (Colossians 1:26-27)

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20) As we allow the Son of God to live in us and through us, we will then be able to communicate His love to others. We will be able to share His forgiveness and mercy, because they will see in us those who have been forgiven. The life which we have will be seen by others. And God will give us the privilege to share with them why Jesus came. We have the privilege of having the Son of God live His life in us and through us.

On that special night over 2,000 years ago, in the little town of Bethlehem, a pregnant woman and her husband were turned away from an inn. They found shelter in a stable. And there, in those humble surroundings, Christ was born; not in a palace, but in a stable, God became a man. He came that first Christmas because He was God. He came because He loved us. He came because He wanted us to be His. Jesus came to be the Savior to the world that is true meaning of Christmas. Don't miss out on the wonder.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

It is that time of year to recall the days of summer and feel the anticipation (if it is possible) for a really good snowfall that cancels school and promotes the construction of snow forts and cold noses. Here is trivia about November 2007 in Monroe, Michigan: 4 days that mixed sun with clouds and 26 days that just mixed clouds with clouds; eleven days characterized by rain, two days by fog (consider this - both fog days were on a Tuesday). Finally, we had three days of high wind and one day of national offering of Thanksgiving to God for all his blessings upon us as a nation and people.

Despite the annual transition from sunny days to cold days, November was a great month for thanksgiving and even celebration. Viril Wright, Tisha Begeman's father, was sick at the beginning of the month, scheduled for surgery and is recovering well by month's end from an adjustment of his pacemaker. Pastors of churches in Monroe (ours included) have been meeting together to pray for God to move in the hearts and minds of the saved and lost in Monroe County and for people to become active in their worship of God and servanthood to Jesus. A long-held desire of Pastor Moore's was to hear Elder Tim Begeman preach while he was in town - and this occurred when he heard Elder Begeman deliver "Thanks-living by Thanks-loving". We were also blessed with a fellowship meeting at the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. Our local church brought the salads and heard a sermon by Elder Calvin Burrell on "Good Seed, Bad Seed, Bumper Crop". A great line from that talk I personally take to heart is this: Don't paint the future too bleak. Your grandchildren have to live there!" Elder Moore's sermons continue to take us through the book of Romans where we contemplate "Happy Feet" and Jesus as the only way (Romans 10).

Visits with family and friends seem extra special this month. Berty Lane came back to Michigan with mother-in-law Jean and also had time to visit some of her family in the area. Jeff, Melinda and Katie Begeman got to visit Melinda's relatives in Chicago and they all took the train and braved the 'day after Thanksgiving' sales in downtown Chicago. Melinda really enjoyed seeing all her relatives and seeing a cousin's new home. Ila Baker celebrated yet another birthday this month with family and friends. Aurine and Charlie Moore got to see Tim and Kim Trouten (with Campus Crusade for Christ in Kalamazoo) at their new apartment. Tim says Kim is the lady with the décor ideas (pumpkins and cranberries and modular furniture painted cheerfully bright and clean). They even had 'carpets of gold' just outside their window the day we saw them - luscious fallen leaves.

Geneva Begeman had a disturbing bout of vertigo recently and went to the emergency room to have it checked out. So far she hasn't had a recurrence for which we are thankful. Marcia Moore is so glad her stomach pain is gone, now that she's had surgery on her adhesions. She would appreciate your prayers for her breathing difficulties to ease. Dale Begeman is starting an exercise program and continuing to consider a defibrillator to ease ongoing pain in his chest. Joel Valentine has had several trips to the hospital to manage his migraine pain. Laurie Eckles has reported relief from

pain in her joints from her new medication.

Brian Begeman has, for him, a brand new car. He's also enjoying coaching hockey, which his son, David, is pretty good at. He's also feeling relief for the first time in a long time from hip pain. Brian has run many a race and marathon so we're hoping this good feeling lasts a long time and he can run when he feels like it! Good news on the baby front - Tom and Leslie (Arquette) Miller have their new daughter, Rebecca, home with them. Congratulations Tom and Leslie (and Mick and Wanda). Finally, we were privileged to have a former camper and his family at church this month. Chandos Bemus came in preparation for leaving for South Carolina where he formally joins the United States Army and starts boot camp. We were honored to have special prayer for him during the church service and will be remembering him in our ongoing prayers. Nate Valentine and Aurine Moore saw his mother, Cheryl Lentner and her mother-in-law at the annual Downriver Prayer Breakfast in Trenton, Michigan to hear Gloria Gaither talk about how all our stories fit into the larger, better context of Jesus' story. So, until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net

Hello everyone. Thanksgiving Day has come and gone. I have had enough turkey for a while, but we can never give enough thanks to God for his goodness to us! Let us all resolve to make each month a thanksgiving month!!

