



December
2009

The Stirling

The Kingdom of God

Over the last month I have taken every available opportunity to talk about the Kingdom of God. Some may be a bit weary of hearing me.

With the coming of Jesus Christ into the history of man, he issued in the beginnings of his kingdom. The coming Christmas season is a time when we remember that the King of all creation came into physical existence and began his earthly ministry and the consummation of the Kingdom of God

But it was not until his resurrection and ascension and the taking of his rightful place upon the throne, did he completely ascend unto his place as Lord and King over all creation. He now sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for his children as King. His is the ruler of all of God's created order.

So, what does that mean to us, believers in Jesus Christ as Savior that are still here trapped on this earth awaiting his second return. Are we held outside that kingdom since we are not there, in heaven, with him?

The answer is very simple. If Jesus is in fact King over all creation, which he is, then he is the King of this earth as well. And since we are believers in him then we too come under his authority as King. So we too, as we are believers in Him and have the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, are members of his Kingdom.

But this statement has to be qualified just a bit. Satan has authority on this earth to go and come as he wishes, refer to Job 1 & 2. With Satan having the ability to roam this earth he does have major influence over those who do not call on the name of Jesus as Savior. However, because of God's sovereign power, Satan is limited. He can tempt the believer but he has no power over the believer.

So where does that leave us the struggling believer on this earth? Defeated? No, not even close! In Romans 8:37 Paul says, **we are more than** conquerors through him who loved us. More than conquerors, that

doesn't sound like a defeatist attitude! We are members of a Royal Priesthood and heirs to the throne of God. We are members of the Kingdom Among Us as we reside here on earth.

That means that we should not act as everyone else does here on earth. That means that we should not think as unbelievers. That means we should not live our lives as unbelievers. We should be a peculiar people not striving to look like the world.

So how are we to live? Well back to my original Scripture quote.

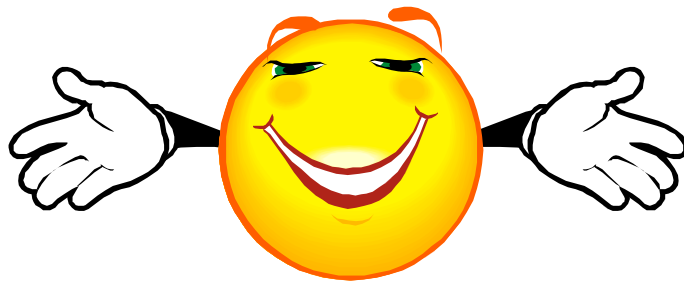
In Mark 1:14-15 Jesus said, **the time has come, the Kingdom of God is near.** After this Jesus healed several people and cast out demons. He used each of these opportunities to illustrate the affects on the people once the Kingdom of God was among them. They were restored, renewed back to their healed bodies. Following these actions as recorded in Matthew, Jesus went into the greatest sermon ever offered – The Sermon on the Mount which of course includes the Beatitudes of which we have discussed..

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' direction for kingdom living. Martin Lloyd-Jones, a great preacher of years past said, 'if you want to have power in your life and to be blessed, go straight to the Sermon on the Mount. Live it, practice it and give yourself to it...' I wholeheartedly agree!

I live within the Kingdom of God and once this truth came to fruition in my life my entire perspective of life, death, and all existence changed dramatically. I want each of you to experience this life changing truth as well.

My prayer is that each of you comes to the life changing knowledge that we as believers are living in the Kingdom of God.

In His Service,
Pastor Tim



ATTENTION LADIES!!!!!!!



Do you like to eat, fellowship,
God working through you, then
women's council.

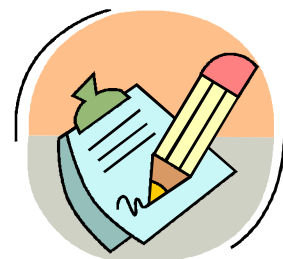
experience
come join the



We need all of you interested ladies to come and help us as we plan and participate in the women's ministry of our church. We only meet four times a year to organize all the Bible studies, events and programs for the calendar year.



So please when the committee sign ups are taken in worship service in December, don't forget to volunteer to join the women's council.



News From the Women's Ministries



December is a time to think about the past year and remember the good things of God. As I think of the things we have learned in Women's ministry in 2009, I remembered some of the lessons we learned at the Beach Retreat. I see the ladies carrying those green bags around church and I recall that we all need our own post-it notes so that we remember the truths of God. Remember what is profitable. I think of God as a color, green, emerald green, soothing and warm, calming, settled and peaceful, Think God is Rest. FORGET NOT WHAT REALLY MATTERS FROM GOD. Speak truth to your soul.

