

TRUMPET

December 2011

From the Pastor's Desk

The Origin of Christmas

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Christmas is the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The word "Christmas" is a contraction of the term "Christ's mass." We celebrate Christmas on December 25. But how did Christmas originate?

In the early centuries Christians were much more likely to celebrate the day of a person's death than the day of a person's birth. Very early in its history the Church had an annual observance of the death of Christ, and also honored many of the martyrs on the day of their death. Eventually, however the Church wanted to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Early Church did not know the date on which Jesus Christ was born. So, scholars examined the texts of Scripture, along with calendrical speculations, and came up with several possible dates: March 25, April 2, May 20, November 8, December 25, and January 6. The earliest evidence of the Church celebrating the birth of Jesus is December 25, 336 in Rome.

The celebration of Christ's birth spread rapidly and widely, so that most parts of the Christian

world celebrated the birth of Christ by the end of the fourth century.

It is likely that the December 25 date was chosen as much for practical reasons as theological ones. Throughout the Roman Empire various festivals were held in conjunction with the northern winter solstice. In Rome, the Feast of the Invincible Sun celebrated the return of the sun (with the lengthening of the daylight hours). When Christianity became the religion of the Empire, the Church replaced the secular festivals with Christian ones. The winter solstice seemed an appropriate time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And so the Feast of the Invincible Sun was replaced with the Festival of the Son of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2).

Even though we do not know the exact date on which Christ was born, we do know that he was in fact born. It is entirely appropriate for the people of God to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is indeed the Son of Righteousness.

Our Mission

To bring people to Jesus Christ and **membership** in his church family, develop them to Christlike **maturity**, equip them for their **ministry** in the church and life **mission** in the world, in order to **magnify** God's name.

Special Events:

- ◆ December 3—Emptynesters' Party
- ◆ December 4—Informational Meeting
- ◆ December 8—Pacesetters' Lunch
- ◆ December 10—Ladies' Christmas Brunch
- ◆ December 17—Men's Breakfast
- ◆ December 17—Walk Through Bethlehem

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It is the goal of the Trumpet staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation.

The views and opinions expressed in the Trumpet have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, ministry reports and calendar items for the next edition of the *Trumpet* to sd_knox@yahoo.com by December 15, 2011.

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Thanks to Christopher Carver

12-24-2007

**CAN YOU CHECK SANTA'S NICE LIST ... I'M
PRETTY SURE I'M ON THAT ONE**

Session News

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

The Session has scheduled another Congregation Information Meeting for Sunday, December 4. This meeting will take place approximately 15 minutes after the conclusion of the Worship Service. The purpose of this meeting is to share information, and to solicit input and feedback regarding the proposed addition for the Master Site Plan. After brief presentation, all questions and comments will be received. Please attend this meeting if you are able to do so.

Thoughts from the Intern

By James Nichols

Last month, I talked about being salt and light in the context of the world, specifically at our jobs. I mentioned that with the amount of time that we spend at work each week, it is important for us to keep in mind that our jobs are an excellent ministry opportunity. We talked about how the Great Commandment works itself out in the workplace and how that can lead to evangelistic opportunities.

This month, let us consider another way that we can minister to

those that we know: hospitality. Hospitality is required by scripture. Romans 12:13 says: "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." Hebrews 13:2 says: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." 1 Peter 4:9 says: "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling." It is clear in these passages, and many others, that hospi-

pitality is important for Christians.

Looking at Hebrews 13:2, we see that it talks about strangers. This refers back to the definition of hospitality in Greek which means "loving strangers." Does this mean that we should only be hospitable to strangers? No, but it does mean that on top of the hospitality that we are to show family, friends and neighbors, we should also be ready and willing to serve people who need our love and understanding and may not be able to pay us back. We see this even more bluntly in Luke 14:12-14 where Jesus tells us to not invite our relatives or neighbors who can pay us back, but to invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind.

So what does this look like? Personally I do not know many poor, crippled, lame, or blind people. Who else would fall into this category? What about someone you know struggling with depression, or a single parent, a college student away from home, an exchange student, or an elderly widow? Is there someone that you know who could use a meal and friendly conversation? Is there someone at work who eats alone a lot and could benefit from a meal and company? Remember, we are to be hospitable to our family, friends and

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TBPC

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THANK THE LORD WITH ME

by Rev. Dick Fisher

November 24, 2011

On Thursday, October 27, I had successful brain surgery by the world-renowned neurosurgeon, Mark S. Greenberg, at Tampa General Hospital (TGH). He removed a 2.2-inch meningioma tumor (benign) from between the two hemispheres of my brain, pressing on the right side.* Dr. Greenberg believes it had been growing there for years.

