

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

STANDARD



*Encountering
the Christ
of Christmas
Again*

 from the
editor

GOD'S MISSIONARY
STANDARD

DECEMBER 2016
Volume 67-Number 5

© 2016 God's Missionary Standard
(ISSN 1065-4879)
P.O. Box 970, Penns Creek, PA 17862

God's Missionary Standard is published five times per year by God's Missionary Church and mailed from Shoals, Indiana. Subscriptions are FREE. Contributions to this non-profit ministry are always welcome and encouraged.

Web www.godsmissionarystandard.com
Facebook [facebook.com/gmstandard](https://www.facebook.com/gmstandard)
Twitter twitter.com/gmstandard

Editor **Robert Booth**

Associate Editor **Solomon Shaffer**

Advisors **Timothy Cooley, Sr.,
Jeff Stratton, David Wise**

Business Manager **Alan Walter**

Layout and Design **Jon Plank**

Proof Reader **Paul Bell**

Printing **Country Pines Printing**

News & Articles **Robert Booth**
PO Box 1065
Hobe Sound FL 33475
rwbooth@gmail.com

Subscriptions & Address Change **Alan Walter**
2127 Hill Street
Lebanon, PA 17046



God's Missionary Church

Conference President **Jacob Martin**
216 Schoch Street
Middleburg, PA 17842
jacobwmartin@juno.com

Vice President **Jeremy Fuller**
jfuller@embarqmail.com

Secretary **John Zechman**
president@pvbi.edu

Treasurer **Alan Walter**
parson1988@aol.com

Home Missions Director **Jeremy Fuller**
jfuller@embarqmail.com

World Missions Director **Wilmer Paulus**
sepikpau1@juno.com



ROBERT BOOTH

As one who loves history, there are many events that I would love to jump into a time machine and transport back so that I could witness history first hand as an observer. Foolish I know, but wouldn't it be neat to be able to observe certain moments in history?

If we had the ability to be able to do that, the Christmas narratives in Scripture are among the top of my list that I would transport back through time to observe. I would love to observe the shepherds as they encountered angels and then race to the village of Bethlehem to encounter the baby Jesus. I would feel for Joseph and Mary as they searched for a location for Mary to give birth to Jesus. And I would weep for joy as Simeon encountered the Christ, the hope of the world.

Encounters with Christ are still happening. Christ is still initiating encounters with Himself. He is still transforming people. May we listen to Him, obey Him, and live lives changed for Him. This issue of the Standard looks to continue the theme that we started in the October issue - Encounters with Christ. May we once again, encounter the Christ of Christmas. 

*The editorial staff of the Standard
wishes you a Merry Christmas.*

 [facebook.com/gmstandard](https://www.facebook.com/gmstandard)

 twitter.com/gmstandard



NATHAN PURDY

Joy TO THE Shepherds!

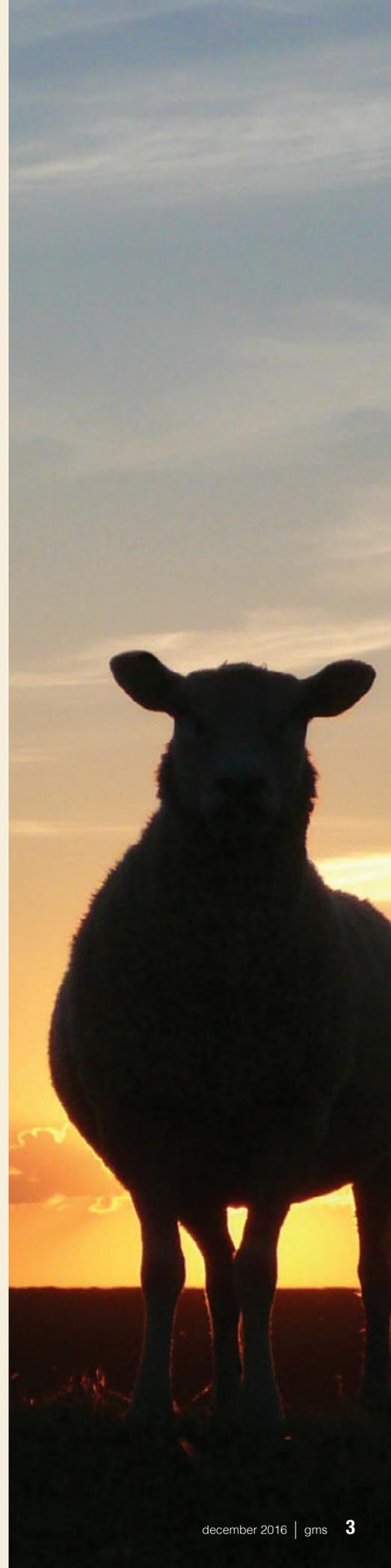
My childhood memories on the Emerald Isle include walking with Shadow, our sheepdog, through the rolling fields on my Dad's farm. I grew up in a farmhouse, surrounded by picturesque fields dotted with sheep and bordered by hedgerows. Drives into a local village could be interrupted by a neighbor leading his sheep down the main road, as he moved them from one field to another. Memories linger of the day my sister and I received our own pet lambs - Lucy and Skippy. In a child's way, I loved it all.

