

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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THOUGHTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Every Christmas, I am reminded of the past Christmas times I have enjoyed both as a child and as a parent. I remember my mom letting me look through the Sears Roebuck Christmas catalog to pick out the toys I wanted, and then to miraculously see Santa deliver on almost every request. Those were wonderful times. Then when my own children came along, we set about establishing our own memories with them; such as the customary ride in the pasture to see if we could see Santa and his reindeer on Christmas eve, only to find that he had come and gone when they got back to the house. Santa always came on Christmas eve at our house—evidently we were first on his stop. Now, we still have our children over every Christmas eve—and they wouldn't have it any other way. The grandchildren love it as much as we do, and it just wouldn't be Christmas without it. I thank God for the traditions that mean so much to us, and for His Son, Who is the reason for this special season.

Bro. Mike Woods

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 19th, the kids and youth will present a special Christmas program for the Sunday morning worship service. We will still have Sunday School at 10:00 that day. After Praise and Worship at 11:00, the Christmas program will be presented. Following the program, all are invited to bring your favorite finger foods and desserts for a lunch fellowship in the fellowship hall.

On Sunday, December 26th, we will only have praise and worship (no Sunday School). Services for that day will begin at 11:00.

Also, on Sunday, January 2nd, we will have our annual blessing and communion Sunday. Pastor George encourages all to come for this special annual service. Sunday School classes will begin at their regular 10:00 time.

Cheryl and Judy would like to thank all those who contributed money and assistance in assembling the gift bags for the Brazilian children. We are so blessed and it is a blessing for us to be able to share with them in this way.

TO THOSE NEEDING HEALING

“While the Earth Remains—Seed Time and Harvest”

Our Minds Must Be Renewed

The mind of any believer seeking healing must be “renewed” so as to be brought into harmony with the “mind of Christ.” The renewing of the mind involves two aspects that the believer must follow. First, the “appropriation by faith” of God’s Word of Promise is the result of the believer knowing and acting on God’s Word. This is supported in Romans 10:17 AMP: **“So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).”** Next there has to be a right mental attitude which is included in a renewed mind. This is supported in Romans 12:2 AMP: **“Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is the good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].”**

“Learning Our Jobs and Doing Them Well”

Has it ever occurred to you that one of our jobs on this earth is to prove the will of God? How do we do it? First and foremost we must learn our job. This allows us to show other people what God’s reality is like and manifest it on this earth. When we are willing to learn our jobs, this will allow God to overwhelm the enemy’s works through us. By now you may be asking, what is our job on this earth? Simply put, it is to demonstrate that the “reality” that exists in heaven can be manifested right here, right now. We are not just to be people who believe the right things about God, but people who put the will of God on display! How? By expressing His “will” and causing others to realize, “Oh, so that’s what God is like.” Healing and deliverance and restoration do much more than solve the immediate problem; they give people a real demonstration of Who God is.

“Seed Time and Harvest”

To those who need to be healed, it is imperative that they understand the way God has set up things in order for His Kingdom to work on this earth. Jesus said, **“The Word is the seed.”** It is God’s seed of life (zoe). This law is based in Genesis 8:22: **“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”** The truth of this matter is simple, until the person who is seeking healing is sure from God’s Word that it is God’s will to heal him, he or she is trying to reap a harvest where there are no seed planted. Many Christians are trying to harvest healing fruit when they have not even planted the seed of healing (the Word of God). It is never God’s will that there be a harvest without the planting of the seed—without His will being known and acted on. Jesus said in Mark 4:3 AMP: **“Give attention to this! Behold, a sower went out to sow, V4, And as he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. V5, Other seed [of the same kind] fell on ground full of rocks, where it had not much soil; and at once it sprang up, because it had no depth of soil; V6, And when the sun came up, it was scorched, and because it had not taken root, it withered away. V7, Other seed [of the same kind] fell among thorn plants, and the thistles choked and suffocated it, and it yielded no grain. V8, And other seed [of the same kind] fell into good (well adapted) soil and brought forth**

grain, growing up and increasing, and yielded up to thirty times as much, and sixty times as much, and even a hundred times as much as had been sown.” When a Christian hears the Word he must follow the hearing with **“And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear”** (Mark 4:24 AMP). Just how important is this information? In Mark 4:25 AMP we receive the answer from Jesus: **“For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away [by force].”** Seed time and harvest is a spiritual law of God and must always be followed by the believer in order to reap the good harvest.

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

COMING HOME FROM BRAZIL

(E-mail received December 9th, prior to Bess returning from her Brazilian trip)

Hello Everyone, Thank you all so much for your prayers. We have had a very successful trip. The children were so excited to get the gifts and the parents were appreciative for the blessing for their children. The menu was a success once again. We prepared fried rice, black beans, and roast. They ate it all and were filled.

Today we gave out flip flops to the children and parents in the area. They were so excited. The clouds came over and we all prayed. A few drops of rain came but we prayed and our Father wiped out the rain and brought in the sunshine. It was so awesome to share the SONSHINE with the people. Praise the Lord!

I need to get ready. We are leaving for the airport in 30 minutes. We had our foot washing service and communion sharing with one another the love of our precious Lord. We were all blessed by the love of our Father. Today, He gave us the desires of our heart. We went to the “Rock” and sat in His presence, walked on the beach playing in the water like little girls, and got cold fresh coconuts to drink. He blessed us with our desires even down to giving us running fresh water to wash the sand from our feet before we got on the bus. How special for us to experience the love of our Father today. We came to be a blessing and leave being so blessed. Our God is an awesome God. Love you all so much. Love you, Bess Graham

CHRISTMAS—A SEASON OF SHARING

Many of our friends and neighbors may be doing without this year because of the economy, sickness or other issues. If you see someone in need, I encourage you to reach out to them. Jesus said, “The works that I do, you shall do, and greater works shall you do, because I send the Comforter (Holy Spirit).” His promise is not an idle suggestion, but a truth that transcends eternity. We each have the calling to be more than mere men and women; but rather, to be representatives of God to all people. Let the light of Jesus so shine that it will bring illumination to the lives of everyone you meet this season. And may you be blessed in all you do, in the name of Jesus.

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

**GATHER YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER
AND LET THEM KNOW HOW MUCH
YOU LOVE THEM**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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UNTO US A CHILD
IS BORN.