

PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH OF GOD

SOUTHWEST TEXAN

DECEMBER 2011

"BEING THANKFUL IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND
CELEBRATING THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS"

FYI

- **Believe with us for a quick sell on Gatesville property.**
- **PRAY PRAY**
AL Kimmel
healing
Genivieve Ormand
strength for healing
A L Creel
healing and strength
James, Becky, & Chris Miller
healing from terrible accident
Vernon Groce
healing from flu
Ron Gratehouse
healing from accident
- **Believe with us that we are going to get a good rate at Camp Lost Pines.**

We have just finished celebrating Thanksgiving and are preparing for the celebration of the greatest season of all, the CHRIST- MAS season. Yes, we still recognize that it is the CHRIST that makes Christmas possible. I may not be politically correct, but I am Jesus correct.

True thanksgiving is a theme woven throughout the Psalms in particular.

"O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving" (Ps. 95:1,2)

We see from passages like this that it is not enough to just praise God for who He is, but also, we are to be thankful. To be thankful means among other things, that we appreciate what we have. Sometimes it appears that Americans are the least appreciative people on the face of the earth. We take so much of what we have for granted.

The Bible talks about the "sacrifice of thanksgiving."

In Psalm 50:14, for instance, the psalmist tells us to "offer

to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving."

In the flesh, we look at circumstances emotionally, instead of looking to God. That's when it is hard for words of thanksgiving to come out of our mouths.

That is precisely what is meant by offering a "sacrifice" of thanksgiving to God.

We are, in effect, saying: "God, while I may not understand what's going on here, I give up my questions and complaints to you. I thank and praise You for who You are."

A great example of that kind of attitude is provided in the New Testament, where we see Paul and Silas in prison. They had been beaten and their feet fastened in stocks. *"But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God"* (Acts 16:25).

They made a choice – a sacrifice of thanksgiving to praise God in the midst of their awful circumstances.

The Bible reveals that praising God in the hour of their adversity not only lifted their spirits, but it also shook the jail with the mighty power of God, which loosed them from their bondage and resulted in the jailer and all his house

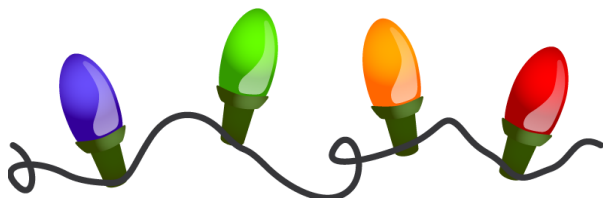
believing in the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Maybe the missing ingredient in some people's lives is the power of praise and the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Our God is a great and mighty God, who responds to the thanks offerings of His people.

Luke 2:1-7 tells of the story of Christ birth. The Christmas Season is all about the Birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem. It seems to be politically correct in these days to observe the Holidays rather than Christmas. Season's Greetings instead of Merry Christmas. Our nation was founded on Godly principles, with almighty God as our corner stone. Divine favor has been shown to America over the past centuries because of our recognition of Him as creator of the universe and His Word being our guide line in life. We must not fall prey to a society that accepts all beliefs and tell us that our God or better yet that our Jesus is the same as all other gods. When we as believers follow the trends of the day and forget what Christmas is all about then we will become as bad as those against Jesus and the Christ Child and the Manger.

(continues on next page)



“CELEBRATING THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS” CONTINUED

I encourage you to celebrate Christmas in all of its glory, color, splendor and lights because our intent is; Christ is alive and well and we celebrate His birth because without Him we are reduced to nothing.

Don't let someone tell you that the tree, lights, ornaments and gifts are insignificant.

Some may want to explain why we decorate at this time of the year in the following way:

The tree represents the Cross that Jesus paid the

price of our sins on.



The lights represent Jesus as the Light of the World, and shedding light in the midst of darkness.

The ornaments represent the grace and mercy He bestows upon us each day.

The gifts represent the nine gifts He gave to the church so they would have the power to stand and tell others of the unfathomable love gift of Jesus given to them by our Heavenly Father.

The only plan that Father had when Jesus came back to sit at His Father's right hand was for you and I to tell others and repre-

sent Him whole heartedly.

While considering keeping Christ in Christmas, we must never forget the joy of serving Him as children of the most high God.

Never forget that His name was called Emmanuel, which means “Christ with us”.

Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you; lo, I am with you always even to the ends of the age”. Have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

“IT'S SETTLED” OFFERINGS—IS YOUR CHURCH ON THE LIST?

We would love to add more churches to the list of churches that have given to the “It's Settled” offering! We need to hear from 15 more to make it 100%. And we would love to add more

individuals and ministers that have given to “It's Settled” offering. We still need to hear from 2/3 of our ministers to make it 100% participation. Can we hear from you this month?

Giving For November:

\$100.00 Les Crawford

\$300.00 Abundant Life Church Victoria

\$100.00 Gospel Lighthouse Smithville

SWTX GOING ELECTRONIC

As of January, we will be emailing the district newsletter to each of our ministers who have an email address. If you do not have access to the internet, we will be sure and mail you a copy. We are trying to run the District office more efficiently and use the technology available to us. A special thanks to Jason Norvell for helping me with

the newsletter and any computer problems we have here at the headquarters.