While I was a farmer's son, I was not a farmer. I'm not sure when the penny dropped, but it became obvious; I didn't have a farmer's heart. I've seen this love in the farmer's furrowed brow when sickness weakens a calf and in the falling tear when an animal dies. At the happier end of the spectrum, this love is unmistakable in the joyous smiles when an animal is born.

Even though I was not a farmer, I became familiar with the rhythms and routines of a farmer's life. One particularly intense time (renowned for its 24-7 workload) was lambing season. For sheep farmers with lots of sheep - lambing season drains them to below empty physically, but fills them to overflowing emotionally, because it's always a good day when a lamb is born!

Given these personal memories, I'm fascinated that shepherds feature so prominently in the original Christmas. Luke records Jesus' birth, then moves to farmers nearby, "keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). Farmers, guarding their sheep! God insisted that they hear of the birth of a ... baby. Local sheep farmers, chosen by God, to receive this special birth announcement.

It's not that there's anything abnormal about a birth announcement. A newborn is a powerful magnet - families are attracted to hold her, friends drawn to see her, and gifts accumulate around her. The news also spreads. Today, a baby's birth triggers a joyful jingle that radiates the joy of that room throughout the hospital. The beaming smiles begin to ripple across the building, bringing smiles to the faces of the sick and hurting. Texts, emails, and updates race over the globe to family and friends, *continued on page 9*





CAROL HOSKINS

Once Upon A

*'Twas the Year Before Christmas, When all through our home,
My heart sang with joy; Soon my wedding would come!*

My beloved husband, Joseph, and my father had already signed the engagement/marriage contract. We were so in love! I was his Mary and he was my Joseph. Our deep devotion to our Lord God and each other made us determined to wait for our wedding day for the consummation of our love. We wanted “What God has joined together.”

Suddenly, on an ordinary day, without warning, my life was changed forever! A man I had never seen stood beside me speaking. I was terrified! “Fear not, Mary! Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS. . . and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David . . .”

My thoughts whirled as I struggled to absorb the meaning of Angel Gabriel’s words. God the Holy Ghost would overshadow me! I, a virgin girl, would give birth to the Messiah? The ONE every Jewish mother had anticipated for thousands of years!

Gabriel shared more news that only God could know. My cousin, Elizabeth was expecting a son in her old age. My questions shrank as he spoke again, “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

My insides trembled. My mind filled with all the “what if’s,” while my heart melted in worship that my God would trust me to be the mother of His Son! Where to go? Who would believe me? Elizabeth! Yes!

I set out on the journey to Elizabeth’s home, with wings beneath my feet! The witness that the Spirit of God gave to both Elizabeth and myself, on my arrival, is beyond description! She praised God, blessed me (lowly me?) as the “Mother of her Lord” and blessed my Baby. She KNEW! Little John, at six months unborn, began to leap in his mother’s womb praising God with us! God displayed His powerful approval at our first meeting of the miracle mothers and their unborn sons.

Meanwhile, back in the village of Nazareth, Joseph, my parents and friends were waiting for a wedding feast. I had to talk to Joseph, but then what? Just because I’d said, “Yes” to God’s perfect will, did not necessarily simplify life! Nothing but a deep consciousness of my own integrity and the strongest confidence in God, supported me in this trying time. My reputation, honor, and life were at stake!

