

G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y

STANDARD



Matthew, and the reason for Christmas

Matthew's Gospel is really unique, because he doesn't start with a story at all, he starts with the genealogy. In fact, you could read the first few verses of the book of Matthew and say to yourself, "I'm not even sure I want to read this, because I don't really know who any of these people are." Eventually he gets to the Christmas story, but he starts like this,

"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah (or Jesus the Christ; the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers."



ROBERT BOOTH

And he goes on and on and on and he lists the genealogy, and he begins with Abraham and he goes right up to Jesus. It's just not that interesting, and one would wonder why he would do that. Matthew even goes out of his way to make us question some of the people in the Jesus' genealogy. In fact, he adds to and emphasizes people he didn't even need to mention at all. If you look at the genealogy, Matthew included names that would have shocked the average Jewish reader. Why did he do this? Here's why I think he did it.

Matthew had spent three years with Jesus. Matthew had stood next to an empty tomb. Matthew saw Jesus die on a cross. Matthew heard Jesus teach. And Matthew knew that all these shady characters with all their baggage and all their sin and all their embarrassing stories—Matthew knew they were the point of the story he was about to tell. Matthew knew that sin was the issue that Jesus came to address. That Jesus didn't just come for sinners, He came from sinners.

One day Jesus and his disciples got off a boat in the city of Capernaum, and as they got off the boat a group met them there. As so often happened to Jesus, a group came and they plopped down a sick person in front of him. This person happened to be paralyzed and his friends brought him on a mat. By this time, a crowd had gathered and Jesus looked at their friend on the mat, who was paralyzed, and he said something really unusual. He said, "Be of good cheer, your sins are all forgiven." Now that's not why his friends had brought him, by the way, and that's not what he was looking for specifically. "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven" and then perhaps Jesus turned to go.

Well, the religious leaders and the teachers of the law and the Scribes and Pharisees that followed Jesus around everywhere—and the reason they followed him around everywhere was they were trying to figure out if he is who he claims to be, and he says great things and he does odd things and he obeys the law and he breaks the law and then he does miracles. Who is this man?

They said, wait a minute, wait a minute; you can't tell this guy that his sins are forgiven; only God can forgive sins. Jesus says, "I have the authority to forgive sins." *continued on page 5*

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Christmas Eve Through a Child's Eyes

RYAN MARTIN

Micah jumped off his dad's lap, his fluffy slippers padding across the soft carpet to the Christmas tree. He reached for the red velvet box under the lowest boughs of the tree, right next to the manger scene. Micah's dad laid aside the Bible he'd been reading to his son, just as his wife set steaming cinnamon buns on the table.

This was Micah's favorite night of the year. He loved hearing his dad read the Christmas story, the smell of mom's baking, carols playing softly, and this...

He slid the velvet box to the center of the table's smooth surface. His mother gently lifted the lid, revealing an ornate silver candlestick. Years old, it still shone in the dimly lighted room.

Micah's eyes sparkled as his dad took the first candle and firmly placed it in the farthest limb of the heirloom candlestick.

"Jesus," he prayed. "Thank You for being the Light of the world." The first candle flickered to life as Micah's father read, "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great Light, and upon those who sat in the shadow of death, Light has dawned!"

Micah remembered a description of Jesus his dad read to him from Revelation. "Clothed with a garment down to His feet and girded about the chest with a golden band, His head and hair were white...as snow, and His eyes were as a flame of fire. His voice was as the sound of many waters, and His countenance was as the sun shining in its strength." Micah could almost see Him creating Adam and Eve. Bright light enveloped them as He breathed into their souls the breath of His life. Micah imagined them walking with the Light of the world in the magnificent garden, being face to face with the King of Creation. But then, Micah winced at what he remembered next. The serpent lied to Eve, "You won't die!" And with one act of disobedience, sin entered their perfect world wrecking their innocence and joy. When the Light of the world came to walk with them, sorrow covered His face. He cried, "Adam, where are you, Son?" Though Adam emerged naked and ashamed in his sin, the Son of Man promised that He would break the power of darkness that now held His children captive. From the foundation of the world, the print of nails already pierced His hands.

