

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 28, 2025

Whose Birthday Is It?



Whose birthday is it, anyway? As many of you know, our travels once took us to Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong. Three places, three entirely different cultures, histories, and beliefs. Although Everette has distant Chinese roots through her maiden name, Chan, and a Chinese grandfather, she still felt like an alien in a distant land. I told her that the frequent, friendly stares she received were because people recognized her Chinese features—quite unusual in a culture where direct eye contact is often considered disrespectful. At times, strangers even spoke to her briefly in Cantonese, leaving her wondering what they must have thought of a Black woman with Chinese features.

As unfamiliar as the culture felt to her—and as majestic as the sights and history were—we were deeply moved by the universal language of kindness. When a taxi driver in Beijing realized she was coatless in the freezing cold, he took off his own coat and gave it to her. A tour guide later brought her husband’s jacket specifically for Everette to wear during our outings. When Everette complimented a well-dressed woman on her scarf, the woman took it off and placed it around her neck. And during what felt like an eternal wait in line for tickets to a light show, someone simply walked up and handed us two tickets.

Yet, in the midst of all this kindness, one striking reality stood out: Buddhist temples were everywhere, but not a single church was visible in Shanghai or Beijing. We were told there were a few in Hong Kong, but they certainly weren’t prevalent. Despite the absence of Christian influence, Christmas decorations and “SALE” signs filled every store.

It was clear—they might not know Christ, but they fully knew consumerism. In fact, according to American Chinese now living and teaching in Hong Kong, the consumer spirit there rivals and even exceeds that of the United States.

This led me to a sobering question: Whose birthday is it, anyway?

For Christians, the answer should be simple. But if our time, money, and energy during this season are spent more on secular trends than on the Savior; if we measure Christmas only by what we give or receive, then maybe—just maybe—it’s the birthday of Jared’s, Macy’s, Starbucks, Sears, and Dillard’s... the same way it seems to be for Buddhists in China.

Living Word, I became curious and spoke to our accountant—who has been with us for years—and discovered something surprising: December is our lowest giving month, tied only with Easter. If we spend our time visiting a prison, encouraging someone in a nursing home, serving the hurting, or simply giving our regular tithes faithfully, then maybe—just maybe—it truly is Jesus’ birthday in our hearts and in our habits.

So, the question remains:

Whose birthday is it? And do your checkbook, your talents, and your day planner reflect that?

Oh come, let us adore Him!

UPCOMING Events

CHURCH FAST
Our church will be fasting together from January 5th-9th. During this time, we will seek God together through prayer, fasting, and reflection, following the Daniel Fast guidelines: no meat, no animals products (including dairy and eggs)
Focus on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, and water.

ANNUAL PRAYER REVIVAL
Join us each night at 7PM for prayer, encouragement, and fresh inspiration as we move forward in faith. This revival is time to be renewed, strengthened, and united as we work toward the vision God has set aside for our church. As we step into this season, we do so under our 2026 theme: "Christ Alone" - fixing our hearts, faith, and purpose firmly on Him.

Anniversary Sunday
Join us Sunday, Jan. 11th as we celebrate 32 years of God’s Faithfulness. Dr. Tony Evans will bless us at 8am and 11am services.

FREE COLON CANCER SCREENING
Until December 31st, call and schedule your free colon screening test pick-up with participating neighborhood clinics. For more information please call or email (713)704-2968 or cancerscreeningevent@memorialhermann.org Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.

ABC WORD ACADEMY PRESCHOOL FALL SPECIAL
The Texas Rising Star 4-Star Accredited ABC Word Academy is having a Fall Pres-School Special starting now with a \$60 Registration Fee, discounts are available for siblings and LWFC members. For more information, call (281)-445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Song
- Communion
- Praise & Worship
- Visitor’s Welcome
- Worship In Giving
Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses
- Special Music
- The Word of God
“God’s Remarkable Love”
1 John 2:28-3:3
Dr. Aaron Lavender
- Sermon notes available online at lwfellowshipchurch.org
Click on the “Media” tab and click “Sermon Outline”*
- Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time
- Benediction & Closing Song

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 3 4 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY 7:30 PM

God's Remarkable Love

1 John 2:28-3:3

Dr. Aaron Lavender

- A. We Are Called Children of God
(1 John 2:28-3:1)
- B. We Will One Day Be Like Christ
(1 John 3:2)
- C. We Are Motivated to Live Pure Lives
(1 John 3:3-10)

Scan To View Full Notes



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Arleatha Housely & family, Nathan Harvey & family, Tomitra Wiley & family, the families of Nequita Hicks & Veronica Brown, Bobbie & Pastor Lawrence & family, and Lucretia Lewis & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, 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, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Shinell Clark, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, Sylvia Edwards, and Leo Banks.

GOD'S *Remarkable* LOVE

1 JOHN 2:28-3:3