Dear Joseph felt confused, betrayed and painfully unloved! In the nick of time, God messaged him, by express from Heaven, in a dream. What I hadn’t been able to convey in hours, God accomplished in minutes! “Fear not to take Mary.” Joseph quietly took

Starry Night

me to his home where we prepared for the arrival of EMMANUEL, God with us.

Our well-laid plans seemed trashed by interference! First came the mandated trip to Bethlehem for census, next the Inn was full and God's Son was born in a lean-to-stable built onto the back of the Inn! In spite of all, this was a Holy Night! I wrapped Jesus tightly in the long strips of cloth that I'd brought for this occasion. The love I felt was deeper than I dreamed possible!

The peace of the Silent Night was broken by wild-eyed shepherds looking for a newborn Savior, lying in a manger! Their account of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," announcing a virgin-born Baby, was the reassurance we needed. God really did know exactly where we were! Although it wasn't as we planned, we were in the very center of His will.

The Father's signposts led us, step by step. In the temple, we dedicated Him to God and named Him "JESUS," as the angel said. Simeon and Anna knew Him and began praising God for sending the Messiah!

The Wise Men's Star (GPS) guided them to our exact address to worship. Joseph was warned by an angel to run for our lives to Egypt! At long last, we returned to our hometown of Nazareth to raise our Son.

At age 12, we took Jesus on a most memorable trip to celebrate the Passover Feast in Jerusalem. After a week, the Nazareth caravan started home. What a shock to realize we had lost Jesus!

After three hair-raising days of searching we were astonished to find Him in the temple, right where we had left Him! His intelligence, understanding and replies were overwhelming as He talked to the teachers.

My voice trembled as I questioned Him accusingly, "Son! How could you treat us this way? Didn't You know Your father and I were searching frantically for You for three days?"

He respectful reply, "Didn't you know I needed to be about My Father's business?" made my cheeks flush. Jesus immediately rejoined us and returned home as impeccably obedient as always.

My young mother-heart was trying to absorb this subtle beginning of change. My Baby was becoming a young Man. "What Child is This?"

God surely looked at my obedience and trust, not my qualifications, when He honored me as the Mother of Messiah.

I soon learned yet another difficult lesson when our family was invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. When there was a shortage of wine, I naturally felt it was time for the world to "Know Who Jesus Is." Although He spoke kindly to me, *continued on page 7*



“We get so caught up in examining the lives of these earthly characters, that we sometimes forget, unintentionally, the main, heavenly character. Without question, this event would greatly touch the heart of the Father.”



MATTHEW ELLISON

Love Hurts

The “Christmas Chapter” is one of my favorite chapters in the greatest love story of all time. Anyone reading this grand event will be warmed with joy one minute and be shedding tears of gratitude the next. One rejoices with Mary as she realizes that she will be the earthly mother of the Messiah, yet sheds tears as he reads of the division it brings into the life of two people madly in love with each other, as she and Joseph were. How can anyone read about the shepherds on the dark hills, guarding the flocks of sheep under their watch and care, and not sense the complete moments of fear that must have gripped them as their peaceful night was interrupted by a bright light and talking celestial beings? Surely, they must have initially been scared nearly to death. But yet, imagine the great calm that must have gripped their hearts as they realized they were talking to God’s messengers. The point is, this “Christmas Chapter” is full of beauty. It is an emotional roller coaster for sure...but then again, aren’t all love stories?

One of the main “characters” in this love story is often overlooked. We look at characters such as Joseph, Mary, Simeon, the shepherds, and the wise men, and we examine the inn keeper and even the hustling and bustling crowds of people rushing about. This great event is surely going to affect each one of these “characters” differently. But what about God the Father? We get so caught up in examining the lives of these earthly characters, that we sometimes forget, unintentionally, the main, heavenly character. Without question, this event would greatly touch the heart of the Father. This event is a reminder that God knows, LOVE HURTS!

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and all that is within them. He liked it and called it good. Yet God longed for part of His creation to have the ability to “choose” to love and worship Him, so He created man in His own image and He breathed into him His own breath and man became a living being, and God was pleased and said it was good. Things were going well. The love and worship that Adam and Eve gave God resulted in sweet communion, peace, and fulfillment, all around. But then came that sad day when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. That was the day that man, God’s greatest creation, broke God’s heart.

