



# The Beacon



“And the light shines in the darkness,” John 1:5

December 2023



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS ~ DECEMBER 3RD - 10TH

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon offering emphasis. Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel? You can follow each day by going to <https://www.imb.org/pray/week-of-prayer/> or picking up a flyer in the church's foyer.



### LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our Lottie Moon Church Goal this year is \$3,300.

100% of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering you give enables gospel transformation among the unreached.

How your donations were used in 2022: 3,521 missionaries supported • 21,231 new churches planted • 728,589 people heard the Gospel • 178,177 New Believers • 102,417 Baptisms • 67 new people groups and places engaged • 146,026 received leadership training

“IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY”



## Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

### Church Choir Christmas Celebration Sunday Morning ~ 8:45am & 11:00am

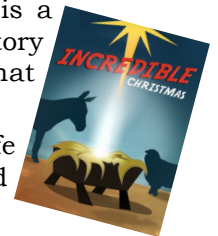
Join us for either service on the 17th as our choir leads us in a time of worship and praise as we celebrate and proclaim the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



### Christmas Play & Finger Food Fellowship Sunday Night at 6:00pm

The *Incredible Christmas Program* is a creative re-telling of the Christmas story that will remind everyone what Christmas is all about!

After the play, join us in the Family Life Center for a time of fellowship and finger foods.



### Christmas Card Mailbox

Want to send Christmas Cards to your friends at church? Save your postage and place your cards in the mailbox cubicle located in the Welcome Center.



### Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:45p

Join us as we go caroling and visit some of our church members that are unable to attend church. We'll meet at the church at 6:45p and go out in the bus.



### Family Christmas Service

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> ~10:30am

A special time of the telling of Christ's birth and the meaning of Christmas, as our children gather 'round Pastors' Dave and Cameron, to hear the greatest story ever told.

There will only be one service and no Sunday School on this day.



*Pastor Dave's*  
**Message**  
for the  
**Month**

Have you found the perfect gift yet? It seems like every year we try to find the perfect Christmas gift for that special someone. People will spend hours going to stores or shopping online to find the perfect gift. Sometimes it is hard to find the perfect gift for people, especially when they already have what they need and more.

Let me save you some time and effort. The reality is there is only one perfect gift, and His name is Jesus. God the Father gave His Son as a gift to us.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God." It is through God's gift of Jesus that we can have forgiveness of our sins, everlasting life, a personal relationship with God and so much more. Jesus truly is the perfect gift.

So, as you are shopping for Christmas gifts to give to your loved ones this year don't forget to share the perfect gift with them. Tell them about Jesus.

For His glory,

*Pastor Dave*

Thank you church for being so generous in your giving of shoeboxes and donations for Operation Christmas Child. We had a goal of 150 boxes and you all went over and beyond!

We collected 185 boxes. These 185 boxes have the potential to spread the gospel to approximately 1,850 souls! God Is Good!



**Building**  
**Loan Balance**  
(as of 11/13/2023)  
**\$ 196,710**

*Women's*  
**Bible Study**



"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."  
1 Thess. 5:11

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:45p**  
(1st Tuesday of each month)

**'Jesus in Me: Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion'**  
by Anne Graham Lotz

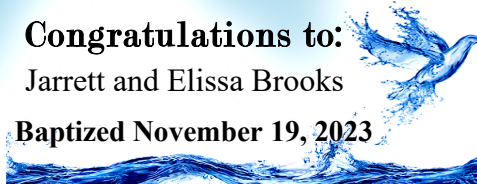
Ladies, you are invited to a luncheon with the **Roxboro Christian Women's Club**, on Thursday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 12pm at the Homestead Steakhouse in Timberlake. The cost is \$14. Please RSVP to Susan at 336-364-7777 by December 10<sup>th</sup>. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for upcoming events.

You can purchase **RADA Cutlery** and other kitchen products by clicking this link: [radafundraising.com/](http://radafundraising.com/) **All RADA products are proudly made in the USA!** Each purchase helps support Baptist Women mission projects.

