

THE BULLETIN

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Brethren,

May the peace and joy of the Lord not depart from you. By way of introduction, I am the pulpit preacher at Abusoro Church of Christ at Azure in Ondo State, Nigeria where Brother John and his family worshipped before traveling to the States. Brother John and his family are now with you. Also, you sent us some hymn books over five years ago that motivated us to learn many new hymns. The church yearly grows, not only in the knowledge of His word, but also in hymns and choruses. Numerically, God is gradually adding to His fold. We sincerely thank God for the sound eldership direction and the loving brethren in the congregation yonder. May the Living God continue to be with the elders and the brethren and strengthen them in Peace, Unity, Faith, and brotherly Love (Hebrews 13:1).

Brother John mentioned to me recently how the church and the brethren gave rosy welcome to his children who joined the family in the States from Nigeria. Brethren, this is really great! It betrays your work of faith, unity and love. Please, do keep the flag flying higher and higher.

Greet the elders, the preacher, Brother David (namesake) and Brother John and his family. Never fail to salute the entire loving brethren yonder. My lovely family greets the brethren. The Lord's Church here sends greeting to all the saints.

Till then, your fountain will not dry; and you will continue to grow in His Grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

Ever yours in Christ,

Adenugba, D.A.

The Manchester church of Christ

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mhtchurch.org

Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Finance - Tony Casella
Education - Doug Paul
Building & Grounds - Will Hamel / Pete Steffensen
Benevolence & Outreach - David Skerry

Regularly Scheduled Services

Sunday worship: 9:30am
Sunday Bible class: 11:00am
Sunday evening: 6:00pm
Wednesday Bible class: 7:00pm



**Bless us Lord, this
Christmas, with quietness of
mind; Teach us to be patient
and always to be kind**





"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."
Galatians 6:10, NAS95.

Family News

If you're a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SEARCH FOR NEW
ELDERS

• **ELDER SEARCH:** The Elders announced they want to search for additional elders to join them in shepherding the flock here. Please submit the name of any man you nominate in writing with your signature to one of the elders.

OTHER NOTES

- **COME & GO RECEPTION** FOR David & Kristin Paul, Dec. At The Paul's, 234 Pulpit Rd., Bedford.
- On **Jan 1**, services and classes will return to the normal schedule.
- **The Paul's** - there is a list in the foyer of items they need as they prepare to foster a new baby.

TRAVEL

Prayers for all who are traveling.

HELP NEEDED

Snow Removal / Ground Care NEEDED - NOW - A signup sheet is posted for Snow Removal .

Bring the kids to work as a family and serve the Lord together.

Wednesday Night Supper:

This is a grand opportunity for you to "step up to the plate" (pun intended) and serve the church. *If you are willing to help* please tell Kathy, Park or Mark or call the church office. Freda is going to do Jan. 4 - just to start the year off right!

Lord's Supper To Shut Ins:

Volunteers are needed beginning, *now*.

THANK YOU

- To our teachers who prepare their classes and share God's word with young and old.
- For the generosity shown at Mandy Hazelton's request. This opportunity truly glorified God. The staff was amazed at the outpouring.
- For the generosity and love shown in providing the means for Barbara to make the final payment on David's burial.

ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

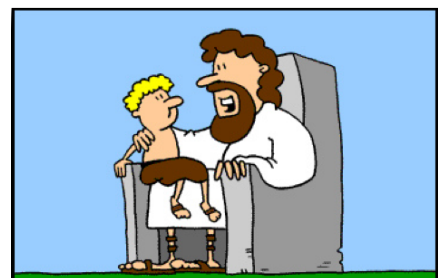
Recently added are CDs from the GB ladies' retreat and Dr. Joe's lessons. Please make use of these assets.

PRAYER

NEW PRAYER

CONCERNS: for the selection of additional elders, the Therrien family in the loss of Rich's brother, Ed, Carol Eskel's family, Will Hamel, the Paul's, Penny's brother and the Silva family,

ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS are on the back page of the Worship Insert.



