



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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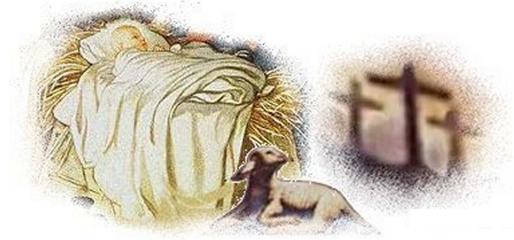
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The Innkeeper

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

A character in the Christmas Story who isn't mentioned in scriptures is the innkeeper. We don't know anything about him. All we know is that he did not have room for Mary and Joseph. Every one of the house and lineage of David had come to Bethlehem to be taxed. The inn was full. Our Savior was born and laid in a manger. From the highest heavens to the lowest degree on earth, He came to us. How many today don't have room for Him? How many have let people and things crowd their lives so much that they don't have room for Christ? Make sure this Christmas season that you have room in your heart and life for the Savior. Don't be like the innkeeper and turn Him away.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:5



Thither Will I Go

Light looked down and beheld Darkness.

"Thither will I go," said Light.

Peace looked down and beheld War.

"Thither will I go," said Peace.

Love looked down and beheld Hatred.

"Thither will I go," said Love.

So came Light and shone.

So came Peace and gave rest.

So came Love and brought Life.

Laurence Housman

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp

WELL, I LIKE SPECIAL EMPHASIS SUNDAYS AS WELL AS THE NEXT FELLOW, BROTHER ELI, BUT I CAN'T SEE MYSELF INVITING MY FRIENDS TO "BRING A SINNER" SUNDAY....

**Cousin Leroy**

Ole Leroy was sitting out on the front porch when Aunt Maude came a running up the road crying her eyes out! "What in the worlds wrong aunt Maude?" said Leroy. Oh it's horrible Leroy, It's just horrible! I got a letter this morning from cousin Hank and he said his little boy Huey has got three feet!! "Three feet?" exclaimed Leroy. "Surely that aint possible?" "Well," said Aunt Maude, "In the letter he said he was a writing to tell me Huey has grown another foot since we seen him last!" At that point Leroy started to cry with her!

Anniversary Trip

Ole Bubba looked over at one of his buddies and said, "For our Twentieth Anniversary, I'm taking my wife to Australia." "WOW" his friend said, "That's going to be tough to beat. What are you going to do for your Twenty-Fifth Anniversary?" Ole Bubba looked over with a smirk on his face and said, "I'm gonna go back and get her."

The New Teacher

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'

Follow Instructions

The following are actual instructions found on the named items:

ON HAIRDRYER;

- Do not use while sleeping.

ON A BAG OF CORN CHIPS:

- You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.

ON A FROZEN DINNER:

- Serving suggestion: Defrost.

ON TIRIMISU DESERT

- Do not turn upside down.

(Printed on the bottom of the box.)

ON BOX OF BREAD PUDDING

- Product will be hot after heating

ON PACKAGING FOR A ROWENTA IRON

- Do not iron clothes on body

ON A SLEEP AID

- Warning: may cause drowsiness

ON A STRING OF CHINESE MADE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

- For indoor or outdoor use only.

ON SAINSBURY'S PEANUTS

- Warning: contains nuts

ON A SWEDISH CHAINSAW

- Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

"Unto The Least Of These"

