



THE HARVESTER

Newsletter of HARVEST TIME MINISTRIES
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Greetings and a Merry Christmas to you (not just Happy Holidays) in the wonderful Name of Jesus Christ! SHALOM (peace) for a wonderful coming year (should the Lord tarry, as my late husband would say):

So another Christmas is upon us, and we marvel at all the decorations and lights and the hustle and bustle of shopping but, alas, many would try to take CHRIST out of Christmas. Instead, it seems many celebrate "Frosty the Snowman" or "Rudolph-the Red-Nosed Reindeer", etc. Here in Citrus Park, where I live, there are street contests for the best decorations, and I see lots of beautiful decorations, but very little to remind us of what we should celebrate. True, Jesus, the Messiah, probably wasn't born on December 25, but that's another story. The important thing is that we celebrate HIM, our Lord and Savior, Who came as one of us. I have a T-shirt that says "His destiny was to change ours". The neon sign I hang out each year simply says "Jesus is the Reason". When a clerk wishes me "Happy Holidays", I reply that "What makes me HAPPY, is Jesus, so I wish you a 'Merry Christmas!'"

November was a time for giving thanks, and I was honored to be able to participate in the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service held for the Bonita Springs community. Many pastors participated, and it is always a blessing to see how we can all come together in unity. The offering that night went to Harvest Time and to Love, INC (Love in the Name of Christ, a networking agency), so that was a blessing! On December 22, Harvest Time will again be having our Christmas visit to the farm worker camps. Each Christmas we try to give each child a new set of clothes and one or two toys, and Mr. and Mrs. Santa always volunteer to distribute the toys. But the families always hear the true meaning of Christmas in Spanish from one of our chaplains. Because of the generosity of Lighthouse Bay, we were able to give 450+ filled backpacks to the neediest of children in the Migrant Education system in several schools. And Country Creek Community Charities helped us with some of the rental fee of the storage facilities for our food and clothing. We are thankful, too, for the grants from a couple of churches and a school drive and food drive from my chiropractor's office and food drive from St. Mary's. It does take a lot of food to fill 125-150 bags of food, which we deliver every other Saturday during "season", so food and finances disappear quickly. We are so very thankful for volunteers from various churches who help with the packing and distribution, and for St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Jesus la Roca (Hispanic church) who are partnering with us now.

A special concern, other than finances, is that our wonderful Treasurer, Bill, and his wife, Darlene (who serves as secretary) are retiring due to illness. As I mentioned previously, they have been so very faithful as volunteers for over 10 years, and they will be greatly missed. We would appreciate your prayers for both of them, and that these positions will be filled quickly. Since I'm the only one in the office, I could also use some part-time volunteer office help for such as filing, etc.

I have been really blessed with a HUGE, wonderful family, and this time of year keeps me really busy. So far I have gifts for 22 of the families, but still going and going....And, I hope to get Christmas cards/letters out before June. Seriously, it was June this past year that I finally sent the family "Christmas" letters out. It helps that I could order fruit for some of the families, and Entertainment Books for some, but I try to get special small gifts for the little ones in the family. I keep saying that "next year I'll just send checks" but somehow that hasn't happened yet. Thank goodness for calendars so I can keep track of all the birthdays.



Chaplain's Corner

(Chaplain Don Franck)

JESUS BORN AS WE WERE

It is strange to understand, or to know, that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, when He was born of a woman, conceived by the Holy Spirit, truly was flesh and blood just as you and I. We read in Galatians 4:23: But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by the promise. (This being the promise that was made to Abraham concerning his seed, Jesus Christ.) Philippians 2:7: 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. And to further bring this out, we read in Hebrews 2:17: Wherefore, in all things it behooved him (Jesus) to be made like his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to help them that are tempted. It is hard to realize and understand that we human beings have an advocate with the Father Who, in every way, has been tempted even as we; He knows how it feels; He knows pain; He knows sorrow; He knows gladness; He knows joy. In every way when Jesus came into this world He walked as flesh and blood because he WAS flesh and blood, and therefore He understands your heartaches and mine, and our problems, our sorrows and disappointments. But, above all these things, He is our Savior and our Redeemer, and He is a righteous a righteous One—one Who understands. We must understand this: That Jesus, being born in the flesh, had to learn concerning the flesh. Hebrews 5:8 says: Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. You may wonder: How did Jesus suffer, and how was He tempted in every way liken unto us? We read, in I John 2:16: For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And so we see that it says "all that is in the world"—otherwise everything that is in the world comes under the classification of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. Now, how was Jesus tempted in this wise? In Matthew 4:3, we see where the devil came and tempted Jesus and besought Him to command the stones to turn to bread, and Jesus, in the 4th verse, said: It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5) Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6) And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7) Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not put the Lord, thy God, to the test. 8) Again, the devil taketh him up