As his father lit the second candle, Micah whispered reverently. "Thank You, Jesus, for being the Lamb of God, taking on Yourself the sins of the whole world."

His mom read this time. "He made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin." Then turning to Isaiah, "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...He was wounded for our transgressions and with His stripes we are healed."

The next candle glowed with dazzling radiance. "Jesus, thank You for being our salvation." Micah read with some difficulty the passage before him. *continued on* **page 10**





Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Nathaniel Kincaid on the birth of Naisa Lynn. Naisa was born on July 15.



Congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Sheldon Habecker on the birth of Elizabeth Joy. Elizabeth was born on August 19.



Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Michael Mason on the birth of Jacinda Lynae. Jacinda was born on September 18.



Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Rex McDowell II on the birth of Carter Lane. Carter was born on September 30.

A Tribute to Rev. & Mrs. Barry J. Arnold



The Lebanon God's Missionary Church celebrated the 35 years of faithful service of Pastor and Mrs. Barry Arnold over the weekend of August 31-September 2, 2012. The Friday evening theme was "Reminiscing on the Past" and all five associate/youth pastors were present to share the humorous and life-impacting moments of serving alongside Pastor Arnold. Rev. R.G. Humble, who prayed over Pastor Arnold when he was ordained as a minister, was on hand to give the perspective of God's leading in the life of Rev. Arnold. Following the service, an ice cream social was held in the church's Family Life Center, with pictures and a DVD tribute to Pastor Arnold.

"Rejoicing in the Present" was the focus for the activities on Saturday, which included an outside picnic with wagon rides, a bounce house, slide, cow-milking competition, games, and a display with two of Pastor Arnold's beautiful orange tractors! A concert was held



from a flatbed trailer with a number of people close to the Arnolds sharing in song.

Sunday was a special day with Conference President Harry Plank present to deliver the morning message. He spoke about the Heritage, Holiness, and Harmony of Pastor Arnold and the Lebanon church. A special presentation was made to Mrs. Lois Arnold for the impact that she has made on so many lives over the past 35 years. After a beautiful banquet in the Family Life Center, the congregation gathered back in the sanctuary where, in keeping with the theme of "Reaching to the Future," Rev. John Manley shared a challenge for all of us to follow Pastor Arnold's example. A "Passing the Torch" ceremony symbolically depicted the transition with Pastor Arnold giving the torch to incoming Senior Pastor Alan Walter while everyone held a lighted candle and the Celebration Choir sang, Go Light Your World. Rev. Plank led in a prayer of blessing over Pastor Walter with the church board surrounding their new pastor. The service ended with the congregation joining the choir singing We Will Stand.

May God continue to bless Rev. and Mrs. Arnold as they enter a new phase of life and the Lebanon church with Pastor and Mrs. Walter as they carry on the legacy of building the Kingdom!



—Robbie & Rachel England, photos by Michael Fritz

Mountain Road members celebrate birthdays



A surprise 90th birthday party was held on July 21, 2012 to honor the three oldest members of Mountain Road GMC Penns Creek, PA. All three had cakes that represented their hobbies. From the left - Grace Pennebaker (cooking), Grace Kuhns (farming), and Mildred Trostle (sewing). Mildred turned 90 on June 11, Grace P. on July 3, and Grace K. on August 24. Congratulations and may God continue to bless each of you as you live for Him during these later years of life!

Sunbury church—oldest and youngest



This photo highlights the oldest and the youngest of the Sunbury church. Martha Wolfgang turned 98 on September 9th. Anthony David Cooley was born June 18th and Jakayla Ann Mowery was born on September 5th.

continued from **page 2** We don't know if Matthew saw that, but what we do know is that when Matthew wrote his account of Jesus' life, he made sure that his audience knew that the moment he met Jesus was right after Jesus had looked at that paralyzed man and said, "Your sins are all forgiven." Because moments later, Matthew would be eyeball to eyeball with the Savior of the world for the very first time.

Matthew was a tax collector. He was probably an embarrassment to his family. He was ostracized from all religious life. He was not allowed in a synagogue. He was never ceremonially clean enough to go into the temple. His only friends probably were other tax collectors and sinners. And there he sits at the tax-gathering booth when Jesus walks up. And what does Jesus do? Jesus said, "I want you to go with us." Matthew, why don't you invite some of your friends over and we'll all just have a meal together?