Things spiraled out of control in this world. Evil grew. Hatred towards one another grew. Murder became a regular occurrence. Vices from hell itself reigned in every land. Man was on a mission. That mission was to fulfill the desires of the fleshly self. In doing so man continually broke the heart of God. God tried to heal it all. He spoke to His people. He showed mercy to the heathen. He was lenient with them when they deserved great judgment. Time and time again God faithfully tried to bring man back to Himself. Ultimately, there was really only one way this could happen. Restoration could only happen with a blood sacrifice, so God initiated the Ceremonial Law. Man

would have to offer sacrifices of lambs, the most perfect lambs they could find, for their sinfulness to be properly dealt with. This was only a temporary fix because it was powerless over the grip of sin and evil.

Enter God's amazing love. There was a remedy, but it was going to be costly. It would cost God His only Son. Jesus, the sinless, spotless Lamb, would have to die and shed His life's blood for the power of sin to be broken once and for all. Such a decision is without question painful, but yet He gave His Son without hesitation. In doing so, He proved to that generation, and all that would follow, how much He really loves us. It was a choice He made that would forever define true love. What He did in that decision would forever lay the foundation of real love as being a selfless, sacrificial act!

Dick Hills illustrated it this way. "She was lying on the ground. In her arms she held a tiny baby girl. As I put a cooked sweet potato into her outstretched hand, I wondered if she would live until morning. Her strength was almost gone, but her tired eyes acknowledged my gift. The sweet potato could help so little -- but it was all I had.

Taking a bite she chewed it carefully. Then, placing her mouth over her baby's mouth, she forced the soft warm food into the tiny throat. Although the mother was starving, she used the entire potato to keep her baby alive. Exhausted from her effort, she dropped her head on the ground and closed her eyes. In a few minutes the baby was asleep. I later learned that during the night the mother's heart stopped, but her little girl lived."

This mother's love was never debated. She never asked, "Should I, or should I not put my baby first?" No, even though she knew that she, herself, was near death, her heart's desire was that her little girl make it through the night alive. God never for a moment debated, "Should I, or shouldn't I send My only Son to die for man's sinfulness and rebellion?" His heart's desire was simply to see His creation have the opportunity to go through this life, free from the power of sin, and with the ability to love and worship Him freely. So, without hesitation, God responded with love ... with a love that cost ... a love that hurt! ❏

**"His heart's desire
was simply to see
His creation have
the opportunity to
go through this life
free from the power
of sin and with the
ability to love and
worship Him freely."**

continued from **page 5** "Dear Woman, My time is not come yet," it was another revelation that His ear was tuned to His Father's will. I must be willing to painfully "cut the apron strings" for the higher calling for which He was born.

His earthly ministry had begun. Miracles continued daily through the power of Jesus: lame walked; blind saw; dead were raised; crowds were fed from one small picnic basket; demons were cast out; lives were transformed when their sins were forgiven.

Though the crowds saw only a Man, His preaching was convicting. His Spirit was Divine. He was God the Son. He never lost sight of the Eternal Perspective to every situation. Surely everyone would soon recognize Him as our Messiah!

My heart was pained when the tide began to change. JESUS was accused, lied on, and finally captured and taken to a mock trial. Crowds cried, "Crucify Him!" while Pilate wrung his hands.

God had tried to prepare me with the warnings from old Simeon in the Temple, many years ago. "A sword will pierce

through your own soul also." Truly I felt no pain greater than to see my own Child suffer and be unable to rescue Him.

The worst came. I followed Him to Calvary and saw them crucify my Son! Even in that hour of torture, I was blessed by His caring so much that He asked John to care for me as his mother in my older years. I was the only person who had been with Him since the time of His birth, and now I was with Him as He died. Tears gushed from the artesian well of my heart! He could have called 10,000 angels, but He died alone for you and me.

The Father knew I would need all those early proofs of divinity for my faith to cling to, until Easter came. The Father kept His promises. Christ Jesus Lives Today! He's on His Throne interceding for us, transforming lives, whenever we call His name.

"Twas 33 Years After Christmas, His work was complete.

"Wait in the Upper Room, with the Holy Spirit you'll meet."

