

# The Story of Jesus Birth

By Paul Schlieker

The story of Jesus birth includes the element of surprise. In the middle of the night, the Lord appeared to a group of shepherds who were living out in the fields. The shepherds were terrified by the sudden appearance of an angel. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

In his book *The Divine Visitor*, Jack Hayford tells the story about a serviceman named Adam who was deployed to Iraq. After a year when his leave finally approached, Adam called his parents and alerted them of his plans to come home. He didn't tell them the exact day because he wanted to surprise them.

In the early morning hours, Adam approached the house. He made coffee and waited for the fresh-brewed smell to permeate the house. When his parents came into the kitchen tears of joy flowed. The much-anticipated visitor had finally arrived.

Hayford writes, "What if you were summoned by God to visit a planet to help its deceived and corrupted inhabitants regain their lost nobility? To do so, you would have to become one of them. And yet you would be in constant danger. They would misunderstand your intentions. Many would hate you. And eventually they'd kill you. Knowing all this, would you still be willing to go to rescue any who might accept your intervening efforts? Would you relinquish the joys and securities of a vastly advantaged circumstance so that some might be recovered by your visit? It has been done...by One whose love we cannot imagine. One "Visitor" in the past introduces the present promise of His ready availability to make a personal visit to you today."

"In Jesus, God became a visitor to mankind. In His coming, we – all of us – experienced a visitation. With even more love for His creation than the homebound soldier had for his family, the Creator attests to the worth of His creation. This is why He was willing to pay so exorbitant a price to regain mankind - a price that begins with His stooping to earth.

We have been visited. Let those words sink into your soul. And what's more He has also promised to stay with us forever - never leaving us, never forsaking us."

Jesus Christ is not just a crutch for the weak or an inspirational figure to help people find strength during hard times. He is not a fable, a myth or folklore. He is not a person you merely study; He is a person you know and experience. Jesus is the gift that God has generously given to you this Christmas season. Will you open your heart and accept the gift of His Son? If you do, you will experience a very Merry Christmas.

[www.christianarticles.net](http://www.christianarticles.net)

Care N ection

firstBaptistchurch December 22nd, 2010

# LIFEGROUP PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Faith Wallingford** is not feeling well, please pray for her health and wellbeing.

Please remember those in prayer that are caring for a loved one and facing medical problems themselves.

Please pray for **Mel's mom, Jeanne**, she has a mass in her lungs again and is having tests. Pray for wisdom for her and her doctors as they treat this. Pray for her spirit that she doesn't give up. Pray also for her husband, **Mel**, who is showing signs of dementia. ~ **Kathy Chapman**

**Darcy Stanyo** asks that we pray for her mother, **Patricia**, who is recovering from an infection in her hip, she had hip surgery on the 18th, this has been ongoing for a year, please pray for complete healing at this time.

Please pray for peace about the financial issues I am facing; that work will increase for me the week after Christmas so I will be able to move into low income housing. ~ **Roseanne Nelson**

**Steve Keep's favorite uncle, Guy Gorrell**, passed away recently. We ask for prayers for **Steve and his family**. **Steve** is also healing from his pain in his hip and leg—Praise God!

**Kerry Bauer** asks that we pray for **Larry's** recovery from viral meningitis (he is home now).

**Sarah Walden, Christen's sister-in-law**, has gotten a seasonal job, please pray that it will go fulltime.

**Racheal (Ron Newman's daughter)** had her hip replaced, please pray for relief from pain and continued healing.

**Frank Newman (Ron's dad, 86 yrs. old)** has been admitted to Colby with fluid on the lungs—please pray for him.

Please pray for our son **Adam** who is having bad, bad migraines from a car accident almost a year ago. He can't work and is about to lose his house. ~ **Ed Church**

**Doug** just received word that he is facing shoulder surgery. Pray that the doctors make the right decision during his scheduled appointment on Dec. 30th @ 3:45 pm. ~**The Roulliers**

Please pray for me for relief from severe back pain and for traveling mercies; going to NY on 12/21 'til 28th. ~ **Janet Tracy**

Pray for my neighbor, **Adam Bogart** who is battling colon cancer and has 4 children, who are not Christians, pray that I would be a good neighbor to them. ~ **Arlan Johnson**

**David McCormick** asks that we pray that **Christy** does not get laid off from her job as they are making cuts. Please pray for **Dr. Charles Revis**, Executive Minister for ABC, who fell during a ski trip Dec. 3rd.