Later in Matthew 9:13 Jesus says "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." I think that as Matthew considered and thought through his own story, he realized the story he was about to tell, he knew that to include sinners in the genealogy wasn't a mistake, it was the point—because he had seen Jesus live out this mission.

The Christmas account is a story about God drawing near to those who had drawn away from Him. And Matthew understood that he needed to highlight the problems in the genealogy, because not only were those people there, they reflected why Jesus came in the first place.

At the end of three years, here is what Matthew had discovered: he discovered that when Jesus came, he changed the rules in terms of what it meant to approach God. And that from now on he, a tax collector, a sinner, a man who had failed in every way and broken every law, had the opportunity to approach God—not on the basis of what he had done, but on the basis of what Jesus had done for him. That the rules had changed, and that the sinners and the genealogy were the point, because God had not come for those who felt like they had a standing in light of their own righteousness.

That's the point of Christmas—that God sent a Savior.

That is the story of Christmas. ■



Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Judah

Perez

Hezron

Arni

Admin

Amminadab

Nahshon

Salmon

Boaz

Obed

Jesse

David

Solomon

Rehoboam

Abijah

Tamar

Rahab

Ruth

Bathsheba

FAMILY TREE OF JESUS OF NAZARETH

FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Why the Genealogy?

One of the reasons that Matthew begins with a genealogy is to show that Jesus fulfills two requirements to be the Messiah.

1. The Messiah had to be a descendant of Abraham - see Genesis 22:18

Asaph

Jehosaphat

Joram

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amos

Josiah

Jechoniah

Shealtiel

Zerubbabel

Abiud

Eliakim

Azor

Zadok

Achim

Eliud

Eleazar

Matthan

Jacob

Joseph

Jesus



2. The Messiah had to be a descendant of David - see Isaiah 11:1-2, 10. Matthew 1:1 proclaims this to be true of Jesus and then it is demonstrated in Matthew 1:2-17.

The four women mentioned in the family tree of Jesus

They are unique, not only to be included in such a list, but in that three were tainted in regards to moral purity;

Tamar played a harlot, Rahab was a harlot, Bathsheba was an adulteress. Ruth mingled the royal blood line with Gentile blood!

Why mention these four women? Perhaps to suggest that not only did Jesus come for sinners, he even had blatant sinners in his family tree.

Two Genealogies?

The New Testament has two genealogies of Jesus. Both of them were abridged to suit the author's purpose.

MATTHEW 1:1-17

Matthew traces the lineage of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph. Writing to a Jewish audience, Matthew means to establish that Jesus is the heir to David's throne.

LUKE 3:23-38

Luke traces the lineage of Jesus from Adam to Joseph. Writing to an audience who was Greek, Luke wanted to establish the humanity of Jesus by showing that He descended from God through Adam is a Savior for all.

Part 3 of a series of Scripture Charts

the first two are in the August and October 2012 issues of the Standard at www.godsmissionarystandard.com



Christmas All Year Long

JEFF STRATTON

It's amazing how many vivid memories flood my mind when I think about Christmas traditions. Picking out our Christmas tree on December 12 (my sister's birthday)—and then decorating it as a family... Blue Currier & Ives bowls filled with oyster stew for Christmas Eve... delicious Christmas pies and eggnog... sitting around the Christmas tree as Dad read the Christmas story, and then opening one gift before going to bed... on the way to bed, stuffing each other's stockings from youngest to oldest (supposedly the older ones were less likely to peek)... waking up on Christmas morning to the strains of "Go Tell It On the Mountain"... Aunt Judy's granola for breakfast... Dad's eternally long shower that we had to wait through before finally opening the presents... and the list goes on and on. As a child, I loved everything that went along with Christmas—the advent calendars, the holly ball that hung over the stairs, the candy-cane castle chimes that hung in the doorway and caught Mom's hair every time she walked under it, and even the Christmas window clings. I loved helping to bake Christmas cookies, driving throughout the city to look at Christmas lights, and caroling in the cold snow. I still love Christmas and all the traditions that go along with it.

