

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 8, 2024

True Gratefulness

Christmas is the most beautiful time of the year. Houses are decorated with lights; Christmas trees are decorated inside homes; ornaments and the like; people’s cars are decorated; the malls are filled with items that represent Christmas to them, and the music of Christmas plays regularly. What was Christmas like for Christ? What did God’s love mean for the Giver of His love?

Britisher Geoffrey T. Bull, a missionary to Tibet, was cold, exhausted, and hungry. Communists had seized him following their takeover of China in 1949, and his future was bleak. His captors drove him day and night across frozen mountains until he despaired of life. Late one afternoon, he staggered into a small village where he was given an upstairs room, swept clean and warmed by a small charcoal brazier.

After a meager supper, he was sent downstairs to feed the horses. It was very dark and very cold. He clambered down the notched tree trunk to find himself in pitch blackness. His boots squished in the manure and straw on the floor. The fetid smell of animals was nauseating. The horses sighed wearily, tails drooping, yet the missionary expected to be kicked any moment. Geoffrey, cold, weary, lonely, and ill, begins to feel sorry for himself.

“Then as I continued to grope my way in the darkness,” he later wrote, “it suddenly flashed into my mind. What’s today? I thought for a moment. In traveling, the days had become a little muddled in my mind. Suddenly, it came to me. “It’s Christmas Eve.” I stood suddenly still in that Oriental manger. To think that my Savior was born in a place like this. To think that He came all the way from heaven to some wretched eastern stable, and what is more to think that He came for me. How men beautify the cross, and the crib, as if to hide the fact that at birth we resigned Him to the stench of beasts and at death exposed Him to the shame of rogues. “I returned to the warm, clean room which I enjoyed even as a prisoner bowed to thankfulness and worship” (Geoffrey T. Bull, When Iron Gates Yield (Chicago: Moody Press, n.d.), 158–159. 2 Morgan, Robert J.: Nelson & #39’s Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes. electronic ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000, S. 110).

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (John 10:10-11; NASU)

God’s gift to us, and for us, far outweighs any gift we can provide to Him. This is why this is a season of thanksgiving that should result in ‘thanksgiving.’



UPCOMING Events



CHRISTMAS SNEAKER BALL
Are you ready for some family Christmas fun! Living Word Family join us for a Christmas Sneaker Ball on Saturday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary. \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Youth & \$5 for Children Under 12 years-old. Register at <https://bit.ly/ChristmasSneakerBall2024> For more information contact Terry or Sherri Randle at lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com



LWFC KIDZ COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY
Join the LWFC Kidz and Angel Tree for a community-wide Christmas Party on Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 10 am—12 pm. Donate Toys in the foyer and the Children’s Wing. For more information contact Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org



December Connection Sundays
Dec. 1st —Candy Canes & Wear Red & White
Dec. 8th —Donuts & Hot Chocolate & Wear Scarfs & Hats
Dec. 15th —Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday
Dec. 22nd—Cookies & Milk for Christmas Sunday & Wear Christmas Colors
Dec. 24th —Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m.
Take Photos & Post With Hashtag #LWFCChristmas2024



JOIN THE NET TEAM
Join our NET Evangelism Team that goes out to spread the gospel in the community. We have opportunities for you to serve on the street team that goes out, on the hospitality team that provides refreshments, and the phone team that makes phone calls to spread the good news of Christ. For more information sign up on the events page of the website or contact **Pastor Duane Lawrence or Omari Dawson.**



LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$89 per week with a \$55 Registration fee. The program focuses on the four cornerstones of child development: Academic, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Activities include robotics, karate, arts and crafts, outside play, academic enrichment, cooking classes, sports & more, Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCARegister> or call **(281) 445-9673.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Communion
- Worship In Giving
 - Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses
- Special Music
 - “Walk The Walk”
Galatians 6:1-10
Pastor Allen Boutte
- Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website
- Call to Discipleship
 - Please remain seated at this time
- Visitor’s Welcome
- Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.
Infants—6th grade



LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
e 7:30 PM

Walk The Walk Galatians 6:1-10

I. Galatians Final Instruction To Follow

A. The principle of sharing and caring (vs. 1-5)

1. Brethren (vs. 1)
2. The believers who are caught
3. Believers who are Spiritual
 - a. Walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16)
 - b. Filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18-20)
 - c. Evidence of the fruit of Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
4. Restore (Heb. 12:12-13, Rom. 15:1)
 - a. Restoration process (Matt. 18:15-20)
 - b. Watch observing continual diligent attentiveness
5. Spiritual believers are to gently restore fallen believers to fellowship (vs. 3-5)
 - a. Anyone confident can fall, so don't be deceived
 - b. Test to approved after testing (Is your life right?) (vs.4)

B. The principle of receiving and giving (v. 6)

1. All good things (Romans 10:15)

C. The principle of sowing and reaping (vs. 7-10)

1. Those who sow only sinful desires will reap everlasting death (vs. 7-8a)
 - a. Power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 1:18)
2. Those who sow what is good will reap everlasting life (vs. 8b-10)
 - a. Our love for other believers is our test for God (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:21)



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Patsy Getterson & family, Lucretia Lewis & family, Vicki Wilson & family, and Tomitra Wiley & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Beatrice Williams, Jessie Austin, and Evelyn Harvey.

Walk
the
Walk

Galatians 6:1-10