My son, **Ron Phillips** has industrial poisoning and it has effected his kidneys and gives him headaches and has given him Jaundice. He is in one of those periods now. ~ **Bill Phillips**

Please continue to pray for **Jan Dexter and Mary Blalock** as they recover from knee surgery.

Please pray with me to believe God for finances to attend an upcoming conference in January 2011. ~ **Christen Weller**

**Lester Acosta**, has invited Pastor Brian to be the speaker at his Leadership Summit in September, 2011. Pray for God's direction and provision as Pastor Brian prays about this. decision.

Pray for those who have lost jobs or are seeking employment.

**Dave and Pat Slater** from Arlington need prayer, he is dying from cancer and is in constant pain. ~ **Sheri**

Please remember to pray for our son-in-law **Al Carter** who had a stroke on 3/29/09 and is totally paralyzed. ~ **Lysle & Lois Pickard**

## Pray for our Military

- **John Schwartz**—in Afghanistan—**Robin Schwartz** stateside in Everett.
- **Jason Peery**—Oregon National Guard—heading to Iraq for a year, brother of Jennifer.
- **Jonathan Michaels Estrella**—son of Sharon Boswell.
- **Jason Bjazevich**—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- **Scott Harpell**—son of Brian & Lynne—Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- **Aaron Weston**—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.
- **Eric Schmidt** — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- **Benjamin Lagonia**—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.
- **Brett Love**—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard—Serving at home.
- **Christian Chmielewski**—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- **ENS Andrew E. Timpner** (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- **Devin Abbitt**—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- **Duane Neyens**—brother to Kathy Chapman—Army National Guard —is back at his home base in So.CA.
- **Philip Ankney**—LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson.
- **Jeffrey Lillard**—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed at Fort Lewis.
- **Aaron Chmielewski**—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie
- **Shawn Berland**—deploying for 6 months
- **Andrew Sustaita**—serving on board the USS Abraham Lincoln



# LIFEGROUP HAPPENINGS

## all in the family

by Florence Miller

Please check the **Missionary Board**, we received several letters and cards from missionaries we help support.

**Lela Kerby's** memorial service is scheduled for January 8th at 1:00 p.m. in the Pacific Room

**Melva Hillhouse** is in Bethany at Pacific with congestive heart failure. Hospice has been called and she is resting comfortably.

A Christmas card from **Ray Willman** was received in the church office wishing all at FBC a very MERRY CHRISTMAS! As does all of the Office Staff.

Thanks church! We were able to deliver 44 pounds of food to the **VOA**. Keep up the good work!

Our **2nd annual Mission Fair** is coming to FBC on Sunday, January 23rd. We'll have representatives from many of the outreach organizations your tithes and offerings support and each will have information on the work they do and opportunities if you're interested in getting personally involved.

We're working on having live on-line interviews with the missionaries our youth mission team will be serving with this summer in Costa Rica! You won't want to miss this! And we'll even have food! We're planning a food booth where you can purchase lunch and the proceeds will go to our youth mission team's finances.

Those of you with small children will have the option to stay longer and know that your children are being cared for and that they'll be offered a light snack to keep those growling tummies satisfied! See you at the fair!!