Most people have at least some Christmas traditions. Maybe there's a certain meal or dish that you only fix at Christmas. In Japan, the Christmas meal in demand is Kentucky Fried Chicken. In Mexico, it's tamales. Or instead of food, maybe it's something you do—buying a new Christmas ornament each year or taking home-baked goods to neighbors. It's a British tradition to make a wish while mixing up the Christmas pudding—and the wish only comes true if you stir in a clockwise direction. In Caracas, Venezuela, many streets are closed to traffic as all the people roller-skate to their Christmas morning church service. But no matter what your traditions are, Christmas is a special time.

Our culture has largely forgotten why we celebrate Christmas, and sometimes even Christians struggle to keep their focus on the real meaning of Christmas—the birth of the Savior of the world. As we celebrate this Christmas season, it might be valuable for us to spend a few minutes considering how people in and around Bethlehem observed the very first Christmas.

PROCLAIMING

After the shepherds had made their trip to see the Baby in the manger, Luke tells us that "they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." (Luke 2:17). They had been told by the angels, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11). Now they went their way proclaiming the Good News—telling others! "Joy to the world! The Lord is come!"

I know we're so familiar with the story of Jesus' birth that we just read over it and sometimes miss the specialness of what actually happened. If we take time to consider it, the story is really quite strange from a human perspective. First, we have angels

announcing the birth of the Savior of the world—the Son of God. But who are they telling? Shepherds! Dirty, uneducated, lowly shepherds. And where do the shepherds find the Baby? In a stable, lying in a feeding trough, surrounded by animals. This is the Creator of the world, God Himself, the Messiah Who has come to redeem the world! The birth and the revelation just don't seem to go together. And yet they do—it's all part of God's plan.

If I had been planning Jesus' arrival, I think I would have done it a little differently. I would have sent Jesus to a wealthy, well-known family. His birth would have been attended by the most well-trained and experienced doctor. He would have had only the best-qualified nurses to care for him. Everyone would have received a first-class birth announcement, and the most prestigious and influential people would have been invited to visit.

But God didn't do it that way. He gave the glorious message to the shepherds. And truthfully, I wonder if we would have done as well as the shepherds if we had been put in their place. Would we have been as quick to believe the angels? Would the story have been just a bit too fantastic? Would it have been below us to look in a BARN for the Savior, God Himself? And even if we had gone and seen what they saw—would we have been as quick to go tell others? Would we be afraid of what others might think of our bizarre story?

How about our reaction now? Are we afraid to proclaim the Good News? Afraid of what others might think? Afraid to be out of place in our godless culture? After all, it's no longer popular to tell others that Jesus is the only Way to Heaven. You'll be labeled "intolerant". So maybe we find ourselves just a little too educated, too cultured, too refined to be willing to tell others the old-fashioned Bible story of Jesus. But Jesus IS the only way, and He did come to set us free from our sins. And just as those shepherds went their way proclaiming the Good News, we too must go proclaiming joy to the world—the Lord has come!

WONDERING

Luke 2:18 tells us that "all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds." Some translations of the Bible say that the people were amazed at the message.

There is more than one type of amazement or wondering. We can passively say "Wow, that's amazing"—and not really be affected at all. I can't say for sure, but I imagine that's the kind of amazement some of these people experienced—an unbelieving skepticism. "Wow, that story is pretty incredible. Wonder how on earth they came up with that idea!"

We can also have a holy amazement, a holy awe. My chil-

dren love to hear stories about Jesus—how He healed people, how He called His disciples, how He calmed the storm, how He died on the cross, and how He rose from the grave. I don't want to ever become so sophisticated, so refined, and so "mature" that I'm no longer amazed at the story of Jesus. I want to be like the person who wrote:

*"Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus
Sang as they welcomed His birth.
'Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.'"*

May I never get beyond the wonder, the awesomeness of Christmas!

PONDERING

Mary, the mother of Jesus "kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19). Pondering goes deeper than just wondering. We can be amazed about something, but not have it truly affect us. How many times have we been caught up in a moment of emotion and amazement, but after the moment passes, we just go back to the same as we were?