Then into the clouds, JESUS left without sound,

He's coming back again! HOPE for all the world we have found! ❏



Simeon

WHEN FAITH BECOMES SIGHT

NATHAN WALTER



You probably have them in your town: the ones you know by association. When you see them in the grocery store, you can remember where you usually see them even if you cannot call their name. It might be the librarian, the bank teller, one of the men who sits daily in a local restaurant, or the lady who is always waving from her front porch swing. The Bible tells us very little about Simeon's daily life, though we suspect he may have been similarly identified with the Temple. "Oh, I know that

man. I usually see him at the Temple." Some scholars have suggested he was a member of the Sanhedrin, maybe even its president. If so, he was probably in and around the Temple regularly.

But there was another identifying feature of this man. The story had gotten around that he expected to live to see the Messiah. Though Simeon had a fine reputation of integrity, some may have questioned his sanity at that claim. People had been hoping for the Messiah for centuries, but He still had not come,

and it had been years since God had even spoken by the prophets. Simeon may have gotten his fair share of ridicule and jokes, but he had a promise from God, and no matter what anyone else said, his faith held firm.

Finally, the day came when God nudged his faithful prophet toward the Temple again. That may not have been unusual, but this time, something was different. He felt the assurance that God was keeping His promise, and he went there with a renewed expectancy.

We do not know how long he had to wait for the fulfillment of the promise, but when Mary and Joseph arrived at the Temple with Jesus that day, Simeon's long-held faith became sight as he beheld the Messiah, the consolation of Israel. At that moment, all the long days of waiting were made worthwhile. The scoffing of the neighbors no longer mattered. What mattered was that God had kept His promise, and he had seen the Messiah. The Savior had finally come!

Simeon's story may be a heartwarming reminder of the importance of faith, but it is not merely a history lesson. We find ourselves in a similar position over twenty centuries later. We too are awaiting the Savior's coming, not as our promised Sacrifice but as our conquering King. We too have to keep the faith in spite of ridicule and the temptation to doubt. Some people today also scoff that we

have heard about His coming for years, and He still has not come, 2 Peter 3:3-4. That is when we need to be modern-day Simeons who will just believe God no matter what others say.

Sometimes, we may read an allegory like Pilgrim's Progress and wish for a battle we can see. Surely, it would be easier if the Christian life was more by sight than faith. We question how we can properly sort out impressions of the mind and wage warfare against an enemy we cannot see. But as spiritual beings, our battles are spiritual. The Apostle Paul refers to our faith as a shield against the fiery darts of the wicked, Ephesians 6. We are also reminded in Hebrews 11:6 that we cannot please God without faith. Years after Simeon was gone, Jesus spoke to Thomas when he had doubted the Resurrection and told him that the blessing is for those who do not see but still believe.

The blessing of looking at Simeon's faith is that we have the privilege of reading the end of his story. The years when faith was a struggle were overwhelmed by the sight that followed them. How glad he was that he had kept the faith and kept watching!

When you too struggle with daily faith, let Simeon be a godly motivator. Remember that the day will come when faith becomes sight. The Savior will finally arrive! Saints have expected Him for centuries, but "unto them who look for Him will He appear the second time." No longer will we struggle over questions we seem unable to answer. Esther Kerr Rusthoi said it well: "Oft-times the day seems long, our trials hard to bear; we're tempted to complain, to murmur and despair. But Christ will soon appear to catch His bride away, all tears forever over in God's eternal day. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!" ❏

continued from **page 3** carrying the good tidings - a baby is born!

Our most brilliant birth announcements seem like a boring footnote buried in a newspaper when compared to this staggering front page display! Jesus' birth was heralded by an angel of the Lord surrounded by the glory of God, and serenaded by a "multitude of the heavenly host!" (Luke 2:9-13)

Why this kind of announcement? And, why ... to shepherds? They'd never heard of Mary or Joseph. Besides, they were a group who, in that day, were kept at arm's length; unkempt and unclean, uneducated - stigmatized and ostracized by society. Why, then, did this dramatic announcement come to them?

The Christmas story is the birth of ... a Lamb. The scene of a newborn, surrounded by animals and lying in a manger, is stunningly fitting. He is a Lamb. The announcement to shepherds is strikingly appropriate. The birth of this Lamb was suitably heralded by angels; for he had come to send ripples of joy throughout the universe! Every sick and hurting person must hear the jingle of this birth!

When this Lamb grew, John pointed to him and cried, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Therein lies the reason for this joy! He would grow up to suffer and die as the perfect sacrifice to end all sacrifices. In His

death, he would take away "the sin of the world." This Lamb, born in a stable, would grow up to die on the cross. He died for the unkempt and unclean, the irreligious and untouchable, the ostracized and stigmatized. In shedding his blood, the ultimate sickness of humanity, sin, is cured. It's why Peter describes this blood as "precious ... as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19). This Lamb can put more than a fading smile on the faces of the sick and hurting; he can give them the smile of salvation that will last forever.

For all who realize just how spiritually unclean they are, and who place their faith exclusively in this Lamb - he takes away their sin. He gives them the unending smile of salvation that will shine forever in Heaven as a testimony to the work of the Lamb. In Heaven, they will forever bless the day this Lamb was born in that stable and died on that cross. They will join the shepherds, who praised and glorified God (Luke 2:20). What will they say? "Worthy is the Lamb" (Rev. 5:12).

There is joy on a farm when a lamb is born. Joy to the farm! There is a greater joy in a hospital when a baby is born. Joy to the family! On that first Christmas Day, there was a greater joy - the Lamb of God was born in a stable. Joy to the shepherds! Joy to the unclean! Joy to the sinful! Joy to the untouchable! Joy, to the WORLD! ❏



DAVID WISE



Generations of Darkness

It has been said that every family has a black sheep or two. Rare indeed is the family that seems to have no white sheep. Unique in history is a whole family that opposed the Son of God and His apostolic preachers. Herod “the Great” was the patriarch of that infamous clan. From the beginning of the book of Matthew to the latter half of Acts, “Herods” encountered the Lord Jesus and His followers and fought the work of God at every turn. It can be learned from this family and their tragic choices that not everyone that came in contact with Jesus was changed for the better.

Though he had been in power for over three decades, Herod never felt completely secure as king . . . and with good reason. It is hard to be seen as the legitimate king of the Jews when you aren’t even a Jew. His father was Antipater the Idumean and they traced their legacy back to Esau and not Jacob. When the wise men came from the east looking for the true son of David, Herod got a little nervous to say the least. The existence of such a child showed light on his own illegitimacy as king of a people not his own. In his craftiness, he sought to convince his visitors that he too, longed to see and worship this future king. The chief priests and scribes informed Herod of where the Holy Scriptures stated the child was to be born and he seemingly gave his blessing to the earnest-hearted men. If not for the intervention of God through dreams, Herod may have quickly located and slaughtered all opposition. Instead, the wise men and the young carpenter’s family escaped his wrath. Sadly, the male infants of the region did not.

Herod “the great” had many sons by many wives. One of his sons, Herod Antipas, had the opportunity to encounter both John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus. John had faithfully rebuked him for his immorality and earned the hatred of Herod’s female companion. Though Herod would have put John to death earlier, he was somewhat in awe of the holy man and was intrigued by his message and his spirit. His conscience, though violated in many ways by many sins, was still working as “God’s ally” in his breast to show the king his need of repentance. When John’s fate was decided by the trickery of

a dancing girl, Herod seemed to regret the decision. However, his pride was too great and the blood of a martyr now decorated his hands. By the time Jesus stood before him, his only interest was in seeing some miracle done to amuse him. Our Lord would have none of it and said not a word to the foolish man. After being mocked by Herod and his men, Jesus was sent back to Pilate. It is interesting that Jesus said nothing to Herod, but spoke to Pilate. Perhaps Pilate was still in a position where he could “hear the voice of God” and Herod was not.

Another Herod, the grandson of the patriarch, put James to death by the sword and imprisoned Peter with the intention of making him a martyr as well. The power of united prayer was now to be unleashed upon this wicked dynasty. As the seriousness of the situation dawned upon those early believers, they realized that Peter’s life hung in the balance. The spirit of prayer and supplication moved them to cry mightily to God for Peter’s deliverance. Through an angelic deliverance, Peter was freed and Herod was humiliated. A latter day Haman was being prepared for his own unique type of gallows as the Church continued to intercede. His grandfather had tried to kill the baby Jesus. His uncle had John beheaded. He killed the young Christian preacher James, but now the Herod family would face the wrath of the Lamb. In a bizarre turn of events, this prideful man was struck down to his death by the hand of God. For exalting himself, he was eaten by worms.