**Congratulations to:**

Jarrett and Elissa Brooks

**Baptized November 19, 2023**



*We extend our sympathy and prayers to:*

Leigh Watson and her family in the death of her uncle



**We Received a Thank You Note From:**

The Pryor Family

*Welcome*

**New Members**

**Jarrett & Elissa Brooks**  
(Profession of Faith)

**Janet Stone**  
(transfer of membership)

**Jonathan, Kristina, & Nathan Walker**  
(Profession of faith)

**MEN'S**  
**Ministry**

"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."  
Proverbs 27:17

**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00p**  
(3rd Monday of each month)

**'33 The Series - A Man and His Traps'**  
If you would like a study guide (\$15), please sign up in the Welcome Center.

*Congratulations to:*

Matthew Fuller and Hannah Hurt on their marriage, November 11th



Riley & Tyler on the birth of their son, Logan Blake Smith, on November 30th, and to the grandparents, Luke & Kim Pearson

*Christmas Dinner & Light Show*

The Fun Bunch is heading out on Friday, Dec. 8th at 5pm for dinner and to see Christmas Lights. If you would like to go, please sign up in the Welcome Center.

There is no age limit, but space is limited.



**Questions for Mary...**

What was it like watching him pray? When he saw a rainbow, did he ever mention the flood?

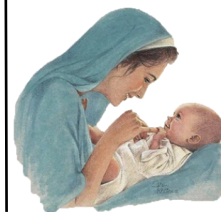
Did you ever see him with a distant look on his face as if he were listening to someone you couldn't hear?

Did you ever scold him?

Did He call Joseph, Father?

What did he and his cousin, John, talk about as kids?

Did the thought ever occur to you that the God to whom you were praying was asleep under your own roof?



At the Resurrection Day, did you think His earthly task was done and He could now live as a normal 33 yr old son?

# DECEMBER 2023

# BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Notes:</b>					<b>1</b> <i>Garnet Ellis</i> <i>Elle Reaves</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Hailey Crabtree</i> <i>Jacob Murray</i>
<b>3</b> Worship Service/ Lord's Supper 8:45a & 11:00a Sunday Sch. 10a	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Women's Bible Study 6:45p	<b>6</b> Wed. Night Service 7p	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Fun Bunch Christmas Dinner & Light Show 5p	<b>9</b>
Week of Prayer for International Missions Dec. 3 - 10						
Children's Ministry Wrap Party 12:15p Deacons Mtg 4p		<i>Amber Grinstead</i> <i>Robin Pendergraph</i> <i>Sheila Sanders</i>			<i>Annette Glenn</i>	
<b>10</b> Worship Service 8:45a & 11:00a Sunday Sch. 10am	<b>11</b> <i>Lyndsey Wilson</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Joy Cummings</i> <i>Janice Ellis</i>	<b>13</b> Christmas Caroling 6:45p	<b>14</b> RCWC Luncheon @Homestead 12p	<b>15</b> <i>Cody Ellis</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Debbie Copley</i>
<b>17</b> Church Choir Christmas Celebration 8:45a & 11:00a Sunday Sch. 10am Christmas Play & Fellowship 6p <i>Crystal Propst</i>	<b>18</b> Men of Iron & Ladies Prayer Group 7:00p	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Business Mtg 6:45p Wed. Night Service 7p <i>Connie Garrett</i> <i>Annabeth Riggs</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Don Garrett</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Shirley Ellis</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Joan Hill</i>
<b>24</b> Family Christmas Service 10:30am <i>Joslyn Blomberg</i> <i>Jordan Davis</i> <i>Hunter O'Briant</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Merry</i> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <i>Tammy Ellis</i> <i>Debbie Long</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Wed. Night Service 7p	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Worship Service 8:45a & 11a Sunday Sch. 10am <i>Teresa Ellis</i> <i>Judy Stancil</i>	<b>Memory Verse:</b> "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; <i>it is</i> the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8					



RED MOUNTAIN  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. Box 103  
ROUGEMONT, NC 27572  
919-477-3657



Rev. Dave Pryor - Pastor  
Rev. Cameron Lewis - Youth Pastor  
<https://redmountainbaptist.com>



Address Correction Requested



## My Advice This Christmas

by Pastor Chuck Swindoll

If I may borrow from Charles Dickens's famous opening line, Christmas can be "the best of times, and the worst of times." We have them both, don't we?