Pondering something means giving it serious consideration. Mary deliberately went over and over this event. No doubt she thought about each word that was spoken, each thing that happened. These weren't just fleeting thoughts in her mind. I imagine she went back to the day the angel appeared to her, announcing that she would be the mother of the Messiah. She probably thought back to her visit with Elizabeth and Zachariah, and all the amazing events that occurred preceding the birth of their son. No doubt she thought of Joseph's reaction when she told him the news of her coming baby, and then of Joseph's reassuring words when the angel appeared to him. I'm sure she thought about their trip to Bethlehem and search for an inn, and the visit from the shepherds, and their amazing story. Did she understand it all? Did she really comprehend everything at that point? I don't know. But one day she did come to the realization that her Son, the little Baby she held in her arms, was also her Savior.

Pondering is hard work. But every now and then, we need to take some time alone, and here at the end of the year is a perfect time to do just that. What have I done with this past year of my life? Am I farther up the road spiritually than I was a year ago? Am I still making progress? Have I learned anything this year about God and His character? Am I where I need to be in my relationship with God? continued on **page 10**

continued from **page 9** What steps must I take to get to where I need to be?

I believe that if we do this with an open heart, God will help us.

GLORIFYING

Luke 2:20 says that “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen.” The word “returned” stands out to me. When that first Christmas was over, the shepherds went back to their work. The day after Christmas, they were back in the fields with their flocks—but they weren’t the same! They were glorifying God, praising Him everywhere they went, and telling others what they had seen and how they had been changed.

This Christmas season will come to an end for all of us. We will take down the Christmas tree, pack away the Nativity set, box up the bows and balls, put the Christmas CD’s back on the shelf, and eat the last candy cane cookie. Christmas 2012 will be a thing of the past. We will fold up, eat up, hang up, use up, or whatever it is that we’re supposed to do with our Christmas gifts. The factory will start up again... the offices and stores will re-open for normal business... school will resume... and life will go back to normal. But will we be CHANGED by Christmas? Or will it just be “business as usual” in 2013?

For those shepherds, life would never be the same. Yes, they went back to the same fields, the same sheep, and the same work. But the shepherds themselves were different! They had a new zeal, a new fervor, a new reason for living! Now they were serving the Good Shepherd, Who cares for His sheep!

Some people talk of how they wish Christmas could last all year long. But just because the needles fall off the tree, and the leftover eggnog goes sour, and we’re not playing “I’ll Be Home for Christmas”, and we pack away all the lights and wreaths—that doesn’t mean that we have to pack up Christmas in our hearts!

Do you want Christmas to last all year long? It can, if you do what the shepherds did.

Go back. Back to your office... back to your factory... back to your classroom... back to your neighborhood... back to your family duties... but go back a changed person! Go back glorifying and praising God, and you will find joy in daily routines!

Proclaim the Good News that Jesus Christ has come to redeem the World!

Wonder at God’s amazing plan of amazing grace!

Ponder the incredible works of God!

Glorify God in your daily life!

Do these things, and you will have Christmas all year long. ■

continued from **page 3** “She shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS [God is Salvation] for He shall save His people from their sins.”

Micah smiled as his dad gently guided his hand and together they lit the fourth candle. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.” “Who is the Word that came down from heaven, son?” his mom asked.

“Jesus!” he declared proudly, and she quoted Jesus’ words in John chapter six. “I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven, if any man eat of this bread, He shall live forever.”

Another candle sparked to life as his mother spoke. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.”

The Word equal with God in the beginning, the Word by whom all things are created, lived as a humble man. Perfect, sinless, favored by God and man, He healed the sick, the hurting and the blind. Opening their eyes, he looked into the hearts of men with love and compassion.

The people gasped in amazement when the Word, as flesh, stood in the synagogue reading the words of Isaiah. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind.”

His word was with Power! This same Word forgives, transforms and brings hope.

“Lord,” Micah’s dad prayed, lighting the sixth candle. “Thy throne is for ever and ever! A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. You laid the foundation of the earth. The heavens are the work of Your hands. They shall perish; but You shall remain; they shall grow old like a garment; and as a vesture You will fold them up, and they shall be changed: but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail!”

