Macedonian Call

December 2017

In our recent small group study, "God is Closer Than You Think" (which was great), John Ortberg briefly alluded to a 19th century Belgium missionary named known as Father Damien (his given name was Joseph de Veuster). Father Damien was sent to the mission of the Hawaiian Island, where he arrived on March 19, 1864. He wasn't only the missionary of the natives he also constructed several chapels with his own hands, both in Hawaii and in Molokai.

On Molokai a leper colony had grown where the government kept segregated all those afflicted with the terrible disease. The board of health supplied the lepers with food and clothing, but was unable in the beginning to provide them with either resident physicians or nurses. On 10 May, 1873, Father Damien, at his own request and with the sanction of his bishop, arrived at the settlement as its resident priest. There were then 600 lepers. For a long time Father Damien was the only one who faithfully ministered to their physical and spiritual needs. He dressed their sores, helped them construct cottages, and went so far as to dig their graves and make their coffins. After 12 years of this selfless ministry, Father Damien discovered in himself the first symptoms of the disease. Undeterred by the sickness, he continued his ministry, being assisted at that time by two other priests and lay persons. In one of his last letters Father Damien wrote: "My face and my hands are already decomposing, but the good Lord is calling me to keep Easter with Himself." Father Damien died on April 15, 1889. Ortberg wrote that Father Damien serves as a reminder of what Jesus did for us:

"Jesus came down from heaven, became one of us, and lived among us" (see Philippians 2:5-8). The incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated to mankind God's desire to have a relationship with us. Please carve out some time this busy Christmas season to think about that and share the Good News of Christ's birth and sacrifice with someone who needs to hear it!

~ Merry Christmas, Pastor Randy

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

Journey Through the Story-line of Scripture

You are invited to join us for Sunday School each week at 9:45 am as we journey through the story-line of Scripture! We have classes available for everyone from nursery through senior adults. Looking ahead at the lessons for December, we have three on the Holy Spirit and a special study for Christmas "The First Christmas Carol." Make Sunday School a part of your Bible study life. Come each Sunday and bring a friend. Please contact our Sunday School Director, Brad Beam if you would like more information.

You may give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering to support International missionaries of the SBC anytime during the month of December. We will have a special time of giving during our morning worship service on Dec. 17th.

Every second Wednesday of each month is C.A.R.E. Night. C.A.R.E. is an acronym for "Christians Actively Reaching Everyone." We have a meal each C.A.R.E. Night beginning at 6:00 pm and ministry opportunities follow at 6:30 pm. This month C.A.R.E. Night is December 13th . We will be Christmas Caroling this month. Everyone is invited to join us for this night of fellowship and ministry.

Embrace Women's Ministry
Annual Christmas Breakfast
Sunday, December 3rd @ 9:00 am
In the Fellowship Hall
Our Guest Speaker this year is
Dakota Spurling
Don't miss this wonderful time of fellowship & worship!!

CELEBRATION CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CANTATA
SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH
MORNING SERVICE

Men's Meeting
Saturday, December 16th
7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Churchwide Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, Dec. 20th
6:30 pm

December 24th
Christmas Eve we will have one service only at 10:00 am

"Candlelight Communion Service"

From the Youth Pastor

Macedonia Family,
December is such a wonderful time of year. A time for fun family gatherings, giving presents, celebrating family traditions, hoping for snow, and lots of shopping. There is just something so awesome about Christmas time. There is great anticipation in our hearts as Christmas Day draws near. If it's anticipation of presents, family, or food then we really miss the point and walk away disappointed. All those things are great, but nothing compared to the anticipation of celebrating "God with us". The thought of Emmanuel, God with us, is just unexplainably incredible. Jesus came to be with us, to die on a cross so that we would never be separated from Him again. It is because Jesus came on Christmas Day that we now can have God with us every day into eternity. This Christmas don't miss the opportunity to worship our Lord and celebrate "God with us". ~ Pastor Jeremy

Youth Worship Service

Sunday Evenings @ 6:00 pm

Weekly Youth Bible Study

Wednesday @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday Night Study is geared to teach our youth how God's Word applies to our everyday lives.

Youth Christmas Party
Sunday, Dec. 10th

Winterfest
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

December 30—January 1

Children's Church is worship designed especially for children 3 years - 6th grade. They will meet this month on December 3rd & 10th during our morning worship service.

AWANA – Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed
2 Timothy 2:15

Awana Clubs reach kids through energetic game activities, Bible-based teaching, Bible memorization and small group time with friends.

AWANA Clubs meet Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm in the Worship Center

Bible Drill
Each Sunday @ 4:30 pm
Children 4th—6th grade
Youth 7th—9th grades

Children's Lunch / Shopping Trip to Dollar Tree
Sunday, Dec. 3rd
following the morning service

"The Gifts of Christmas"

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17th @ 6:00 pm

(Practice each Wednesday night at 6 pm)

I can hardly believe that I am writing an article for the December Newsletter! Where have the months gone? It seems it was only yesterday that it was my birthday (which is March 10th just in case you didn't know.) Eleven months have passed and at my age (above 45) time seems to go so much faster. Aren't you glad that Psalm 31:15 says "*My times are in Your Hands.*" I am so glad those words are in the scripture. What does it mean? Basically it means there are no accidents with God. You and I are always under the all Seeing Eye and omnipotent care of our Father. When traps (v.4), afflictions and anguish (v.7 & 10), enemies (v. 8, 11,& 15) and so many other things try to get us down we are covered!! How does He do all of this? It's about a little baby …….. A little baby who was and is the big God, who as the God-man died on a cross for our sins. When we place our faith, our trust in Him He becomes our savior. It is His birthday that we celebrate. And when we do it is not Christmas season once a year but a Christmas eternity of receiving gifts , not under a tree but because of a tree called the old rugged cross. Merry Christmas, I love you all! ~ Pastor Joe

JOY Ministry Bible Study
Each Thursday at 11:00 am

JOY Ministry Annual Christmas Lunch
Saturday, December 9th
11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall