

Announcements and Church News

Our Sick

Penny Bevaqua— broken wrist; William McRoy— in Kensington Rehab; Regina Hunter— physical therapy on her knee; Alison Harris for cancer; Tim Adams trmt for bacteria in lungs; Teresa Broyles for cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Sandy Caldwell, Fran Barclay, and Nancy VanWinkle for health issues.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS;

Bill Ingram's wife, Joy recovering from major surgery; David Sain's wife Phyllis struggling with health issues; Steve Wilder healing from spine surgery; Mattie Simmons brother health issues; The VanWinkle's neighbor for dementia; The Broyles friend Bobbie Huckabee/liver issues; Ylka Bejo's—mother; Les Vasterling's— father/Hospice care; Kim Taylor's mother, Jayne also baby William / heart and lung issues; The Bernhardt's relative Dustin/colon issues; Dianne Stewart's brother, Bobby Goodfield; Van Stewart's aunt Linda Parsons/health issues; The Stingles niece's baby; Paula Davis' niece for lupus; Carol Mitchell's mother, Mary; Darrell Broking— recent surgery; Dawn McFarland's—sister Debbie.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Freeman Cooper former member; Debbie Methvin's co-workers father Vasilos; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousins Paula and Kevin; Ronnie Sommerville's dad, Ron; Kim Taylor's mother, Jayne; The Harris' daughter Kim; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's brother-in-law Larry.

INMATES:

Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN:

Sam Wagner and cousin Mark Wagner (Navy)
Austin Reyes (Marine Corp)

Remember Our Shut-ins

At Home: Winston Sandlin

Activities

FSOP Lectureship—The 47th Annual Lectureship at the Florida School of Preaching in Lakeland, FL will be from January 17th to the 20th. For more information pick up a flyer in the foyer.

Sympathy—Our deepest sympathy is extended to Dyianna Thompson and family for the recent loss of her aunt Betty Spencer. Remember this family in your prayers as they mourn their loss.

Holiday Get Together — On Sunday, December 19th after the evening service we will meet in the small building for a Holiday Get Together. We will have barbeque pork, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans and dessert. Please put your name on the sign up sheet in the foyer if you are able to attend. If you would like to contribute towards the food please give to one of the elders or Mary.

In Thy Steps

*In Thy steps, dear Lord, we tread
Blessed Savior, Lamb of God.
In Thy steps we'll be secure;
Earthly trials we shall endure.
As Thy spirit leads the way,
From Thy side we shall not stray.
In Thy steps we'll ever be,
Faithful, loving, close to Thee.*

By: Edna Massimilla

Reminder— Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook Sundays at 10:30 and 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm. If you need the Bulletin, Christian Service List, Calendar or the Directory call the office at 727-446-4808.

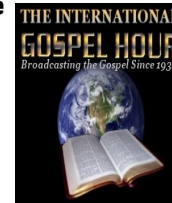
Those Serving Today

Announcements—Joe Bonelli
Song Leaders—Matt Pryor/Joe Bonelli
Opening Prayer—Joe Bonelli/James George
Lord's Table—Mark Bernhardt
Closing Prayer—Bob Haddock/Dennis Cuckler



Gospel Broadcasting Network
<http://gbntv.org> YouTube

Bi-Monthly Publication



Now on YouTube
(24/7) to hear Jeff Archey as speaker.

TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday watch & hear Phil Sanders - YouTube

For he that will love life,
and see good days, let him
refrain his tongue from
evil, and his lips that they
speak no guile:
1 Peter 3:10

Elders:

Joe Bonelli
Charles Broyles
James George

Deacons:

Max Herman
Van Stewart

Preacher: Charles Broyles

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM

Charles Broyles

Major Prophets: Jeremiah

Sunday Worship—10:30AM

Charles Broyles

How Good It Is To Be

A Child of God

1 Peter 3:10-12

Sunday Worship—5:00 PM

Charles Broyles

Victorious Chapters of The Bible

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Ladies Bible Study

Postponed

Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM

Charles Broyles

Types and Anti-Types

All of our services are available



on Facebook Live and



YouTube Live!



From the Preacher's Pen

**BIBLE GEOGRAPHY
THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM (1)**

VICTOR M. ESKEW

We will soon enter the Christmas season. We will begin to hear Christmas carols played on the radio and sung in many stores. One of the carols that will be heard is entitled: "O Little Town of Bethlehem." This is a song written in 1868 by an Episcopal priest whose name was Phillip Brooks. The organist of his church, Lewis Redner, put the words to music. This song is popular because Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and, unfortunately, many mistakenly believe that Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ.

The city of Bethlehem is mentioned around 50 times in the Bible. It is only mentioned eight times in the New Testament (Matt. 2:1, 5, 6, 8, 16; Luke 2:4, 15; John 7:42). Let's look at this city that rested 2,550 above sea level some 5 to 6 miles south of Jerusalem. Bethlehem is not the original name of the city. Earlier it was called Ephrath (Gen. 35:19). It eventually acquired the name "Bethlehem." This name means "house of bread." It may have adopted this name because of the abundance of grain that was produced around the city (Ruth 2:2-3).



There are two Bethlehem's mentioned in the Bible. One of them was located in the territory of Judah. The other was found in the land of Zebulun (Josh. 19:10, 15). The prominent Bethlehem is distinguished from the other by referencing it as "Bethlehem of Judea" or "Bethlehem-Ephrath." It is interesting that when the division of the land of Palestine was made in the days of Joshua, Bethlehem as not listed among the cities of Judah. Thus, it does not appear to have been an extremely important city early on in Israel's history.

Bethlehem is first mentioned in the Bible in connection with the death of Rachel. "And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labor. And it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Jacob set a



pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day" (Gen. 35:16-20).

One of the things that put Bethlehem on the map was the fact that David, the king of Israel was from that town (I Sam. 16:1). In fact, Samuel the prophet anointed David as king in Bethlehem. "And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem..." (I Sam. 16:4). He called the family of Jesse to a sacrifice and sanctified them. Each one of the sons of Jesse came before Samuel, but none was chosen. "And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent, and brought him in. And he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from the day forward..." (I Sam. 16:11-13). Because the most prominent king of Israel came from Bethlehem, the city was often referred to as "the city of David" (see Luke 2:11).

It is interesting how God can take little places and make them great. Even to this day, Bethlehem is a major tourist attraction. There are some 4.5 million people who visit Israel each year. The towns that are the most visited are Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Nazareth. It is simply the fact that David was born in Bethlehem that causes it to be a sought after destination? No. There was another who made the place of interest to almost all in the world. We will discuss that event and some other interesting facts about Bethlehem in our next article.

IN MY HANDS

I went to the funeral home to pay my respects to an old acquaintance. Some thoughtful person had placed in her hands a well-worn Bible. . It looked fitting and symbolic. I could see how her face used to light up as she would tell others of the Lord.

Yes, it was most appropriate.

Later, I was thinking, "What if someone put the thing that seemed most appropriate in our hands after we die?"

Would it be a cigarette? A newspaper? A bottle? A fishing pole? Car keys? A deck of cards? A worn Bible?

Or even a Bible not worn at all?

I just wonder what they would put in mine.

via Mayfield Messenger Fayette. AL

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).