“Micah?” He slowly opened his eyes.

“Yeah, mom?” She held the last candle out to him.

His dad read the Scripture just right. “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!”

Seven candles burned brightly as Micah and his family sipped hot chocolate and sampled their favorite Christmas Eve snacks. Before slipping off to bed, he sat in front of the tree for one last look at the manger. Only the soft light glimmering in the branches illuminated his teary eyes as he studied the tiny figure in the straw. “Jesus,” he spoke quietly. “I am so glad you came! I can’t wait ‘til you come again.” ■



president

July 22: We enjoyed hearing the Robb Loper family in the evening service. They are preparing to serve as missionaries with Hope International Missions in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

July 25: Lester Hoch from the Gratz Emanuel Wesleyan Church and I waited with Dan Durkee at the Lewisburg Hospital while Michelle Durkee underwent heart catheterization. Thankfully, the results of the testing were good.

July 26: It was a joy to be with the ministers and delegates again in this 77th annual God's Missionary Conference. Thank you for another vote of confidence. It is only with God's help that anything will be accomplished in the coming days. We ask for your prayers.

July 27 – August 5: The Lord was faithful to meet the needs of many at the altar and encourage others during Penns Creek Camp Meeting. The evangelists were David Fulton, Rollin Mitchell and Joseph Smith.

John Gilley was the youth evangelist. Barry and Gerty Mason were the children's workers. In the pre-service each night, we heard from various missionaries, home missions and the Lebanon Valley Gospel Band. Thank you to each God's Missionary congregation who were faithful to their daily camp jobs, the cafeteria and snack shop helpers, those who gave of their finances, and to those who were faithful to fast and pray.

August 10: Rachel and I enjoyed the singing of the McIntires and the preaching of Derek McIntire at the Elim Grove Camp at Center Valley. Bro Greg Thacker also served as evangelist. Camp President & Mrs. Marvin Mosely had their household packed and ready to move to Colorado Springs at the close of camp. Rev. David Walter has been voted to be the new camp president.

August 12: I spoke in a 20-year anniversary service for the Mt. Road Church at Penns Creek with Pastor Greg Hobelman in the morning. We heard a lot of reminiscing of how many people worked together with

Pastor Stewart Mason and contractor Trostle in the process of building the church 20 years ago. Thank you to those who prepared a southern fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings for everyone in attendance at the Miller Dining Center. In the afternoon, we again heard memories from former pastor, Alan Walter.

August 13: We enjoyed the evening and fellowship with Jose Cancio who has been staying in our home the past week, so that he could represent the Miami Mission to some of the area churches. We appreciate his dedication to the Miami Church, the Cuban Church and to the Florida District.

August 14: I rode along with our son, Jim, and his children, Jamison and Jennifer, to West Chester to hear vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan speak. Most of us succeeded in getting his autograph!

August 18: I visited the Camp Freedom "mini camp" with Pastor Dennis Ritchie. I appreciated the special singing and preaching by the Dan Durkee family.

August 20: I spoke at the 9:00 a.m. Penn View faculty orientation. Please keep these sacrificial people in your prayers. Ask the Lord how you can be an encouragement and how you may help them financially. Perhaps your church or Sunday School class would like to have a special project to help in their support.

August 24: We enjoyed greeting the Penn View Students on Welcome Night. I trust God will bless these fine young people as they prepare for whatever ministry God will lead them into.

August 26: We were with Pastor Steve Aurand and the Camp Hill congregation for the morning service. The funeral for Allen Bettner, a faithful parishioner and an influential man had been held in the little church the day before with 80-90 people in attendance. Our sympathy to the Bettner family. We arrived at home in the afternoon, just as my mother, Aunt Margery, and newly retired Cousin Vicki were arriving for a couple days to visit.

August 30: I made a trip to Rine's Auto Sales in Mifflinburg and traded the Toyota Avalon for a 2000 Ford Ranger truck.

August 31: I spoke to the Penn View students in their morning chapel service. In the evening, I traveled to Lebanon where I heard several ministers tell some very interesting memories of their days working as an assistant pastor to Barry Arnold.

September 2: We enjoyed the beautiful services of transition at the Lebanon Church. I spoke in the morning service. There were several things in the program to honor the Arnolds who are retiring after 50 years of ministry, 35 of those years, pastoring the Lebanon congregation. A beautiful meal was provided at noon and the passing of the torch and installation service of the new pastor, Rev Alan Walter, was in the afternoon. In the evening, we arrived back home in time to hear Leonard Sankey preach at the Beavertown Church.

September 4: We left Middleburg bright and early to board our flight at the Harrisburg Airport and arrived in Orlando, FL early afternoon. We found our camping trailer at Sun City in good condition, but were disappointed to find a fair amount of mold and mildew. We were able to get it back in shape with a lot of scrubbing with Clorox water and the purchase of a small dehumidifier. We always receive a warm welcome from camp care takers, John and

Cheryl Gandee. Thank you, Bro Gandee, for the coffee breaks, ice cream and fish fry! John Gandee and Sonny Sterrett did a great job finishing B dorm with new drywall and nice paint.

September 5: I was pleased to receive a call from John Walter, Jr. that he has accepted the invitation to pastor the Butler Church. In the evening, we enjoyed a meal with Pastor and Mrs. Jeff Asbell and son, Jonathon. It was also great to be with all our friends at the Kissimmee church where I preached in the evening service.

September 7: Jose Cancio brought a timely message. We enjoyed special singing by Michael Smalley and the Geul family at the Friday night Rally at Sun City. Many of the Florida holiness churches were represented including all Florida District pastors.



HARRY PLANK

September 8: Communion service was in the opening session of Florida District Conference, special singing by Mark and Diana Russell and I preached the morning message. The congregation enjoyed lunch together at the Bob Evans Restaurant. Elections were held in the afternoon.

September 9: In the morning, we visited the Seffner Church where Mark Russell always does a great job teaching Sunday School. I preached in the worship service, and then we enjoyed a lovely meal in home of Pastor and Mrs. Smalley along with a house full of family members. Congratulations to the Smalleys on the birth of grandson, Aiden. It was good to be with Pastor and Mrs. Thomas Bickert and

congregation in the evening. Rachel and I stayed overnight where the new parsonage children, Ashley and Journey, allowed us to use their room.

September 11: I preached at the Ft. Myers Rescue Mission in the evening to a full house. Although Director and Mrs. David Light are very weary, things at the mission seem to be well organized. At roll call time for the men, it was announced that the mission was running at full capacity, but since there was a chance of rain, others could sleep on the bus if need be.

September 13: We worked around the camp grounds and prepared our camper for storage. In the evenings, we enjoyed fellowship with the Gandees.

September 14: We packed our bags to return home, but first traveled to Summerfield where we enjoyed the evening meal with Pastor and Mrs. Barry Sweitzer. We then joined their congregation in "Music on the Lawn".

September 16: I preached in the morning service at the New Columbia Church Friend Day. Each visitor was welcomed by many as they entered. They were also given a lovely folder that included information concerning the church, a revival announcement, a gift card and an invitation to a lovely Sunday dinner. There were over 200 people in attendance. Pastors Matt Ellison and Steve Miller along with many of the congregation are serious about winning the community not only to the church, but in meeting Jesus.

September 22: Some of our children and grandchildren met at the Mifflinburg Carriage Corner Restaurant to celebrate my 65th birthday, since I was going to be out of town on the 28th.

September 24: We traveled to Knightstown, IN where we enjoyed fellowship and were provided excellent lodging in the home of Rev. and Mrs. George Maloyed.

September 25: Thank you to the Maloyeds for a lovely breakfast in New Castle and a tour of Carthage to see the residences of the Rollin Mitchells and the Peter Casilinos. It was great to have a short visit with Penny Ford and Mary Braun who had arrived to sing for the Knightstown revival starting that evening with evangelist John Gilley. We also had a surprise visit with Rev. James Sutherland who was passing through town. We then traveled on to Indianapolis where I preached the first night of revival at the Southeastern Holiness Church where Rev. Ron Stevens is pastor.