This adventure in God's providence started on Sunday, October 23. Near the end of my sermon I collapsed beside the pulpit at Trinity Church in Wesley Chapel, Florida. Just before I collapsed, I commented on Psalm 103:15-16, "As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more; and its place acknowledges it no longer." I am told I looked dead and I was unconscious for over 20 minutes until I came to in the Florida Hospital ER. Trinity Church prayed and provided me with oxygen immediately while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

Four weeks after my collapse, I stood joyous and triumphant in the same pulpit on November 20. I called to worship an ecstatic congregation with the biblical text I had preached October 23: "Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget none of His benefits, who forgives all your iniquities, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with good things, and renews your youth as the eagle's." (Psalm 103:1-5)

The journey from my 8-hour surgery on October 27 to church on November 20 included: 6 days in ICU; an 8-minute seizure on October 29; 4 days unable to move my left arm, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, or fingers; 3 days on the neurology floor; 1 week in the TGH Rehabilitative Unit for Physical and Occupational Therapy as ability to move my left arm gradually and incrementally moved from major motor to my fine motor finger skills. I treasure the excitement I felt the night I was able to separate my left little finger 1/8 inch from its neighbor. Separating my thumb and index finger took longer. I returned home November 10 encouraged to expect 100 % recovery after a minimum of 3 to 6 months convalescence.

As I prepared for the surgery and asked family, friends, colleagues, churches and networks to pray, I felt very blessed. God sustained me with joy in trial, joy that I hope others will experience in my recovery. My wife, Karen, was with me 8 days 24/7 at TGH. Family from Florida, Tennessee, and Maryland rallied around. Our young grandchildren traveled 1000 miles round trip and waited 4 hours in a hospital waiting room to see me 2 minutes at TGH. Churches, friends, and colleagues have been constant in prayer and encouragement.

God is showing me the power of my life verses, Ephesians 3: 20, 21: "Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

*Dr. Green's biography is available at: <http://health.usf.edu/medicine/neurosurgery/faculty/MGreenberg.htm> .

Is It *More* Blessed to Give than to Receive?

By Marianne Cali

Is it *MORE* blessed to give than to receive? This is a question that I have been pondering for a while now. I believe that giving is a two way street; flip sides of the same coin, one as important as the other. How can one give if there is no one to receive? Let me share with you how I came to this conclusion.

When I was a little girl of about eight, my father was very seriously hurt in a farming accident. It was spring and time for haying, but my father was in the hospital. One night a neighbor came by and ask my mother if she could feed fifty or sixty men the next day for lunch. They were planning a haying bee and the next morning down the road came a whole parade of tractors, mowers, hay wagons, hay balers and men. They took care of my father's haying. And, oh yes, we emptied the freezer and served them all lunch!

A couple years later, a neighbor called our house about ten o'clock at night and told my mother that they had just received word that their son had died of a heart attack and they needed to leave for Washington, D.C. immediately. The next morning, my brother and I were trudging up the hill through the snow to go milk, feed, and take care of his herd of sixty-plus dairy cows while he was out of town. We did this twice a day for a little over a week.

Through those two incidents and many others I experienced as a child, I learned about the body of Christ taking care of each other. Giving and receiving; one is as important as the other. We have all learned that to give is a beautiful thing, especially sacrificial giving. And we are very blessed when we do give. But my question still remains, 'How are we suppose to give or serve others when they refuse our offers?' Our culture has taught us to be independent and to take care of ourselves. If we don't, we are either lazy or inefficient. Now, I am not advocating that we go on welfare so that others can be blessed by serving us. But, without realizing it we are depriving others of their blessing of giving when we refuse their offers of help.

In John 13:1-17, we read about Jesus humbling himself and washing the feet of the disciples, we read that Peter did not want his master to wash his feet. What a humiliation. And we all can certainly identify with that. But, as we continue to read the passage we see that Jesus rebuked Peter for not accepting his gift. Later, Jesus tells the disciples that he was giving them an example of humbling themselves to serve others but we don't want to miss the other side of the coin showing us the importance of accepting the servitude of others. Jesus told Peter that unless he accept his act of service, he, Peter, could have no part of him. As followers of Christ, we must be as willing to receive as to give. We must allow others their right to be blessed as givers.