into an exceedingly high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. 9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Begone, satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11) Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. So you see that in these three areas Jesus was tempted. He was tempted with the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eye. All three of these things He went through; and He came through victoriously. And so He has, in all ways, been tempted as you and I. We read that this Jesus of Nazareth was born to be King of the Jews, Matthew 2:2: Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. This is where the wise men, or the kings from the east, came to pay homage to Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews. And though He was born under circumstances less than ideal, Jesus still was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And, again, we need to remember that, without Jesus, this season has no reason. We need to give Him the honor and the glory that He is more than worthy of. He should be sitting on the throne of our hearts this very day. May the Lord Bless you with a "WONDERFUL BIRTH SEASON".

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Luke 1:35 (RSV)

**NO JESUS, NO PEACE
KNOW JESUS, KNOW PEACE**

**JESUS IS THE REASON
FOR EVERY SEASON**

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, COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE. (Is. 9:6)

My Christmas Prayer
by Evelyn Witter

Bless the shining Christmas stars,
Bless the gift-packed modern cars,
Bless the churches' candle glow,
Bless the softly falling snow.

Bless the favorite Christmas songs,
Bless the smiling happy throngs,
Bless the Season's worship call,
Bless the meaning of it all.

LAUGHING MATTERS

Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered. #

Always mail your Christmas gifts early... it gives the receivers time to reciprocate. #

GOD IS THE ANSWER: HANDY LITTLE CHART

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	BIBLE VERSES
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	Luke 18:27
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	Matt. 11:28-30
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	John 3:16
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	2 Cor.12:9, & Ps.91:15
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	Proverbs 3:5-6
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	Philippians 4:13
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	2 Corinthians 9:8
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	Romans 8:28
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I forgive you	1 John 1:9, Rom. 8:1
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	Philippians 4:19
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not give you a spirit of fear	2 Timothy 1:7
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	1 Peter 5:7
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	1 Corinthians 1:30
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	Hebrews 13:5

GOD DETERMINES WHO WALKS INTO YOUR LIFE...IT'S UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHO YOU LET WALK AWAY, WHO YOU LET STAY, AND WHO YOU REFUSE TO LET GO.

SCRAWLED ON A WALL; WERE THE WORDS: "LIFE IS ONE CONTRADICTION AFTER ANOTHER". WRITTEN IN ANOTHER HAND UNDERNEATH WAS: "NO, IT'S NOT."

"MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE A STABLE MARRIAGE," A WOMAN TOLD HER FRIEND. "I WORK LIKE A HORSE AND HE'S AS STUBBORN AS A MULE."

Words from Audrey Hepburn:

- FOR ATTRACTIVE LIPS, SPEAK WORDS OF KINDNESS.
- FOR LOVELY EYES, SEEK OUT THE GOOD IN PEOPLE.
- FOR A SLIM FIGURE, SHARE YOUR FOOD WITH THE HUNGRY.
- FOR BEAUTIFUL HAIR, LET A CHILD RUN HIS/HER FINGERS THROUGH IT ONCE A DAY.
- FOR POISE, WALK WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU NEVER WALK ALONE.



People, more than things, have to be Restored, Renewed, Revived, Reclaimed and Redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself and one for helping others.

HARVEST TIME CURRENT NEEDS

- New Christmas toys & clothing
- Clean used clothing, shoes, linens
- Nonperishable food
- Diapers & other baby items
- Volunteer treasurer/accountant
- Volunteer secretary & office help
- Financial donations to purchase needs
- Your prayers for the ministry

HARVEST TIME MINISTRIES, INC. is a 501 C-3 inter-denominational, not-for-profit organization recognized by the IRS, and all donations are fully tax deductible. Donations were extremely low in the summer, so your help is appreciated. However, the only requirement to receiving the newsletters is that you read and enjoy them. We enjoy hearing from you from time to time, and want to pray for you if you have special needs.

Many thanks to our newsletter sponsor (below)

Without Jesus there is no journey.

Godspeed

NAPLES BONITA SPRINGS

Have a blessed Christmas, and we at Harvest Time Ministries wish only the very best for you and your loved ones. We pray this coming year will be prosperous for you in every way: Spirit, soul, body, finances, ministry, every need met.

Love, blessings and prayers, in Jesus Christ,
(3 John 2 for you)

Gerry