There is no doubt that the Herods were a talented and charismatic crowd. Any family with that kind of political power that lasted through several generations must have had some compelling natural abilities. They also had a unique vantage point for beholding the beginnings of God’s new covenant with the human race. They encountered the Son of God in a way unlike any other family of their day. Yet sadly, the Light for them became darkness. Jealousy, hatred, pride and an overall unwillingness to turn from sin became their undoing. They tried to extinguish the Light over multiple generations but in the end, the light and truth of God conquered and they sank down into eternal darkness. ■

president

July 28: God's Missionary Church's 81st Annual Conference — The conference body voted to give us a 3-year call. My wife and I are very thankful for all your prayers and help during our first year!

July 29 – Aug 07: Penn's Creek Camp was marked by a spirit of giving. Over \$195,000. was given in cash and pledges to Penn View Bible Institute, Missions and the Camp. There were spiritual victories and freedom to worship God.

Aug. 08: I appreciated the faithful people who helped clean up after camp.

Aug. 09: Today was full of lots of office work and phone calls.

Aug. 11: Met with Rev. James Winter about pastoring the Salunga church.

Aug. 14: Chambersburg - We were involved in the Installation Service for the new pastoral family - Jeff Stratton family.

Aug. 15: Helped the Christian Walker family pack their moving truck for Denver, CO. Pray for them as they make this big transition. We appreciated their labors in the PR Department at Penn View Bible Institute.

Aug. 18: World Mission Board - Plans were made for Bro. Paulus to visit Brazil and Haiti. Board member, Dave Wise, will also go along to Haiti to help with Ministerial training.

Aug. 21: Elim Grove Camp - Bro. Dodrill preached a good message on "Perish the thought of quitting" taken from Hebrews 12. The Tillis's were the singers and shared a nice special.

Aug. 22: Penn View Bible Institute Orientation - I shared a devotional for the Staff and Faculty. We are blessed to have so many fine Christian workers at Penn View.

Aug. 17, 24, 28: I was privileged to be the "fill in" preacher for the Mountain Road Church. Pray that God will supply their need for a pastor.

Aug. 30 – Sept. 01: Administrative work for our Florida District Conference.

Sept. 02: Flew to FL. We had a couple delays due to bad weather. We arrived at the dorm room around 1:00 a.m. We were welcomed by some of my wife's "favorite friends"- frogs, geckos, and she even saw a snake a couple days later.

Sept. 03: We helped to prepare the grounds for the Conference and Rally.

Sept. 04: Lakeland and Orlando - Two prayer request from our trip would be to pray for Bro. Handfield's mother and Bro. Kready, who has serious physical needs. Maybe you could pause now and take a moment to bring them before the throne of grace?

Sept. 05-08: Worked on the grounds, studied messages for the Conference and Sunday services. We went to Bro. Marshal Smart's viewing and visited our caretaker's wife, Sis Gandee, in the hospital.

Sept. 09: Florida District Rally at Sun City Camp grounds - Bro. Jerome McFarland preached a challenging message out of Nehemiah reminding us that "the people had a mind to work". "Lord, don't let us just say that's a good truth, but let us actually work hard for you."

Sept. 10: Florida District Conference - The unity and desire to work



JACOB MARTIN

together is easily seen and felt. My wife and I are blessed to labor with you all in the Florida district.

Sept. 11: Seffner and Kissimmee – Enjoyed being in the pastor's home for a time of food and fellowship.

Sept. 12: Flew home from Florida.

Sept. 14: Gratz Revival - Bro. James Plank preached on "Not selling our birthright". The Vernon's were the singers and both ministered effectively.

Sept. 16: Leland & Ronda Steen from our New Columbia Church renewed their vows after 25 years. I was privileged to be involved in the ceremony. Leland has many physical battles yet to face, but they wanted to say in a new way "till death do us part".

Sept. 18: New Columbia – celebrated the 20th Anniversary Service. Bro. Harry Plank shared the reasons for building a new church. Simply put, it was the Frogs, Floods and Full rooms. Thank you to the present pastoral team, church board and laymen who try to have a church full in our day.