In conclusion, let me just share my humbling in this area. I was Ms. Independent all my life. Self-sufficient, always the giver and never the receiver. When I had to give up my drivers license and depend on others for my transportation I lost that independence and self-sufficiency real fast!! God was teaching me humility and dependence on him. He was blessing me and loving me through his body and my part was to accept their generosity.

May I encourage every one to humble themselves and accept the many blessings God has in store for you through the giving of others. Just smile and say thanks!

Adult Christian Education & Fellowship
Bob Guest

Children
Eileen Fritz

Emptynesters
Jan Ousnamer

Greeters & Welcome Table
Bob Koryus

Growth Groups Session

Hospitality
LeeAnn DeStefano

Men's Bible Study
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Men's Ministry
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Missions
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New Tampa Christian Academy
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Ushers
Richard Hunter

Women's Bible Study
Betty Pothoven

Women in the Church
Ginny Bremer

Youth
James Barber

Outreach
Bert Barber

Women's Ministry

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for their prayers and contributions to the Love Gift for Covenant Seminary. We not only reached, but exceeded, our goal. Your generosity will help many men and women who are preparing to spread the Word of God into a world that needs so desperately to see the light. Bless you all.

December Events

The 23rd Annual Christmas Brunch will be held at our church on December 10, from 9:00-11:15 AM.

You still have a few days to buy tickets for the Christmas Brunch if you have not already done so. Don't miss this wonderful celebration of the beginning of the Christmas season and the true meaning of Christmas. Our theme, "I'll Be Home for Christmas," will touch your heart as we speak of the earthly joy and blessings given to us by our Lord and Savior, as well as the ultimate gift of our eternal home. In addition to the wonderful food, fellowship, games, and music we will have one of our sisters give her testimony. Donna Lynam will also deliver a message. Donna is a local woman who has been an active member of Christ Community Church in Tampa. She has taught Women's Bible Study Fellowship for 26 years and loves watching women grow spiritually as they study and apply Scripture.

Looking Ahead

Our next Sister to Sister will be a "Soup's On" luncheon at the church on Saturday, January 14, from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss the fun. More information will be available as the time grows near. As we enter the New Year, be thinking and praying about how you may be called to serve your sisters in some way. We have a number of volunteer opportunities available.

Women's Ministry Meeting

We will have our regular WM 15 the second Sunday, December 11, immediately after worship in Room 23. Everyone is welcome to attend to share ideas and assist in planning future events.

Thoughts from the Intern

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neighbors, but that is not where we should stop.

It is important for us to realize both the importance and significance of sharing a meal with others. In the New Testament, meals were ways of signifying acceptance and importance. If you look at the book of Luke, almost the entire book is Jesus going to, eating at, or coming from a meal. Think also about some of the great parables and stories. The prodigal son's return is celebrated with a feast. Levi and Zacchaeus both have meals for Jesus, even though they are the outcasts as tax collectors.

Finally, hospitality is not about just the meal, but also involves showing Christ in all of your actions. After the actual invitation and preparing of food, hospitality involves welcoming, creating space, listening, paying attention and providing. No one wants to be invited over to be ignored. We must not only serve our guests, but we must show Christ's love and acceptance. When we invite others over for a meal, we must make sure that the love of Christ shines through in every action that we take.

This has been a weighty column as I myself am convicted of my lack of inviting. I would encourage each and every one of us to spend time in prayer asking the Lord to show us who he wants us to invite over and minister to. I would recommend making a goal, such as having at least one person over month. Start with people that you know and listen to who the Lord is telling you to invite. By doing this, our hospitality will display Christ's love and compassion to those around us. May the Lord bless your times with others and use those times to grow his church through people coming to Christ! Until next month, God bless!

Truth Matters Today

By Joe Burns, TruthMattersToday@tampabay.rr.com

Why Are You Here?

*"When it's all been said and done
There is just one thing that matters..."*

Lyric by Jim Cowan from "When It's All Been Said and Done"¹

Charles Colson and Harold Fickett call it the "unavoidable question"² in the first chapter of their book The Good Life, powerfully illustrating the impact it has on human lives using a couple of scenes from the 1999 film *Saving Private Ryan*. They describe an old man trudging slowly through the American cemetery high above the beach in Normandy, France seeking out a certain grave marker. Why this grave? Initially, it's not altogether clear. Yet as the old gentleman stoops heavily down in front of a certain engraved white cross, his worried family rushes over to comfort him in his significant grief. There's no doubt; the one buried there had an enormous impact on the visitor's life.