Pastor Billy R Douglas

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Matthew 25:34

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40

There are some words to a song that go along with the above passages of scripture that I would like to share with you...*"Unto the least of these, What you do for them you also do for me. You must give of what you have, To become what you must be. You must give your love unto the least of these."* We know that in Matthew 25 the LORD is speaking of the goat and sheep nations...those who stood with Israel and those who turned their back on Israel. BUT with that being said these scriptures can also be applied to the fact that we "THE CHURCH" should never close up our bowels of compassion to a lost and hurting world. Of course our first obligation, our first concern must ALWAYS be the preaching of the Gospel because that is mans greatest need. Mans greatest need is the same as it has always been...the need of a SAVIOUR! Not his hungry belly but his hungry soul! And we must never lose sight of that. Sadly over the years I have seen churches and ministries who begin works like food banks or soup kitchens focus more on sharing the natural food than on sharing the spiritual food. LORD help us to always remember that while being your hand extended in helping those in need that we must always share with them the life changing, heart healing Gospel of the Cross of Calvary as well! If we only feed their belly and do not offer anything for their hurting soul what of eternal value have we accomplished? When lending a helping hand we must also give heed to the call of the GREAT COMMISSION and share with them Jesus Christ and the eternal life that faith in what HE did on the Cross offers to all of mankind. One year ago this month our landlord sent me a text. He was telling me that the people in the space next to the church were moving out. He wanted them to turn the keys in to me so that if a possible renter wanted to look at the place the keys would be here in town. One week later we took the keys and took over renting the extra space. We stepped out on nothing but faith not having any idea where the extra money would come from that it would cost each month. Not to mention the cost of the things that we would need to be able to help others. We only knew that we wanted to use it for the work of the LORD and that if we didn't at least try we would always wonder what the LORD might have done. Looking back over the past year I stand amazed at what HE has done. What a blessing it has been to be able to be HIS hand extended to help those in need through the food bank. The Saturday night services each month were so powerful...the free meals that we were able to offer after each of the services were a great blessing to many as well. And most of all being able to share JESUS with each one that the LORD sent our way! This past Thanksgiving I was so touched while delivering Thanksgiving boxes to some families in need. The look on their face knowing that someone cared enough to share with them in their time of need was priceless. The greatest blessing of all is when they asked me to pray for them and to pray with them. It's amazing what the LORD has done and we look forward to what HE is going to do in the upcoming year. I want to give HIM honour and praise first and foremost. And I also want to thank EVERYONE that calls VOTL their home for their financial support...and their labor of love. You are appreciated more than you will ever know. Also there are no words to express our gratitude to all of those who have stood with us in prayer...supported all of the events and fundraisers and have opened their hearts and their wallets (and purses) to give to meet the needs even though you do not attend VOTL. We are so blessed to call you our PARTNER in this great work that the LORD is doing. Every one that we have helped YOU have helped! Every life that the LORD has touched through us HE has touched through YOU! We are believing and trusting the LORD for even greater things in 2019! Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the work of the LORD. I encourage you to take a look at pages 10 & 12 of this newsletter and see the many ways that the LORD is using this ministry to reach others. YOU are a part of that! It is our prayer that you have a wonderful Christmas season and that in the year that lies ahead you will be blessed abundantly! Until next time Merry Christmas. Pastor Billy R Douglas



The Entitlement Generation part 1

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Exodus 2:23-25 - And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. 24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

Exodus 13:3 - And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Exodus 16:3 - And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