I remembered the Bible studies as we struggled through in Damsels in Distress. While listening to the discussion of many ladies in the church, I realized that you either loved the book or disliked it, there seemed to be no in between. Martha Peace definitely challenged us as she led us in the study of many issues that women face. But one thing I would like you to remember is this statement from a circle member: "While I am not really sure if I liked the study book, I will admit that because I disagreed with a lot of her teachings, it made us go deeper in my circle to find out what the truth from the scriptures actually was."

Ladies, isn't that what we are supposed to do? Aren't we supposed to go deeper into the Bible to find out what God has for us?

After pondering this statement I had to decide that we chose the right book for our Bible Study this year.

Now I would like to turn the focus to next year. At our annual Salad Supper on December 8 at 6:30 pm we will have the different study books our circles have chosen for you to review as you decide which circle you will sign up for. We will also have many different committees you can sign up for.

Remember to be praying for your Circle Co-Chairmen. Each Circle will need to elect co-chairmen at the January meeting.

This year there will be some additions to the committees. We are going to have **EVENT COMMITTEES**. The reason for this is the overwhelming joy the ladies had when they planned the Mother and Others Banquet last year. Kim said she did not know which was better, the event or the fellowship time the committee had as they planned the banquet because it was filled with fun and laughter. The committee said it did not seem like there was any work to the planning because they all enjoyed being together. This is how the Women's Council would like to plan all the events for 2010. We will have each event listed with the date and time. Please look for the committee sign ups and if you have any interest in serving in God's ministry in this event, sign up. You can even sign up for more than one (even as many as you would like) because these events have plenty of time between them for you to: **REMEMBER** to rest.

We really hope to see each of you ladies at the Salad Supper, it should be as always, lots of fun.



My Secret Sister

Name



Birthday

Anniversary

Favorite Colors

Hobbies

Collectables

Allergies

Special needs such as diabetic, etc.

Special prayer requests



***** If you are interested in being a Secret Sister, please give sign up sheet to Delinda Mauney before the Salad Supper on December 8. All those involved will draw on the night of the Salad Supper.



**K
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BELIZE MISSION TEAM

DATE: 12/05/2009

Time: 7:00 am until

JEWELRY
BOOKMARKS
CROCHET ITEMS
KNITTED ITEMS
HAND CRAFTED WOOD-
WORK
CRAFTS IN GENERAL

New Sterling ARP Church
Fellowship Hall

All proceeds go to the Belize
Mission trip fund

Craft Sale / Bake Sale

A Christmas Version of I Corinthians 13



As you prepare your heart and home for Christmas this year, consider the following words of wisdom and have Christ be the center and essence of your celebration.

- If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.
- If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not share the true meaning of Christmas, I'm just another cook.
- If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not demonstrate kindness to strangers, it profits me nothing.
- If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.
- Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired.
- Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.
- Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.
- Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure. --Author Unknown

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love."

I Corinthians 13



Explaining and understanding our mission



Boxes already packed from Saturday
Then sending the children to pick up the boxes from the congregation.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Did we reach our goal of 100 boxes????



Thanking the participants



Jesus is Better than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited

JESUS stands at your door and knocks. And then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"

JESUS knew our name before we did.

Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly

JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree

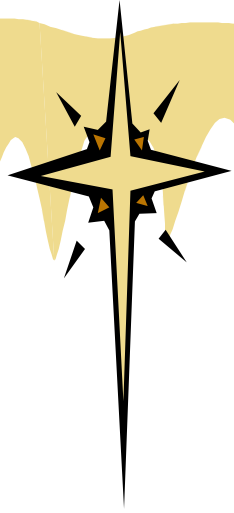
JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.

We need to put Christ back in Christmas.





Coming Events

December 1		Session Meeting
December 6	11:00	Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons Deacons Meeting
December 8	6:30 pm	Women's Salad Supper
December 13	12:00 pm	Annual Congregational Meeting
December 14	10:30 am	Sterling Silvers
December 20	11:00 am 7:00 pm	Adult Choir Christmas Cantata Children's Christmas Program
December 21	7:00 pm	Knit Wits with Delinda Mauney
December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25		The Birth of Our Savior
December 28	7:00 pm	Property and Maintenance Committee
December 31		New Year's Eve





HAVE YOU HEARD??????