Just as the family draws near, the peaceful graveyard scene fades through a darkening American flag waving in the breeze to reveal the frenetic and bloody D-Day battle that raged on Normandy's "Omaha" beach more than a half century before. Central in the scene is a young captain and his seven-man team of soldiers approaching the beach as they inaugurate a special rescue mission on orders from the Chief of Staff of the Army.

And Colson's and Fickett's unavoidable question? It has to do with purpose. Having received orders from his nation's highest-ranking Army officer, Captain John W. Miller's life had a single compelling purpose from that day forward. Does yours? Should it? Do you ever wonder about the meaning of life or your purpose in its daily drama?

If so, you're quite normal. Indeed, it would be hard to find someone of age who hasn't asked that question to themselves or others sometime in their life. Even without being asked, many feel compelled to offer their own theories on the issue. In 2003, a team of researchers published a study that summarized what some prominent or famous people have said about the meaning of life. The four researchers analyzed 238 quotes from 195 such people and came up with ten principal answers to life's meaning listed here in order of popularity alongside the names of the eminent people who favored them³:

1. To enjoy or experience life: Ralph Waldo Emerson ("laugh often and much"), Malcolm Forbes, Cary Grant, Janis Joplin, Thomas Jefferson, Helen Keller, Sinclair Lewis, Eleanor Roosevelt.
2. To love, help, or serve others: Albert Einstein ("Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile"), Mohandas Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, Albert Schweitzer, and Rousseau...
3. Life is a mystery: Clarence Darrow, Albert Einstein, Mohandas Gandhi, Theodore Hesburg, the Dalai Lama, Albert Schweitzer, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Søren Kierkegaard, Napoleon...
4. Life is meaningless: Joseph Conrad ("that mysterious arrangement of merciless logic for a futile purpose"), Clarence Darrow, Sigmund Freud, Franz Kafka, H. L. Mencken, Henry Miller...
5. To serve or worship God and/or prepare for the next (or after-) life: Martin Luther King, Jr. ("I just want to do God's will"), Mother Teresa, Mohandas Gandhi, Billy Graham, Thomas Paine...
6. Life is a struggle: Charles Dickens, Benjamin Disraeli ("youth is a blunder, manhood a struggle, old age a regret"), Edna St. Vincent Millay, George Bernard Shaw, Jonathan Swift...
7. To contribute to something that is greater than ourselves: Will Durant (a chance "to produce or contribute to something greater than ourselves"), William Faulkner, Benjamin Franklin...
8. To become self-actualized: Robert Louis Stevenson ("to become what we are capable of becoming is the only end of life"), Marie Curie, Erich Fromm, Frederick Nietzsche, Plato...
9. To create your own meaning: Sidney Hook, Grandma Moses ("Life is what we make it, always

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Truth Matters Today

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has been, always will be”), Carl Sagan, John Dewey, Viktor Frankl, Carl Jung...

10. Life is absurd or a joke: Albert Camus, Charlie Chaplin (life is “a tragedy when seen in close-up but a comedy in the long shot”), Bob Dylan, Lou Reed, Oscar Wilde...

How do people—eminent or not—come to conclusions like these? Many times they’re shaped by experiences they have. But to a greater degree, they proceed directly from their worldview—the way they perceive the world—which is defined by the answers to four key questions. The roots that anchor an individual’s worldview are seen in their responses to the first two questions: “Where did we come from?” and “What went wrong with the world?”

Everything we do in our daily lives...everything...proceeds from our worldview. That’s why it’s so important to get the answers correct to these questions of first principals. Once you’ve done the research on life’s origins and the source of the problems on earth, you can apply those answers in finding the solution to those problems and finally discovering your purpose in life—the answers to the last two worldview questions.

At least that’s the most straightforward approach. Some would rather first decide what they want their purpose in life to be and then shape the answers to the other questions to justify that purpose. It’s one reason why vitriol echoes so loudly from some proponents of evolution in ridiculing the *scientific* evidence that supports intelligent design (a theory that holds that “certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection”⁴). They don’t like the implications of a designer when it comes to how we fix the world and what we should be doing with our lives.

