

FPCC NEWSLETTER

FELLOWSHIP OF THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES IN CHICAGO

The wonder of Christ's Birth Luke 2:1-14, 15-20, Matt 2:11

Rev. John Thomas

What has the "wonder" of Christ's birth moved you to do? Christmas is a season of Wonders. The birth of Christ has caused angels and humans to do different things. Actually, the wonder and anticipation caused Gabriel to appear to Mary (Luke 1:26-38). Since Mary found favor with God, it was she, who was chosen for the task ahead. Are we favored? Would you and I be chosen for the task ahead? Mary's obedience resulted in the wonder of Christmas becoming fulfilled in her life.

Gabriel also appeared to Joseph (Matt 1:18-25) Are we

the recipient of an assignment that seems contrary to our tradition? What will we do with such a task? Do we even pay attention to such a request from up above?

It is written that the angel also appeared to the shepherds of the field. (Luke 2:8-14) While telling the shepherds the Good news, a multitude of heavenly hosts joined in singing. They sang "Glory to God in the Highest" yet the shepherds would find this "wonder child" in a borrowed manger, wrapped in swaddling cloths perhaps greeted first by the animals of his barn.

The wonder of the shepherds moved them to Cont...

Testimony

Pastor K. George (Mumbai, India)

During 1998-99 it was so hard for the Christians in the provinces of Gujarat and Orissa. A huge wave of persecution was sweeping across this province. You may recall the brutal murder of Br. Graham and his innocent children Timothy and Philip in Orissa.

On 23rd Dec 1998, God miraculously saved me from such a brutal attack. On that day two of the newly baptized believers and myself were doing house to house evangelism in a remote village called Vevji in Gujarat. On our way back home, a gang of 25 anti-Christians caught us and dragged to their leader. They tortured us

for hours and at last the leader asked me "who gave you authority to enter other religion people's house, especially Hindus' house?" Though I was weak and tired Holy Spirit enabled me to say to him "King of Kings and Lord of Lords Jesus Christ gave me authority to preach the gospel in the entire world." When he heard this, he shivered with anger and ordered his men "kill him and throw him away and beat his companions thoroughly." Soon his men lifted me up in the air to throw me upside down to the ground and others took their position with weapons to kill me. The villagers were watching but no one dared to spell a word because they knew that the gang Cont...

Monthly Meeting

PLACE: **Hebron Gospel Center**

2430 Ballard Road
Desplaines, IL

DATE: **December 16, 2006**

TIME: **6:00 Pm**

List of Programs

Presided by

IPC Hebron

Malayalam songs

IPC Chicago

Youth message

Bethel

Psalm reading

Ebenezer

Main message

Pastor Ron Heitman

-Evangel Assembly of God

There will be a **committee meeting at 5.00 pm** on the same day. Pastor along with two representatives are requested to attend this meeting.

1. Presentation of FPCC annual report
2. Selection of office bearers for the year 2007

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“go” (15, 20). These humble care takers of the sheep, must have understood a thing or two that day. Their excitement caused them to go see for themselves, the baby who would become the “Good shepherd”. No jealousy here, no competition here, no malice here. They just wanted to welcome a new addition to their community. They did just that and went away telling others of the Good news. 2006 is almost over. Have we used the opportunities God has given us to tell others of the Good news?

The wonder of the wise men moved them to “give” Matt.2:11.

We are not quite sure where these characters came from except we know they came from the East following a star. They brought treasures too.

They came searching for a king. Only to find out that the “Kings of Kings” birth resulted in anguish for the local king. The wonder of Christmas was a “haunting trauma” for the local politicians and religious pundits. While, the rest of the world received the gift of God to humanity, the establishment was busy trying to destroy the new found Prince of Peace. Haven’t we seen enough destruction? In the name of religious superiority, in the name of tradition, in the name of culture, in the name of what our fathers used to do, in the name of churches, do we put down, discredit, defame, devalue, and destroy others? True wonder of Christmas should cause us to renew our mind on a daily basis, and offer up our bodies as a living sacrifice, as apostle Paul begs us to do (Romans 12: 1-2).

After every thing is said and done, it won’t really matter, if we just had good church programs, packed out calendar with weekly prayer meetings, or held annual conventions and special meetings. It only matters if we added new souls to the kingdom of God regardless of race, color, or creed.

That will cause the angels to sing again (Luke 15:10) as they did so many Christmases ago.

So again, I ask - What has the wonder of Christ’s birth moved you to do?

will set their village on flame. As nobody was there to help me I submitted my soul and my dear wife and children in to hands of the Lord and was ready to die for the sake of gospel. But all of a sudden there appeared a respectable lady. She stood before the gang leader and began to argue for us as an advocate. “Beware what you are going to do with these men. I know them for many years. They are neither criminals nor trouble makers. It is better for you leave them untouched”. Hearing this, the leader of the gang said “if it was a man I would have killed him first, and then you, now it is a lady, we honor ladies, I will free you this time”. As soon as we heard this we ran for our life. We even forgot to thank that lady for saving our lives. After some days the villagers sent message to us that “your God is a living God, He only you form those dangerous men. We want to hear more about your God”. So we went there again and asked about the lady who us on that day. The villagers said “we do not know from where she came and where she went”. So far nobody know that who was she? But one thing we know that God Sadrach, Messach and Abed-nego is still alive and delivers His people even today. Let His name alone be glorified.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| 12/9/06 | Chicago Sisters’ Fellowship meeting Time: 10.00 Am Place: IPC Hebron |
| 12/25/06 | Bethel Church– Fasting Prayer thru For more info: Pastor Mathew Oommen |
| 12/30/06 | (847)231-3526 |

By the grace of God we are involved in church planting and literature evangelism ministries in the villages of Gujarat and Maharashtra as well as among the slum dwellers of Bombay for the latest 24 years. Remember us in your valuable prayers and extend the hands of fellowship and co-operation in the unending love of our redeemer Lord Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you

Yours in Christ

Pastor K George
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