Our society has developed an “entitlement mentality” – particularly among the young, but anyone can be guilty of thinking that because they exist, they are “entitled” to certain things. The Israelites in our text here adopted this mindset in Egypt (Egypt is always a type of the flesh). Though they suffered and God delivered them, they often complained about not having what they thought they should have. The “entitlement mentality” is contrary to certain characteristics we are to have as God’s people – contentment in what God has provided through the finished work at the cross and submission to God’s will rather than seeking our own will. In this much needed message, we will consider some things that many believe they are “entitled” to today and contrast that belief with Scripture. Let’s take a look... We Are Not Entitled to Happiness As the World Thinks For many, whatever makes them happy is what they believe they should be allowed to do...yet our lives should not be about whatever makes us happy – we’re called to deny self but many doesn’t want that lifestyle. Luke 9:23 -And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. First priority – Please the Lord. Colossians 1:10 - That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Second priority – Please others. Romans 15:1-3 - We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. 3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. Philippians 2:3-8 - Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. We Are Not Entitled to Acceptance of Certain Lifestyles As many believe they are entitled to do whatever makes them happy, they also believe that they are entitled to the acceptance of others way of living...(homosexuality, etc....) If you do what is wrong, you have no entitlement to the acceptance of the righteous. Ephesians 5:11 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. If you do what is right, you should not expect that the world will accept you. Read the words of our Lord here in: John 15:18-19 - If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. We Are Not Entitled to a Certain Standard of Living This could include an income, type of job, level of education, etc. – many see these “entitlements” as purely political issues. This is also a Biblical issue – we are simply not entitled to such things but we are to be content with whatever we have. Philippians 4:11-12 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. Through hard work, we may improve our lot in life but some want to remain lazy. Proverbs 12:24 - The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute. But we must do so within the context of serving our Lord Jesus Christ. Colossians 3:23-24 - And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. We Are Not Entitled to the Possessions of Others This is tied to the previous point – again, many see this as a political issue, but it is not primarily one Many believe they are entitled to a certain standard of living – therefore, they believe they are entitled to take from others to get it. The Scriptures teach that each one has a right to his own possessions. Because of the Cross, Evangelist Mike Heltsley



A Quick and Terrible Voice of Judgment

Pastor Steven Huston

Hebrews 10:37 "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

It's easier to convince men of a soft and beautiful lie than it is to convince them of a hard and bitter truth. Each would rather believe that nothing bad will happen to them rather than that they should be overtaken with a terrible disease; or, that they are good men rather than the truth that they are crippled by sin. Nonetheless, there is a terrible truth for men to hear; a truth that if believed, can lead them to safety, healing, and security. As I was getting ready to write this article today, my wife told me that the weather forecast calls for at least six inches of wet and heavy snow with gusting winds tomorrow. We know that this is the time of year for such things and so it is easily believed. Many who hear this forecast will make preparations for it. Depending on their individual situations, they will go to the store for supplies, bring in wood for the fire, and if such weather usually leaves them without electricity, they will get batteries, water, check to make sure their generator is working, and the list goes on. In other states, different forecasts will result in the emptying of store shelves...you get the idea. What about things of a desperately more serious nature? IF I could have warned the citizens of London in 1666 that there would be many thousands of houses engulfed in flames, surely they would have done their best to prevent the fire or at least they would have taken their important possessions to safety. IF I could have warned all those who would be found in the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, certainly almost 3,000 souls would have been saved that day. BUT, only if I were to be believed. The truth is that neither of these catastrophes could have been foreseen. BUT I can with certainty foretell you from God, who cannot lie, of the future judgment by the Lord Jesus Christ at the last day, and the ensuing eternal catastrophe which will burn hotter and longer than London's fire and be a bigger surprise than the falling of the World Trade Center to all who have made hell their home. It cannot be prevented; BUT, it can be prepared for. God has with just as much certainty given us a way to escape His Divine Wrath. Each of us was born in sin; and beyond that we've all sinned for ourselves and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Everyone is deserving of God's Divine wrath; but God, by grace has taken our sin upon Himself, bearing the whole judgment of sin upon Himself through the crucifixion of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. This is the Good News; this is the grace of God brought to all men. Temporal judgments can come from the hand of God to nations or people who have rejected His counsel and His grace; but they pale in comparison—indeed would seem as a festive party—compared to the eternal judgment of those who will die in their sin. For, "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27) Many will read this or other warnings like it and take no heed. Many more will hear the truth from evangelists and other speakers and ignore the state of their soul at their own peril. Noah was a preacher of righteousness and still only eight were saved from destruction. Even if no one listens, we still are sent to bring the gospel of the grace of God to a world which is lost in sin. This is a time of year when we think heavily of Christmas carols. Did you know that Paul wrote a Christmas carol? It's in Titus 2:11-15 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." Here we find the best grace wrapped gifts of all time! 1) The gift of salvation. We are saved by grace from sin to God Himself through Jesus Christ. He didn't come in judgment (this time); He came to bear our judgment. 2) The gift of sanctification. God accepts us as we are but doesn't leave us in that pitiful, sinning state. As a matter of fact, at salvation He enrolls us into the school of sanctification—teaching us how to live in this present world. We don't earn our salvation through what we do; we do because we ARE saved. 3) The gift of securing/assuring. Jesus is our Blessed Hope; He is coming again for His own. He will judge all men. Are you ready for that judgment? Many will say yes, yet have no desire for gift number 2 (sanctification). If there is no evidence of, nor desire for, gift number two, you have no assurance of or reason of hope for gift number 1 (salvation). 4) The gift of sending. God graciously uses His own to send the message and gift of His grace to others. We are a sent people to fulfill the Great Commission. We are to share the truth and to share grace with others. We have received this great gift of grace and we are to re-gift it to others. Merry Christmas brothers and sisters! Be the gift that keeps on giving; share the GOOD NEWS with others. Warn them of a terrible voice of judgment that is coming quickly and tell them how to prepare for the storm of divine wrath that is quickly approaching!