Sept. 19: Penn View Bible Institute Board – Rev. John Zechman plans to step down from being Penn View Bible Institute President on May 31, 2018. The board has been working through the process of electing our next President.

Sept. 21: General Board met and also discussed the presidential transition of Penn View Bible Institute.

Attended the Rebersburg Revival - Rev. Mark Hunter preached on the question, "What am I going to do with Jesus?"

Sept. 22-23: Syracuse, NY- New York Pilgrim Sunday School Convention. The sessions I was given to speak on were Renewing, Retreading, and Rebuilding. I appreciated the time together with my Pilgrim friends.

Sept. 24-25: Syracuse Pilgrim Church - Pastor Jason Morford asked me to share with his church Saturday night on some witnessing tips. I also thanked God for the opportunity to preach twice on the Lord's day to a diverse group of Christians and non – Christians.

Sept. 28: I preached at Mountain Road Church.

Sept. 30: Attended the Funeral for Rev. William Peters, former Conference President of the Evangelical Methodist Church. 



NON PROFIT ORG.
POSTAGE PAID
SHOALS, IN
PERMIT NO 18

PENN VIEW BIBLE INSTITUTE
GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD
P.O. BOX 970
PENNS CREEK, PA 17862

Join us for 10 Days this winter in sunny Florida!



January 19–29, 2017



Harry Plank
Westfield, Pennsylvania
Evangelist

James Plank
Beavertown, Pennsylvania
Evangelist

Mike Mayhle Family
Grafton, West Virginia
Singers

Mary Braun & Penny Ford
Lancaster, Ohio
Children's Workers

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Special Services:
Pre-services Each Evening, 6:45 PM—
Featuring:
GMC Home Missions
Fort Myers Rescue Mission
GMC World Missions
Sunday, January 29, 2:30 PM—
Penn View Bible Institute

Directions:
From I-75 take Sun City exit.
Follow 674 East three miles to
Route 301.
Turn right onto 301 South.
Go five miles to Light Foot Road.
Turn right onto Light Foot Rd and go
1/2 mile to Sundance Trail.
Turn right onto Sundance Trail
The camp is 1/2 mile on right.

Campground Lodging:
Plenty of RV Parking available
Dorm rooms—call for more info.

RV Rental: (Special camp meeting rates)
Meacham's RV & Tent Rental 941-224-4939
www.meachamsflacamprental.com

Motels:
Sun City Center Inn 813-634-3331
Comfort Inn 813-633-3318
Ruskin Inn 813-641-3437
Sleep Inn 941-721-4933

Information:
Jacob Martin, 570-765-1498

Camp Treasurer:
Andrew Heinzelman
524 Garden Heights Dr
Winter Haven, FL 34787

Camp Phone: 813-624-3374

Camp Address: 703 Sundance Tr
Wimauma, FL 33598

DAILY SERVICE TIMES and SPEAKING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 19
7:30 PM James Plank

FRIDAY 20
10:30 AM James Plank
6:45 PM Pre-service
7:30 PM Harry Plank

SATURDAY 21
10:30 AM Harry Plank
2:30 PM Harry Plank
6:45 PM Youth Emphasis
7:30 PM Pre-service
James Plank

SUNDAY 22
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM James Plank
2:30 PM Guest Speaker
6:15 PM Pre-service
7:00 PM Harry Plank

MONDAY 23
10:30 AM Harry Plank
6:45 PM Pre-service
7:30 PM James Plank

TUESDAY 24
10:30 AM James Plank
6:45 PM Pre-service
7:30 PM Harry Plank

WEDNESDAY 25
10:30 AM Harry Plank
6:45 PM Pre-service
7:30 PM James Plank

THURSDAY 26
10:30 AM James Plank
6:45 PM Pre-service
7:30 PM Harry Plank

FRIDAY 27
10:30 AM Harry Plank
6:45 PM Pre-service
7:30 PM James Plank

SATURDAY 28
10:30 AM James Plank
2:30 PM James Plank—
Youth Emphasis
6:45 PM Pre-service
7:30 PM Harry Plank

SUNDAY 29
10:30 AM Harry Plank
2:30 PM Penn View
6:15 PM Pre-service—
Penn View
7:00 PM James Plank