

## A Christmas Wish

By David A. Sargent

Let me share with you how I wish the world would celebrate Christ's birth: When I was a boy in school, we had two holidays: one to celebrate Washington's birthday, the other to celebrate Lincoln's. On those occasions we would study about these men and what they did for our country. We studied about their work and their role as presidents. But we never studied anything about their births. I know of no facts or stories concerning the circumstances of their births.

I wish the world would celebrate the birth of Jesus the way it celebrates the birth of other men, by concentrating on His life. I wish [the world] nation would look more at His accomplishments, teaching, world influence, and death; than at the manger scene, the wise men, and the shepherds tending their flocks.

Yes, His virgin birth was special, miraculous, humble and unique. However, in our celebration, let us not lose focus on the man He became and how His life changed the world.

That Jesus was born into the world is something to celebrate! The incarnation, God becoming flesh in the person of Jesus (John 1:14), revealed the great love of God in that He came to us!

However, it is of utmost importance for us to understand WHY He came.

When Mary discovered that she was "with child," an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21).

Jesus came to save us from sin! That's what makes His birth so special! When our sins rendered us doomed for eternal destruction, Jesus came to rescue us. And, in order to save us, Jesus – the sinless Son of God – had to die on the cross for our sins, be buried, and then rise again after three days (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Jesus WILL save those who: place their faith and trust in Him (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). His atoning blood will continue to cleanse those who continue to walk in the light of His word (1 John 1:7).

The best way to celebrate the birth of Jesus is to recognize WHY He was born into the world (for our salvation) and to accept His gift on His terms.

Won't YOU?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

December 22, 2019

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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**Today's Sermon: [When Christmas Came to Antioch](#)**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)

[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org) (Antioch Initiative)

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**Scripture: Acts 13:26-33**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** January 1st, 6:30pm. Paul will continue our new powerful study of Colossians.
- **Next Potluck:** January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Next Regional Singing: March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020**
- **Sojourners-** July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 6<sup>th</sup>



### NEWS

December 29<sup>th</sup> Regional 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing @ Endwell has been canceled because of people traveling for the holidays.

- **Our meetings for the *grief ministry* and showing of Tear Soup were on the last 4 Tuesdays. We have had no response from the community so far and very little support from this congregation. We should discuss whether we want to pursue this outreach in the new year, perhaps at a different time of day.**
- **Paul** will be preaching in Kittanning for the first Sunday of the year, January 5<sup>th</sup>.



*Merry Christmas*

## PRAYERS

- **Please pray for Arthur and Paul**, as they are deciding how to divide up the ministry work and secure support income for Paul.
- Pray for **Todd** as he is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Also, please pray for his relationship with Michelle, his fiancée in the Philippines.
- We are thankful that **Ted** has managed to find a doctor to repair his Eustachian tubes and hopefully restore his hearing.
- **Chris Henson and Devon Wolcott's 3-month-old baby son, Jace**, has suffered brain damage from oxygen deprivation and will be undergoing rehabilitation in Rochester soon. Pray for the family and for Jace's healing. They have shown interest in the church.
- **Andrea Lentz**, who has lung cancer.
- **Please pray for Mark Elsbree, Doug's brother**, who needs a kidney donor. **Pray for his son and daughter, who are possible matches for him.**
- **Pray for Ted's brother John**, who has a rare blood condition.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer.
- **Pray for Erin Beiber**, who has metastatic breast cancer. **Continue to pray that she can learn and grow in the Lord as a new babe in Christ.**
- **Pray for Larry Krause**, minister at Kittanning, who has prostate cancer and will be having surgery in January.
- **Pray for Peyton Chacona**, who has seizures.
- **Darlene's cousin, Denise Higgins**, needs prayer for pain that she is suffering, causing her to go in and out of the hospital on a regular basis.
- **Clint Jones and Becky Wolcott** are grateful for our prayers for Becky as she has been dealing with breast biopsies. They are thankful that the last one was negative. Clint has left prayer requests and a money donation in the prayer box on two occasions.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.