Come quickly Lord Jesus, come!

Pastor Steven Huston 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412



Chocolate Cream Cheese Pie

1 1/2 cups Confectioners Sugar

1/4 cup cocoa powder, unsweetened

1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

2 cups (plus additional for garnish) frozen whipped topping, thawed

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 9-inch graham cracker pie crust

1/3 cup semisweet mini chocolate chips (optional)

In medium bowl, sift together sugar and cocoa; set aside. In large bowl, with mixer at low speed, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Slowly add cocoa-sugar mixture; beat until smooth. Fold in whipped topping and vanilla, blending well. Spoon cream cheese mixture into pie crust. Chill for several hours, or until firm. For garnish, top entire pie with additional whipped topping, and sprinkle with mini chocolate chips.

Butterfinger Fudge

3 cups Nestle Milk Chocolate Chips

1/2 cup chopped fun-size Butterfinger bars

1 (14 oz.) can Sweetened Condensed Milk

Line 8x8 or 9x9 baking dish with foil, then spray foil with Nonstick Cooking Spray. In large microwave safe bowl, combine chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk. Microwave for 1 minute, then stir. Microwave for an additional 45 seconds, and stir until melted. Once melted, stir in butterfinger pieces and quickly transfer to foil lined baking dish and spread out evenly. Refrigerate, and chill for approx. 2 hours, or until set. Cut into 1 inch squares,

Lumps of Coal

4 Tbsp butter

5 cups miniature marshmallows

1 (20 ounce) package chocolate sandwich cookies (such as Oreo®), crushed

Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish. Melt butter in a large saucepan over low heat; add marshmallows and stir until melted. Remove saucepan from heat. Stir crushed cookies into marshmallow mixture until well coated. Press cookie mixture firmly into the prepared baking dish using a buttered spatula or waxed paper; cool. Cut into 2-inch squares.

Cheese Cake Dip

1 box Jello No-Bake Cheesecake mix

1 container Cool Whip

1 can cherry pie filling

Graham crackers

Prepare Jello No-Bake Cheesecake mix as directed on box. Stir in one container of Cool Whip. Chill. Top with a can of cherry pie filling. Serve with graham crackers.

Sweet Cherry Cheese Ball

8 oz package cream cheese, softened

1/4 cup powdered sugar

1/3 cup sweetened shredded coconut

8 maraschino cherries, chopped into small pieces

3/4 cup chopped pecans

In a bowl combine cream cheese and powdered sugar. Blend well. Stir in chopped cherries and coconut. Refrigerate for about 15 minutes. Shape cream cheese mixture into a ball and roll in chopped pecans. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for an hour. Serve with crackers.



Keep Seeking and You Will Find!

