



The Living Stone Link

December 2017 News Letter

'Tis the Season?

It's a crazy time of year. The stores are packed, Post Office is jammed and the balance on the plastic is flying to the roof. Houses are being decorated with 'Oh so many lights and don't forget those big inflatable Santas. Holiday music is running nonstop on the radio and 24 hours of "A Christmas Story" is right around the corner. With the commercialization of Christmas it can be difficult to keep our focus on what this season is really all about.

Kelley refers to me as "Mr. Grinch" because of my attitude toward putting up the Christmas Tree and decorations. Yup, that's right. I am an anti-tree guy. I do compromise with my wife when it comes to the Tree. In my life BC (Before Carlos), it was easy to convince her not to bother with the tree. When we adopted Carlos my argument against the tree lost most of its strength.

Many preachers of the past (John Calvin and Charles Spurgeon to name a few) actually spoke out against the celebration of Christmas. They recognized that we don't really know when Jesus was born and spoke out against creating any observances not directly commanded from scripture. Given the current state of the holiday and my attitude toward Christmas Trees I could be easily swayed in their direction.

"I just don't understand Christmas, I guess. I like getting presents and sending Christmas cards

Mission Moment

What is the IMB - International Mission Board (Part 2 of 3)

Empowered by an enlarged worldview and the support of the Cooperative Program, which was founded in 1925, Southern Baptists responded with 1,000 missionaries serving in 1955. In the 1960s, FMB initiated new opportunities for people to participate in foreign missions through programs such as Missionary Associates and Journeyman.

IMB has shifted focus from geographic countries to people groups, with a concerted effort to start church planting movements among unreached peoples. Technological advances have provided unprecedented opportunities for missionaries to spread the gospel, and Southern Baptists have reached into areas previously considered forbidden by political barriers. Every believer has a part to play in the Great Commission, and IMB is dedicated to forging the pathways necessary to connect each church with the work of missionary teams across the globe. United in this sacred effort and in obedience to our sovereign God, the possibilities for missions are truly limitless.

For prayer needs or questions, feel free to contact Pastor Jim Hess @ 207-642-2309 or visit our website www.livingstonemaine.org

'Tis the Season? (continued)

and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I always end up feeling depressed."
- Charlie Brown

I believe our friend Charlie Brown speaks for many in today's world. So your task is 'O so vital. This year please take every opportunity to share with people why we celebrate Christmas.

"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas." - Rev Billy Graham

Yours in Christ

Elder Jeff Hunt

<http://www.reformedvoices.com/2008/12/spurgeon-on-christmas.html>

Calendar Notes for December

Men's Breakfast - Saturday December 9th

Christmas Caroling - Sunday December 17th at 4:00

Christmas Eve Service will be at 6:30 pm.

Praying in the New Year - New Years Eve at 6:00 pm

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Life Groups at 11:15

Sunday Evening Discipleship-U at 6:30

Wednesday Youth Groups at 6:00

Thursday Children Study and Prayer Meeting at 6:15.

Birthdays

Christine Armstrong - December 24

Pastor Jim Hess - December 24

Jesus of Nazareth - December 25 (Observed)

Wedding Anniversaries

(If you would like family birthdays and anniversaries listed in the news letter, please submit to Elder Jeff.)



2018 Operation Christmas Child

Collection Week is November 12th – 19th

Collections count for 2017 = 75 Shoeboxes.

In 2018 we are going to expand out Shoebox contributions by having monthly collections items. In January we will be collecting.



Hats, Gloves & Scarves

Need some ideas for shoe boxes, visit www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/