Jimmy Gray and friends went hunting in South Dakota.....**Jeanette Hauck** had surgery.....**David Sides** traveled to Edinburg, Scotland with others from First Presbytery to plant a mission church there. **Athole Rennie** is the church planter.....**Sherry Clark** fell while “power walking” and hit her face on the asphalt. Other than a broken nose and 2 black eyes, she is doing very well.....**Eddie & Lori Compton, Roy and Cora Poovey, Hannah, Justin, Emma and Jaxon Moore** recently vacationed in Florida.....**Brian Pope, Andy Gray, Tracy and Harrison Jenkins, and Ray Patterson** traveled to Nebraska to hunt.....**Marcia Winter’s** mother, **Mary Davis**, celebrated her 100th birthday on November 14.....**David Sides, Clay Price and Tim Hager** were elected to serve as Elders.....**Pastor Tim’s** father has been in the hospital recently with pneumonia.....**Ed Donohoe** took a business trip to Texas recently.....Roofers at **Nancy McNeely’s** on the first work weekend were: **Pastor Tim and Judy, Tommy Morton, David Brady, Jeremy Brady, Jeff and Cindy McNeely, Kitzi, Maggie and Davis Emery, Pat and Clay Price, Clifton Mauney, Delinda Mauney, Jacob McNeely, Craig and Susan Pugh, Kent and Sherry Clark, Alan Yount, Tim Hager, Jimmy Winters, Emily Nash, Susan Pugh, Sherry Clark, and Lori Compton** provided lunch and snacks both days. These and others worked the next week end but this newsletter reporter could not make it to take roll.....**Taryn Setzer, Muriel Jenkins, Michelle Hairyes, Scotti McCulloch and Delinda Mauney** celebrated their annual SHOP TIL YOU DROP day. It seems the dropping is coming much earlier in the evening these days.....The **Knit Wits** held their November meeting at the home of **Wayne Jenkins. Betty Godfrey, Kathleen King, Juanita Massey, Jane Fulbright, Pat Price, and Delinda Mauney** spent an wonderful evening with **Wayne, Peggy Alexander and Ellen Sneed** who was home visiting.....The **Junior High Retreat** was represented well by **New Sterling** folks with around 23 Junior Highs and adult advisors.....**The youth** met on Saturday, November 21 to pack shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse. They packed 62 boxes on Saturday.....



roofing at Miss Nancy's



Our boat full of shingles. Most people have a dumptruck.



Dear Children:

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth just, **GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER**. Now, having said that let Me go on.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can & may remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching explaining who I am in relation to you & what each of our tasks were. If you have forgot that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing George complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile it could make the difference. Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.





8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes My love & Good News to those who have never heard My name. You may already know someone like that.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals & whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them (and I suspect you don't) buy some food & a few gifts & give them to the Marines, the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me & they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

P.S. Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me & do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above & get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember

I LOVE YOU

God

**Eleventh Annual Christmas Benefit Concert
Benefiting Barium Springs Home for Children**

Melody Morrison Beatty, soprano

Monday, December 7, 2009

6:30 pm

First Presbytery Church

Statesville, NC

Statesville Community Children's Choir

Jane Pardue, piano



Children grades 2 and up are invited to join in a Community Children's Choir to perform at this concert. Rehearsal will be at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 5 from 2:00—2:45 in the sanctuary.

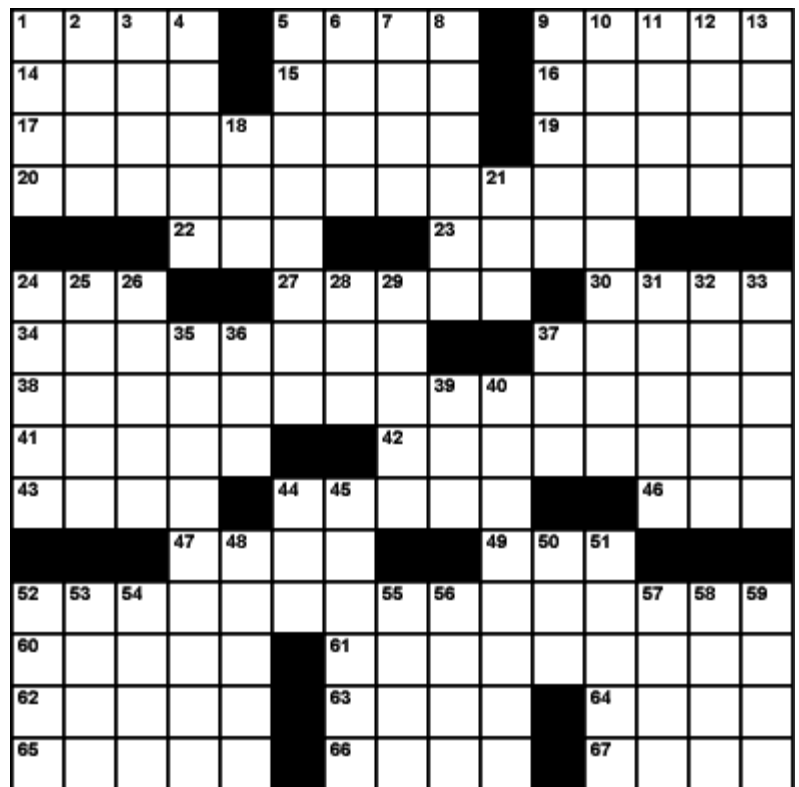
Christmas Crossword Puzzle #2 by Dave Fisher