George Whitten

Luke 2:25-32 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Simeon must have been a remarkable man, one who continued to seek God all his life. The Lord rewarded him by finally revealing to him the infant Jesus' identity as Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world, and allowing Simeon to actually hold and bless the "lamb of God". Why did God reveal himself to Simeon? What was his secret? I believe it was that he never stopped seeking and patiently waiting. Jesus said, "Seek and ye shall find." The Greek really emphasizes the continuing aspect of the Lord's exhortation, literally, "Keep seeking and you will find." We are all aging, that's a given...but do you want to age badly?...then stop seeking. But if, as you age, you desire an exciting, and even youthful spirit-filled life as a believer, then learn a secret from Simeon, a man who aged really well. Don't stop seeking God, or waiting upon Him!" This Godly man discovered that, even in old age – God will reveal awesome things to you!

www.worthydevotions.com

The Gospel IS The Message of the Cross

Pastor Lewis Taylor

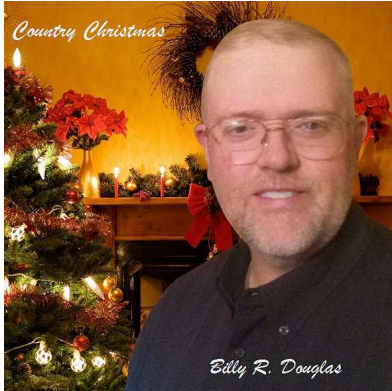
As Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we are called to be a witness in this lost and dying world (Acts 1:8). We are to be partakers of the Great Commission and go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15). The Finished Work of Christ on the Cross is the foundation of the True Gospel message (First Corinthians 2:2). We see throughout the entirety of the Word of God the central theme of Redemption. The idea of God redeeming fallen humanity back to Himself. Sin has marred the relationship between man and God. We must ever understand that the only way man can be reconciled with God is by and through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ and His Finished Work is what brings about Salvation and saves the soul (Ephesians 2:8). This same Faith in Christ and Him Crucified also brings about access to all the blessings of God including Victory over sin, Power, Healing, Strength, Help, and Deliverance. The Message of the Cross is the message that God has ordained for us to proclaim. It is the only hope for sinful man. The efforts of man such as psychology or the so called "Purpose Driven" system will always fail. In fact to tread those paths are contrary to the Will and Ways of God and is considered sin. Believers we have a command to presents others with the Gospel message and that eternal God ordained message is the Message of the Cross both for Salvation and a Overcoming Victorious Christian Life.

Send The Rain Ministries PO Box 12172 Charleston, WV 25302

The Manger & The Cross

He came as a Babe In a manger of hay
 Born to us On Christmas Day
 But through the years He grew to a man
 Destined to die According to God's plan
 From the manger to the cross Seems a long long way
 When we think of the Babe Born on Christmas Day
 But the cross and the manger Are both part of the story
 So God can give us His grace and His Glory

Written by Mark Ryan



Country Christmas (2016)

1. Country Christmas
2. Three Wise Men
3. An Old Christmas Card
4. He's The Reason For The Season
5. When Jesus Came
6. Christmas On His Knees
7. Santa Claus Got Saved
8. What Child Is This
9. Mary Did You Know
10. Go Tell It On The Mountain



LATEST CD

Flow Through Me Holy Spirit (2018)

1. Flow Through Me Holy Spirit
2. Strong Enough To Bend
3. Something Pentecostal
4. Don't That Sound Like Heaven
5. Help Me Remember
6. My God Is Real
7. How Great Is Our God
8. Final Altar Call
9. There Is No Other Fountain
10. Funeral Plans
11. One More Tomorrow
12. Built On The Rock



He's The Reason For The Season (2005)