HOW ABOUT, IF INSTEAD OF
GIVING YOU EVERYTHING
THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT
FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU
WHAT YOU NEED?

DON'T FORGET TO TELL THE KIDS

Has it ever occurred to you that maybe Santa Claus gets more notice and prominence than Jesus at Christmas time? That the gifts under the Christmas tree get more attention than God's gift of His Son, which is what the holiday is supposed to be about? Do you think I'm exaggerating? Ask any kid under the age of 8; they will almost all tell you that Christmas is about Santa, gifts, family, and pretty lights. Those things are great, of course (I love them myself), but how did the greatest news the world has ever heard get bumped from the “lead story of all time” to a mere footnote? How did our values get so upside down?

My hunch about “how?” is that parents themselves have gotten so entangled in the hustle and bustle of holiday parties, gift giving, tree trimming, house decorating, and family gathering that the “reason for the season” just drops off their radar. And when it drops off mom's and dad's radar, it doesn't get passed on to the kids—and it *becomes* all about Santa etc.

Now, of course, celebrating Christmas is not a Biblical command; it's a tradition that is optional (see Romans 14:5) depending on each man's conscience. But if you are going to celebrate, let me encourage you to not forget to tell the kids (and remind yourself, too) of the priceless gift of a “Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (see Matthew 2:11), and why He is so very important to us all.

So enjoy the tree, the gifts, Santa, the parties, the family feasts, and all the rest—I will. But don't forget the “reason for the season”, Jesus the Christ, God's Son, Savior, the Lamb, and our Hope of eternal life. It's really the best part—and don't forget to tell the kids.

Park Linscomb



UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar for January
can be found in the

foyer.

- Bible Class on Wednesday the 28th will be in the Annex with Steve Johnson.
- Bible Class on New Years Day will be in the Annex with Barry Fogal.
- January 7th from 7-9pm is a devotional at Mark and Ann's house.
- January 14th from 7-8:30pm is Family Movie night at the church building.
- January 15th is our teen lunch day with a commercial shoot. Please bring 5 dollars for pizza! We will shoot at least one commercial and end by 3pm.
- Sunday Night Children's class will resume on January 8th.

Food for Thought...

The Christmas season is an interesting time of year. It seems that the air is lighter, people are friendlier, and there is often an unusual focus on Christ.

Many of us look at the Christmas season, enjoy the songs, and celebrate the day as a family holiday; rather than a holy day, because of the lack of command or historical evidence.

To some, this time brings heartache and longing for lost loved ones. There is more to the season than a family holiday. There is an opportunity to bring the light to those who are longing for it. Christ Jesus told us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you." He also reassured us "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Our mission in life is to bring the same hope and joy of the gospel to souls in this world. We are the planters and gardeners of the seeds of the truth in this world. We ought to make use of every opportunity and interaction to bring light to those who need it. The work of spreading the gospel is the responsibility of every single Christian, not just the elders, deacons and hired preachers.

This Christmas season, we have the opportunity to show hope to the hurting; knowledge to those without; love to all; and in these things, exposure to salvation in the light of God. This season brings out much which is not the focus during the entire year. Let's challenge ourselves to become a larger part of people's lives and bring effective change.

-Garrett Alexander

Thought Provoking Question

'Tis the Season... But is living for Jesus your focus?

Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for Dec 25- Dec 31

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
25 - Zech. 5-8 10 am Worship	26 - Rev. 19	27 - Zech. 9-12 Dorvin & LeighEllen Lively -Anniv Alan Chamberlain - BD Jolene Karafelis - BD	28 - Rev. 20 7pm - Bible Class	29 - Zech.13-14 Joanne Hazelton - BD	30 - Mal. 1-4 Logan Silva - BD	31 - Rev. 21-22