So, please forward your email address when you report this month, or email me at bishop@swtx-pcg.org, I deeply appreciate you helping us out in this endeavor.

APPALACHIAN BIKE PROJECT

A special thank you to those individuals and churches who gave to the “Appalachian Bicycle Project”. You made over a hundred little boys and girls Christmas wish come to pass. Words cannot express the heartfelt thanks of giving as unto the Lord and to someone you may never get a chance to meet. Brother

Dan Chapman and Brother Jimmy Boatright are taking teams from their churches and meeting up with SWTX DYD Jason, Becky, Bethany, and Jackson Norvell to help distribute the clothes, food, bicycles and gifts in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

CHAPLAIN TRAINING SEMINAR

The dates for the chaplain seminar will be January 19-21. It will take place at the headquarters in San Marcos. Please register by January 10 via email dchapman@web-access.net or phone (325) 646-3943. Pre-registration fee is \$50.00. One area of focus for the National Missions department is to train and equip ministers within the PCG to be certified civilian chaplains. Once certified, an individual can serve in their local community as a hospital, prison/jail, or law enforcement chaplain.

Our very own Dr. Dan Chapman, Executive Director of Chaplain Ministries for the PCG, will be leading the training.

BISHOP JAYNE'S RELOCATION UPDATE

We are in the process of putting our home on the market, and relocating here in San Marcos. We have some painting to do and carpet and tile to be laid. We are hoping to be moved and settled by Christmas. We have been full time here in San Marcos since early October, living in our 32' fifth wheel. Oh the joys of camping out! Thank you for all the encouraging words given to us, we really feel blessed to serve you as District Bishop.

SWTX WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Ministries thanks all those who participated in the Light Another Candle Offering. Thanks for your generous gifts to help Messenger College.

May the Lord bless you,
Marilyn Norvell

P.S.—If you ordered additional t-shirts please contact the office. They have arrived.

* Women's Ministries Director Marilyn Norvell has some items for sale.

Recently reduced price

to only \$1995 for the set. If interested please call (512)353-8595 or

womensministry@swtx-pcg.org. In good condition. Only serious inquiries please. Set includes: 8 chairs, table, and china cabinet.



IMPACT YOUTH SWTX- (SWXYOUTH.COM)

Thanks to all those who attended the **Christmas Blast** at the headquarters in San Marcos. The speaker this year was **Rick Martinez**, Assistant National Youth Director for the South Central division.

December is a busy month, on the **8th-11th**, is the **Appalachian Missions Adventure**. Pray for all those on the road to help in this missions trip. D.Y.D. Jason and Becky Norvell along with Bethany and Jackson will be a part of this adventure.

For the third year in a row we will be taking young leaders to the **Regional ILD Encounter in Jeff City, MO**. This is an awesome opportunity for leadership training by some of the top leaders and pastors in the nation. We will leave **January 12th and return the 15th**. The costs will be minimal, just enough to cover food and hotel room. If you are a leader with a heart for youth or know youth who want to be leaders please make

plans to attend. **We need to know as soon as possible so we can make transportation arrangements and get registration completed. Contact us 512-757-7015/ jason.norvell@gmail.com or 512-757-7030/ rcn1129@gmail.com**

Don't forget to check out the updated youth website (www.swtxyouth.com). We have updated photos, calendar, and other stuff.

www.swtx-pcg.org

**Southwest Texas District
Pentecostal Church of God**

District Office & Conference Center
3107 Ranch Road 12, San Marcos

Mail: PO Box 766, San Marcos, TX 78667

Phone: 512-353-8595

Fax: 512-353-8505

E-mail: bishop@swtx-pcg.org

secretary@swtx-pcg.org

womensministry@swtx-pcg.org

District Website: www.swtx-pcg.org

National Website: www.pcg.org



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jack Holderby	8
Marilyn Hickson	10
TD Roberson	11
Robert H Jayne	15
Jerrel Martinez	16
Leslie Crawford	23
Charles Cale	25

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr & Mrs Raymond Keasler	3
James & Towanda Martin	11
Mr & Mrs Don Allen	18
Mr & Mrs Deborah Irvin	19
William & Marilyn Hickson	20
Mr & Mrs Joe Cheeseman	24
Mr&Mrs Carlton Wetherell	24
Mr & Mrs Aaron Jayne	31

MINISTERS ON CALL

Les Crawford, Beeville

(361) 358-5499

Doyle Evans, Cuero

(361) 275-8015

Lawana Hernandez, San Angelo (325) 650-1351

Jack/Genevive Holderby, Schertz (210) 788-8055

James Miller, San Marcos (512) 557-5854

Bill Pierce, Austin (719) 821-6906

Louis Roos, Fredericksburg (830) 997-6783

Ray Helms, Leakey (512) 618-9157

Doug White, Jr., Austin (512) 228-8048

(: **SOMETHING FUNNY** :)