But consider the words of Dr. Will Provine—Professor of the History of Biology at Cornell University and an ardent evolutionist—on the implications of life originating via random, undirected processes:

“No gods, no life after death, no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning in life and no human free will are all deeply connected to an evolutionary perspective. You’re here today and then gone tomorrow, and that’s all there is to it.”⁵

“...it starts by giving up an active deity, then it gives up the hope that there’s any life after death. When you give those two up, the rest of it follows fairly easily. You give up the hope that there’s an imminent morality, and finally, there’s no human free will. If you believe in evolution, you can’t hope for there to be any free will. There’s no hope whatsoever of there being any deep meaning in human life. We live, we die, and we’re gone. We’re absolutely gone when we die.”⁶

What then should be the focus of life for a Darwinist or anyone whose origins theory is absent a creating deity? Professor Provine’s bleak summary leads many in the atheist camp to despair. Clarence Darrow, who argued for evolution in the Scopes trial once said: life is as a ship “tossed by every wave and by every wind; a ship headed to no port and no harbor, with no rudder, no compass, no pilot, simply floating for a time, then lost in the waves.”⁷ Others conclude that a world without a creator is one where you have license to live how you want for any reason you want. Or, as 60s singer Janis Joplin harmonized, “you got to get it while you can.”⁸ If you don’t, someone else will.

If, though, you’re among those convinced by the bountiful evidence that our universe and everything in it was created by an omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent being; that violating the instructions of that creator is what got our world into such a mess; that the solution, therefore, to fixing our world is redemption through Jesus Christ from the penalty of those transgressions⁹; what would you conclude should be your purpose in life?

The old man at the cemetery in *Saving Private Ryan* might offer a clue. Though his philosophical beliefs about life and its origins are left to the imagination, he was the beneficiary of sacrificial death that preserved his earthly life. While Private James Ryan was a very young man, so the story goes, Army Captain John W. Miller and all but two of his seven men gave their own lives to extract him from the war that had already taken the lives of his other siblings, three brothers. Captain Miller fulfilled the purpose given him by the Army on a bridge that was, moments before, a battle-

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Review of *Changing the Mind of Missions – Where Have We Gone Wrong?*

By Bob Guest

Missionaries Supported by TBPC

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Ven Con Nosotros Church

Dr. Oscar & Elizabeth
Alvarez

Chamberlain-Hunt Academy

Pam Johnston

In *Changing the Mind of Missions – Where Have We Gone Wrong?* (© 2000), James F. Engel & William A. Dyrness provide thought-provoking ideas regarding missions activities. The book challenges the Church today to "re-think" some of how missions activities are being conducted. This article summarizes the main points of the book, which hopefully will cause us all to think more deeply about our roles in The Great Commission.

North American missions are mired in an 'effectiveness crisis' today. Too caught up in American culture's pragmatism: worldly measures of success – focus on numerical response; driven by developing and implementing business-like strategies. We mobilize to "finish the task" – a concept alien to the teachings of Christ, according to a timetable we set. Christ didn't know the time of his return. We also rely upon massive donor-driven evangelism – a technique foreign to Scripture. We've often reduced world missions to a managerial enterprise. "The American evangelical movement is deeply infiltrated by the spirit and tools of modernity."

Missions needs to integrate evangelism and social transformation, i.e., the whole gospel of the Kingdom. Matt. 28:18-20 (the Great Commission) commands making disciples, not just evangelizing. There should be no dichotomy between the two. They represent the totality of the Great Commission. Proclamation of the gospel needs eventually to result in changed lives and then changed communities through Christian witness ("salt and light"). The 'liberal' (social gospel) vs. 'fundamentalist' (private piety, focus on evangelism, focus on eschatology) divide splits the modern church. Christians are called to model justice, righteousness and peace; therefore, the Great Commission can never be completely fulfilled because discipling of believers will end only with Christ's return.

The West needs to be co-laborers and partners (enablers, coaches, consultants, etc.) with indigenous workers. The model of 'cross-cultural evangelism and church-planting pioneer missions' is long since outmoded. Western missions need to foster more collaboration and partnership with, even submission to, indigenous leaders. Wealth, technology, and power are not determining missiological considerations.

Local churches need to resume their historic role in missions. Not just a pass-through, passive role of raising up missionaries from their midst, sending them off to missions agencies and then providing ongoing prayer and financial support. Missions cannot be just another program in the church, competing for scarce resources. Rather, missions needs to be seen as the reason for which all other ministries exist!

There is no more 'center vs. periphery' in world missions. We tend to forget or overlook that the modern missionary movement has reflected at every point in its development, the Western historical and cultural tradition. 'Missions centers' ('Jeruselems,' if you will) are dispersed throughout the world today. The 'Two Thirds World' now sends more missionaries than the Western world. Our political and economic power in the West is not spiritually relevant to completing the task of world missions. Indeed, reliance on outside financial resources has often led to debilitating indigenous church dependence.

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Truth Matters Today

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field. It was there that he was mortally wounded and where he gave Private Ryan's life purpose with these dying words. "Earn this, James...*earn* it."¹⁰

More than 5 decades later, Mr. Ryan stood fixated on Captain Miller's headstone in Normandy's cemetery. He stoops down again and reports to Captain Miller in halting speech and quiet tones about his life since the captain last spoke...searching for the answer to the unavoidable question.

"Every day, I think about what you said to me that day on the bridge. I've tried to live my life the best that I could. I hope that was enough. I hope that, at least in your eyes, I've earned what all of you have done for me."

As he stands up and reflects, his wife approaches. "Tell me I have led a good life", he says softly to her. "What?!" she replies in shock. "Tell me I'm a good man." *Stroking his cheek gently with warmth and respect in her eyes she says with resolute confidence "You are!"* The aged Mr. Ryan then takes a step back and sharply salutes Captain Miller's gravestone in a show of deep respect and gratitude for his lead rescuer.¹¹

When your life approaches its end, will you know the answer to the unavoidable question—"have I lived a good life?" You can, if you know your life's purpose. It's right there in His instruction manual. You can see it clearly in Christ's answer when asked which of the Law's commandments was greatest.

"[Y]ou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these."¹²

That's why you're here. As the song says,

"When it's all been said and done, there is just one thing that matters. Did I do my best to live for truth? Did I live my life for You?"

*When it's all been said and done. All my treasures will mean nothing. Only what I've done for love's reward will stand the test of time"*¹³

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7. Kinnier, Richard T, et al. "Journal of Humanistic Psychology, Vol. 43 No. 1, Winter 2003; What Eminent People Have Said about the Meaning of Life." 2003. [Association for Humanistic Psychology](http://www.ahpweb.org). 23 Nov 2011 <<http://www.ahpweb.org/articles/kinnier.html>>.
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10. *Saving Private Ryan*. Dir. Steven Spielberg. Perf. Tom Hanks, et al. 1999.
11. Ibid
12. Mark 12:30-31 (ESV)
13. Cowan, Jim. "When It's All Been Said And Done." n.d. [AudibleFaith.com](http://www.audiblefaith.com). 23 Nov 2011 <<http://www.audiblefaith.com/pages/sg200324>>.

TBPC To Send 2 Missions Teams

The Session approved the Missions Committee's recommendation to send two missions teams this coming summer, as follows: One Missions Team will go to Cherokee, NC; this project will build on last summer's experience, and the lessons learned. John Ausmus has volunteered to lead the Missions Trip to Cherokee.

The second Missions Team will go to Ciudad Victoria; this will probably be a small team, and be subject to following restrictions:

- a) No children younger than 13 years old will be allowed on Team.
- b) If the Team has youth, the Team must be comprised of at least 30% adults.
- c) The size of the Team cannot exceed 15 people.
- d) Missions Trip Teams will be limited to visits to partner churches only.
- e) Missions Trip Teams will only use a couple of very specific hotels in the city. This will most likely increase the cost of the trip.

The dates and the specific details for these two trips are being developed now. If you have any interest whatsoever in supporting these Missions Trips, or participating in them, see John Ausmus, James Nichols or Jim Aldrich, or indicate your interest using the Friendship Registration form at Church. More info will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.



December Birthdays

- 1—Bob McQueen
- 1—Joelle Nobles
- 4—Rachel Coffey
- 4—Jennifer Isaac
- 7—Brenda Asmus
- 11—Isabel Lugo
- 13—John Hutton
- 14—Betty Pothoven
- 17—Anna Barber
- 21—Frank Tobar
- 24—Loretta Aldrich
- 24—Emalin Henry
- 25—Chelsea Hayman
- 27—Melody Barber
- 28—Graham Barber
- 30—Greg Pesce

Changing the Mind of Missions

(Continued from page 8)

Missions initiatives need to be grounded in prayer and fasting, seeking God's will in world missions, and joining with Him where He seems to be moving with His Spirit. Initiative and direction of it originate with Him. He is the Lord of the harvest, not us.