## Financial Update; December 12th, \$11,722.54

\*\*\*Adult attendance: 9:00am 52 & 10:30am 237 \*\*\*Children: 9am 17 + 5 — 10:30am 22 + 11

\*\*\*Elementary: 9am 25 + 6 — 10:30 am 41 + 6 \*\*\*Middle School: 14 + 3 — Youth Small Group: 13 + 3

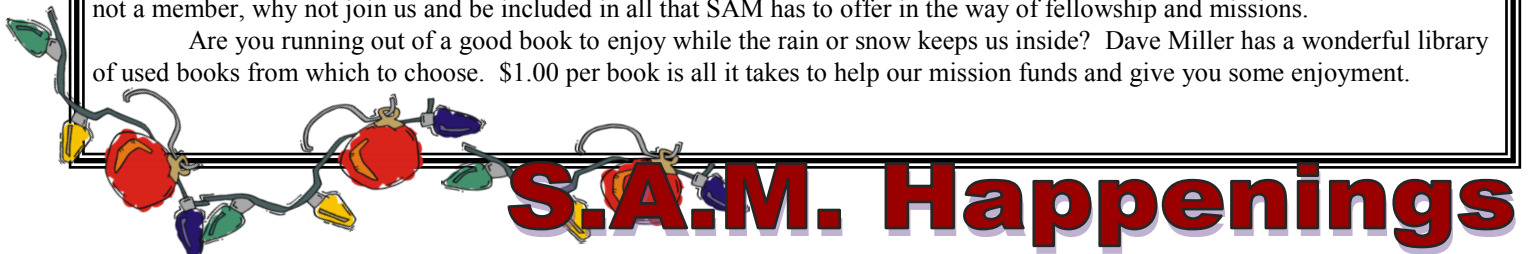
Happy Birthday to... **Emmanuel Dismas—December 25th**

Board meeting is January 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

January 7th - Luncheon meeting with Dick Conner as our program bringing instrumental and vocal music. Bill and Ginni Hamilton will be our greeters and Marge Minor will not only be supplying our always lovely table decorations but also will be giving the devotions.

Future planned trips in the year 2011 are; attendance on March 5th at the Benaroya Hall to hear the Seattle Symphony with Marvin Hamlisch in *A Tribute to Cole Porter*. Reservations for that trip as well as for a May 7th trip to the Snohomish Vaudeville Show, the Leights Fantastic, can be made at the SAM desk on Sundays. Plan ahead! In fact, if you are not a member, why not join us and be included in all that SAM has to offer in the way of fellowship and missions.

Are you running out of a good book to enjoy while the rain or snow keeps us inside? Dave Miller has a wonderful library of used books from which to choose. \$1.00 per book is all it takes to help our mission funds and give you some enjoyment.



# S.A.M. Happenings

# LIFEGROUP CONTRIBUTING OPPORTUNITIES

## Christmas Eve Service

December 24th,

6:00 pm



The office will be closed on Monday, December 27th and Monday, January 3rd.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the church staff.

### **USHER CAPTAIN 2010:**

December—**Marc Owenby**  
**Darrell Olson**

January—**Luckey Elkins**  
**Pete Sontra**

December 28th

**Dan Clark**

Harbor Point Lifegroup

January 2nd

**Frank Riddell**

Lake Stevens Lifegroup

January 9th

**Donna Wirt**

Swahili Lifegroup

January 16th

**Tom Warren**

The Followers

January 23rd

**Ken Ackerman**

Men's Life Group



## Ladies Breakfast

Sat. Jan. 29th

9-11 am

\$4.00

Special guest speaker: **Christi Hardy**

Sign up in the office

Or call 425-259-9166

# Friday Nite Christmas Dinner

**CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER** (Dec. 24th) with our Friday Night Guests. We have candlelight, tablecloths and music already planned. Our children's department have already had the kids decorate placemats and the ladies of the church are preparing fudge. We need people to host and hostess tables. Last year we had 50 volunteers and would like the same again this year. We need help preparing food beginning at 11am and need hosts and hostesses by 1:30. We plan to be done in plenty of time to enjoy the Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary. Please RSVP to Chris at [eagleacs@juno.com](mailto:eagleacs@juno.com) or 425.778.2432.