Leslie and Tom Miller are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Rebecca. Leslie says, " She's AMAZING... when they flipped her on her belly with the butt up so her lungs would drain she started scooting/pushing herself across the table (not even 10 minutes old and trying to crawl). To us she is the MOST BEAUTIFUL baby and we are SO HAPPY to have her in our lives. She loves to smile. It's wonderful...sometimes all you have to do is say the word and she will smile." Note the picture and I think the family sounds ecstatic! They live in Kansas so Grandma and Grandpa Arquette have a long travel to see Rebecca. Congratulations to one and all!

My outlying folks have been very active this month. Josh Nevil flew home from Jacksonville, Florida once this month to escort sister Katy down the aisle to say good-bye to her Miss Baroda duties for the year. It was a total surprise for her and made her very happy. From reports on her closing speech for the year, she did us all proud, but especially her Savior. Katy is now a Spring Arbor freshman and happy these days. Josh is still stationed in Jacksonville and was the recipient of visitors over Thanksgiving. Jim, Kay, and Katy flew there and Grandpa and Grandma Charles drove up from Rotonda West Florida and joined them. What a nice time they must have had. David and Ruth had to rush home to get on a cruise ship to vacation the last week of the month. It is a hard job but someone has to keep the cruise lines in business! Hope you are having a great time right now, Charles'.

The rest of the Charles family gathered at the home of Lynn and Rob Vaughn. They had a great time together--that included the Kathy and Joe Smeltzer family and the Larry and Peggy Charles family. Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday to get together and rejoice in your blessings.

Ellen Momberger writes that she is happy to go to her son Carl and wife Sherry's home for Thanksgiving dinner. They both love to cook and have the family there. "I really enjoy my little great-grandchildren, Molly 7 and Shane 4. It's so nice to have both of Carl & Sherry's children in the Scottsdale Arizona area. Sarah and John are Molly & Shane' parents." She says, "I still enjoy cooking and will probably make a pumpkin pie. I have a recipe for Pumpkin Cream Pie which I prefer and will make that. I still make my sticky buns, cookies, biscotti's, etc." Sticky buns is one of my favorites, Ellen, as well as the Charles' and Lanes! The Mombergers live in the Phoenix area.

Another Phoenix person, Berty Lane, was here for a few days to bring Mama Jean Lane home. A few of us got to enjoy her company and she left to go home to cook dinner for her family!

I was able to talk to Norma Ripley to see how they are doing in Roanoke Virginia. Rip is doing well with his knee and the doctor has dismissed him until next summer. So glad you are doing so well, Rip. The two of them keep busy with seeing Robert, Adrina and the grandchildren.

News flash: Dorothy Layton had a knee replacement December 3rd. I know this is late news, but want to let you know so you can send cards and write her. She is doing well and is very happy it is over with!

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**1922 LaSalle Road
Monroe, MI 48162
Church 734.242.9511
Elder Moore 734.242.7674**

Editor – Jamie Vargas
Jamie.Vargas@utoledo.edu

Publisher – Diane Begeman
734.269.6098
veggie@toast.net

**Church website
colornet.org**

Lexiograms

A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.

What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

A lot of money is tainted. 'Taint yours and 'taint mine.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.



Pvt. Bemus
B. Co 3/60th Inf.
Regt. 4th Plt.
Ft. Jackson, SC
29207

Leslie, Tom and Rebecca Miller



Dave Fedor rode his horse to
bible study at the Moore's



Jeff Begeman, Jim Stoner, Dorothy Layton, Deborah Stoner and Sonya Pease



Deborah & Jim Stoner



Sonya made and quilted this quilt for Laurie Eckles.
The fabrics are from the Breast Cancer Survivor Line