Western missions agencies (and there are hundreds of them) need to take a hard look at their effectiveness and relevance. Some need to close up shop. A new kind of missions structure is needed: mutual exchange on many levels between multiple worldwide centers of influence, and varieties of spiritual gifts. Partnerships and alliances to mobilize and combine Kingdom resources.

*"Missions primarily and fundamentally is about something that God *has done* – in creation and the new creation, and something God *continues to do* through the Holy Spirit's empowering of God's people and the proclamation of the gospel, and something God *will bring to conclusion* when Jesus returns in glory... Missions is God-originated, Christ-centered, and Spirit-empowered."*

Mark Your Calendars!

TBPC's next Missions Conference will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 10-12, 2012. Dr. Paul Kooistra, Coordinator of Mission to the World, our denomination's missions organization, will be our Keynote Speaker. More details will be published in the months ahead about this exciting weekend at TBPC!



December Anniversaries

- 4—Lou & Barbara Bentley
- 5—Rock & Jennie Roque
- 14—Freddy & Eileen Fritz
- 23—Kevin & Shawn Nobles
- 27—Doug & Molly Knox
- 27—Ed & Eileen Kociela
- 28—Bill & Joanne Campbell

December 2011*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 5:00p PHOS Youth Annual Christmas party 8:00 p Carrollwood Players 'Holiday Revue'	3 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group; 6:00p Emptynesters' Christmas Party; 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study
4 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:30a Worship Service; 5:00p PHOS Youth Group; Nichols/Nobles/Knox Growth Group	5 10:00a-11:30a Staff Meeting	6 7:00p Pothoven Growth Group 7:00p Outreach Team Meeting	7 5:45 Family Night Dinner; 6:15p D2D Choir; 6:30p KOTK Choir, Prayer Meeting; 7:00p Pioneer Clubs; 7:15p Worship Choir	8 12:30p Pacesetters' Christmas Lunch; 7:00p Missions Committee Meeting	9 6:00p WIC Setup for Ladies' Brunch	10 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group; 9:00a WIC Ladies' Brunch; 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study
11 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:30a Worship Service; 5:00p Phos Youth Group; 6:00p Kirkpatrick/Aldrich Growth Group	12 9:00a NTCA Christmas Program Rehearsals; 10:00a-11:30a Staff Meeting	13 9:00a NTCA Christmas Program Rehearsals 7:00p NTCA Board Meeting	14 9:00a NTCA Christmas Program Rehearsals; 6:15p D2D Choir; 6:30p KOTK Choir; 7:15p Worship Choir	15 9:00a NTCA Christmas Programs Rehearsals; 7:00p Session & Diaconate Meeting	16 9:00a NTCA Christmas Program Rehearsals; 6:00p PHOS Youth Babysitting Service Night; 6:30p Staff & Leadership Christmas Party	17 8:30a Men's Breakfast; 6:00p Walk through Bethlehem
18 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:30a Worship; 5:00p PHOS Youth Group; Kirkpatrick/Aldrich/Nichols/ Nobles/Knox Growth Group	19 NTCA Christmas Holiday 10:00a Staff Meeting; NTCA Thanksgiving Dinner	20 NTCA Christmas Holiday 7:00p Pothoven Growth Group	21 NTCA Christmas Holiday 6:15p D2D Choir; 6:30p KOTK Choir; 7:00p Pioneer Clubs; 7:15p Worship Choir	22 NTCA Christmas Holiday	23 NTCA Christmas Holiday	24 6:00p Christmas Eve Service
25 10:30a Worship Service	26 Church office closed	27 Church office closed	28 Church office closed	29 Church office closed	30 Church office closed	31

*Due to the number of events scheduled, we cannot fit all Sunday activities on the monthly newsletter calendar. Please consult the online calendar at <http://prem.calendars.net/tbpc> for the complete schedule of activities on Sundays in April.



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The Sunday Schedule

Time	Location	
8:45 AM	Classroom Wing	Sunday School for Children C E & F for Adults
10:30 AM	Sanctuary	Worship Service