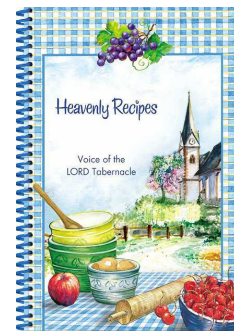
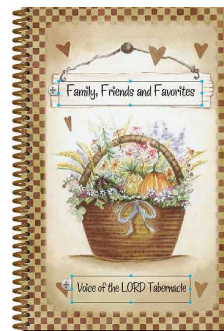
1. He's The Reason For The Season
2. O Come All Ye Faithful
3. Beautiful Star Of Bethlehem
4. What Child Is This
5. C H R I S T M A S
6. Sleep Little Baby
7. Come On Ring Those Bells
8. O Little Town Of Bethlehem
9. The First Christmas Tree
10. Joy To The World
11. Joseph's Song
12. Go Tell It On The Mountain



Home For Christmas (2007)

1. First Christmas Tree
2. What Christmas Means To Me
3. The Gift
4. Santa Claus Got Saved
5. Home For Christmas
6. Joseph's Song
7. A Very Scary Christmas
8. Unto You This Night
9. It's Christmas Once Again
10. Gonna Be A Merry Christmas (with Tyler Willis)

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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verses for Today: 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Additional passages for Today: Hebrews 2:17

Thought for Today: God committed unto us the word of reconciliation. What are you doing with this commitment?

Story for Today: Justice fought his way through the feverish crowd. He had to get to his friend. He had grown up in the same town as Colin and they became friends in first grade as they learned to play ball together. Although the boys lived near each other, attended the same school and played on the same teams; the boys were very different in their personalities, likes and lives. Justice was a straight A student, very athletic, but a team player, quiet mannered, a Bible-believing helpful boy; while Colin was a descent student and was athletic. He was boisterous and often show-boated and everyone knew when he thought he did something good. He attended church regularly but didn't let the Bible-teachings really guide his life anymore than the average kid in school. Both boys were well liked but Colin got most of the attention because his personality just overshadowed in their friendship. Today, Colin had went too far. Ernie wouldn't put up with the antics that made him look stupid any longer and it appeared Colin was about to have his clock cleaned. The pushing and shoving had already started and as Justice fought his way to the guys, Ernie had already pinned Colin to a locker. As Justice neared the two, the look on Ernie's face spoke volumes. Justice spoke quietly but firmly. He addressed both guys but, really only needed to penetrate the emotions of one as it was clear that Colin was already defeated. Nobody could really hear the words over the crowd that had gathered in the excitement; that is no one but Ernie and Colin. It was only a matter of seconds, that felt like an eternity to the suffocating Colin, before Ernie released his hold and let Colin's feet return to the floor. Ernie spun quickly around grabbing Justice. Justice remained calm. He spoke slowly and with true feeling as he expressed his sorrow over the trouble that Colin had created. He calmly offered suggestions that would resolve the situation without the trouble they were sure to face if the fight continued. Mr. Hoffman was just rounding the corner and kids began to disperse quickly, realizing they would be better off in their classroom than sitting in detention or even getting suspended. Justice quickly straightened his shirt and prepared for the interrogation that was sure to come as the three boys headed down the hall toward the principal's office. Justice knew that he had done right. No matter the consequences, he had followed the orders of Christ as an ambassador. He had stopped the wrong that was happening, and had offered hope to souls that needed a Savior. By the time the boys reached the office, all were calm and ready to accept their punishment. Ernie had heard enough of what Justice had said that he was willing to forgive Colin and because no punches had been exchanged, the principal gave the boys a warning and let them go. Colin was amazed. He couldn't understand why Justice would put himself in danger to stop Ernie from hurting him. He knew his words were very unkind and that he deserved the pummeling that Ernie was about to give. What Justice had said about reconciliation was foreign to Colin. He had never listened well enough to know what Justice was referring to, but now he would. He was ready to make some changes, starting with listening in church and studying the verses Justice had mentioned.

Questions for Today: As you see troubles around you, do you avoid the situations hoping someone else will intervene or do you listen and obey the direction of the Holy Spirit? Are you like the crowd, egging on the fight? Will you commit today to study the word and obey? Will you act as if you are the representative of Jesus Christ?



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