Who hasn't cringed in early October as stores drag out the artificial Christmas trees and put them on display? Who doesn't dread the extra traffic and the gaggle of people in the shopping malls when you have to go get something that has nothing to do with Christmas? Who hasn't felt uneasy about the obligatory exchange of gifts with individuals you hardly know? Or sending Christmas cards to people you haven't written to since the last Christmas card you sent them? And how about feeling the pressure to hang lights on your house in a neighborhood because you're the only house that doesn't have lights hung? There's something about those annual experiences and obligations that seem to make them "the worst of times."

In spite of all the challenges, I prefer to view Christmas as "the best of times." There's no better time of the year to enjoy the color that enhances our streets. At no other time of the year do the faces of little children glow with such wonder. And there's nothing like the music of Christmas! They're playing our songs in grocery stores, elevators, shopping malls, and on every radio station: "Joy to the world! The Lord is come." They're talking about *our* Savior. It's *our* message on their lips. Have you noticed? Don't miss that!

And I must add, what better time of the year is there to share with others your faith in Jesus Christ? At no other season is the unbeliever's heart softer toward the message of Jesus. Be aware of that. Stay sensitive to that. Be ready to speak. It's "the best of times" for it.

This is God's annual reminder to us—luring us, pulling us, encouraging us, in effect: "Feel the warmth in that light bulb? Smell that tree? See those gifts? Hear those songs? My Son came and died for you. I love you." All these things familiar are reminders of things essential.

"I will always be ready to remind you of these things," the apostle Peter wrote, "even though you already know them" (2 Peter 1:12). Isn't that great? Sometimes there are people who will say to me, "Well, you said that before, Chuck" or "You may have forgotten, but you're repeating yourself." I'll think, *Good!* The best way to learn is by repetition, by saying it again, and by reviewing the truth over and over and over. The apostle Peter continued: "I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to

stir you up by way of reminder" (1:13, emphasis added). Peter was determined to remind them of what they already knew—in order to stir them to action. Paul, in writing to the Philippian Christians, confessed: "To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you" (Philippians 3:1).

Most of us who attend good, Bible-believing churches know more about Christ than most people will discover in a lifetime. We are neck-deep in the truth of God. Our problem? It isn't knowing the truth; it is living it. If we stopped learning new things this very moment and simply drew from the reservoir of knowledge we already have, that would keep us busy for an awfully long time.

But we need regular reminders of those truths to stir us up to action. In the Old Testament, the Lord used tangible objects and actions as memory-triggers—phylacteries on the forehead, special food at Passover, stones at a body of water, trumpets for the New Year, and sacrifices in the temple—to prompt His people to remember the essentials. "And it shall serve as a sign . . . and as a reminder . . . that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth" (Exodus 13:9). The sights, the sounds, the smells, the tastes—these seasonal traditions—reignited the passions of God's people and reminded them of His love, His commands, and His grace.

Christmas can do the same for us this year.

You string up the lights. You trim the tree. You buy gifts. You wrap the presents and place them under the tree. You attend a church service—including a Christmas Eve service. You know the songs by heart. It's all familiar . . . it's all routine. It's just words, just lights, just a tree, just gifts, just songs—*Wait a minute!*

The holidays needn't be a rote repetition from last year. Maybe it's time to use these familiar traditions as reminders of essential truths.

Don't forget that Jesus was born of a virgin—His very conception, a miracle! Remember how the angels lit the shepherds' field with God's glory that night, announcing the birth of a Savior. A *Savior*. You and I *needed* a Savior—One who would and could die for our sins.

My advice this Christmas? Allow the traditions of the season to stir you up by way of reminder. Allow the things familiar to point you to things essential.

Don't miss them.

<https://www.insight.org/resources/article-library/individual/my-advice-this-christmas>