Across

1. Nods off
5. Al-Jazeera viewer, probably
9. Crockett's last stand
14. Border on
15. Tree trunk
16. 1998 Pulitzer winner Paula
17. Hammered designs
19. Garlic sauce
20. Santa... town
22. Catch some rays
23. Powder source
24. Ret. plan
27. Word on a Yankee dollar
30. French sailor and writer, Pierre ___
34. Marie Edmé Patrice de ___,
French president 1873-79
37. Red dye used in cosmetics
38. I'm dreaming of...
41. Gaggle contents
42. Hardy breed from Scotland
43. At a previous time
44. Fall bloomer
46. Felix or Garfield, e.g.
47. Name-serial number connector
49. Part of the Treasury Dept.
52. It's...a lot like Christmas
60. Beelike
61. Suspensions of ongoing activities
62. Beautiful in Bologna
63. e.e.cummings, e.g.
64. ___-Mall
65. Beer maker?
66. The largest of the Inner Hebrides
67. Ultimatum word


Down

1. 'Keep off the grass!' sayer, perhaps
2. Cain's victim
3. Cocoon occupant
4. Rex of mystery
5. Wormwood
6. Seamstress Betsy
7. Smart ___ (wise guy)
8. Gets drunk
9. Take or use
10. Tarzan's cover
11. Highly excited
12. Thaw
13. Mixture



18. Can.'s neighbor
21. It's often at the door
24. GIF or JPEG, e.g.
25. Less refined
26. Throbs
28. Letters Taiwan can't use
29. Knock off a bowler
31. Containing the heaviest known metal
32. Princesses headwear
33. Map feature
35. Hung-jury results
36. Stopped fasting
37. Tee preceder
39. Canadian whisky
40. Bother
44. ___ Arbor, Mich.
45. Supplies sparingly
48. Certain stipend
50. It makes a cavity
51. Hillside
52. Nursery dweller
53. Pointless weapon
54. ___ monster (lizard)
55. Cranny's partner
56. Color for Lee's army
57. Not written
58. Squirts a squeak
59. Chard relative

Let's Keep in Touch!!



Sgt. Charles P. McClure
A B try 1-113th FA
FOB Mahmudiyah
APO AE 09322



SPC McClure, James
CSC 230th
FOB Falcon
APO AE 09361

SPC McClure, John S
1-120th CAB HHC PSD
FOB Mahmudiyah, Iraq
APO AE 09323



AB Mauney, Brenton T
PSC 41 Box 1788
APO, AE 09464



ESN Clark, Andrea
510 East Washington
Street
Lewisburg, West VA
24901



Robert Lewis Buchanan
PO Box 189
Polkton, NC 28135



December Birthdays

- 2 Betty Sides
- 3 Linda Harper
- 4 Larry Watts
- 5 Tena Campbell
- 5 Pressly Reese
- 5 Betty Thorne
- 10 Pat Price
- 12 Barbara McClure
- 12 Clark Milholland
- 14 Phyllis Shoemaker
- 14 Dalton Winters
- 15 Anthony Brady
- 16 Dorothy Beatty
- 17 Doris McNeely
- 18 Dawn Keller
- 19 Jim Snyder
- 22 Craig Pugh
- 23 Olean Deal
- 26 Peggy Gray
- 26 Adrian Jarrett
- 27 Lori Pope
- 30 Ed Henderson



Christmas Coloring Page