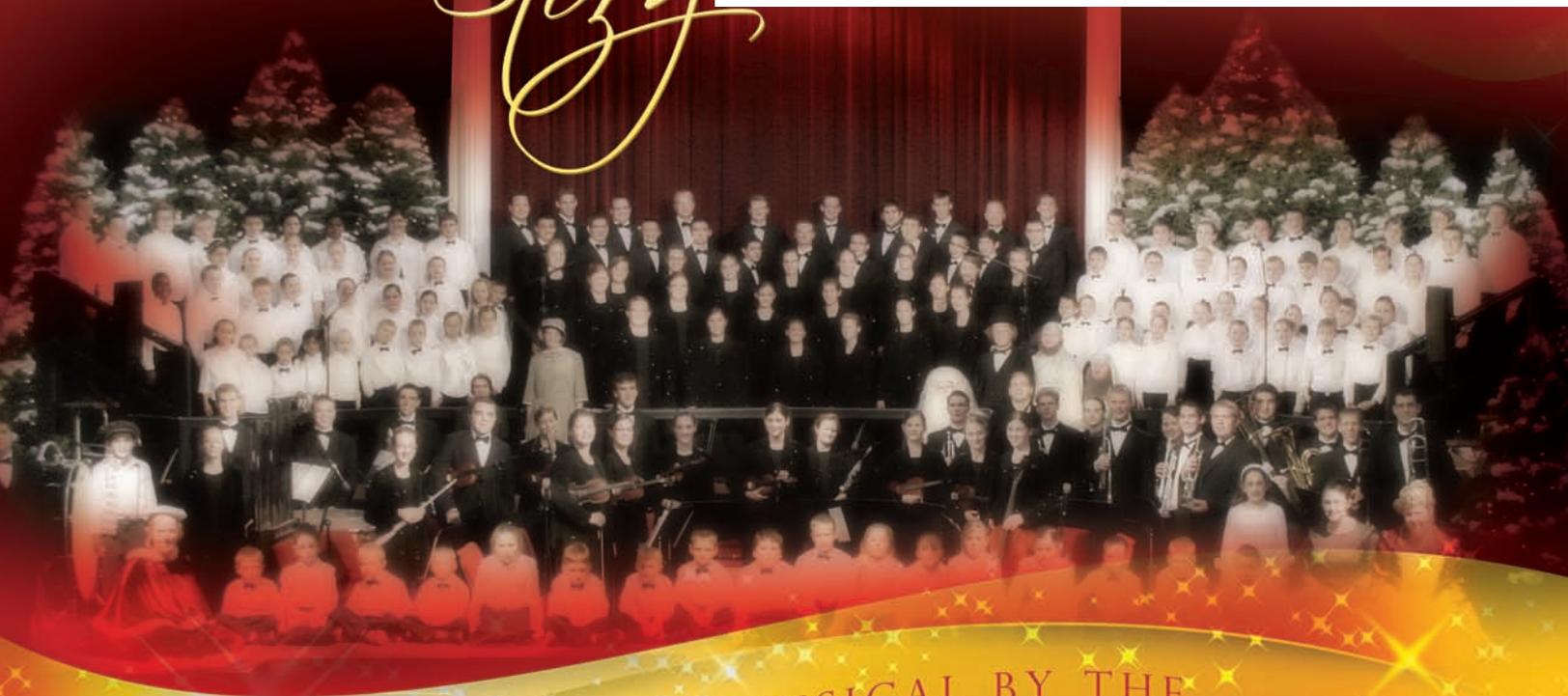
September 26: It was good to spend some time with former Hobe Sound Bible College classmates, Bill and Mary Carpenter who live nearby. In the evening revival service, a young lady came to the altar and found the Lord. It was only her third time to attend the church.

September 28: We traveled to Greensburg so that Rachel could meet with several of her childhood friends from the Clarksburg congregation. We were honored that even 96-year-old Howard Fletcher came out for the little reunion. There were many visiting friends again in the evening service. Several stayed for refreshments after the service which included decorated cakes in honor of my 65th birthday! Pastor and Mrs. Ron Stevens were a wonderful host and hostess. Thank you to Seth and Sarah for giving up their bedrooms so that we could have the use of the entire second floor of the parsonage! 🎉

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