

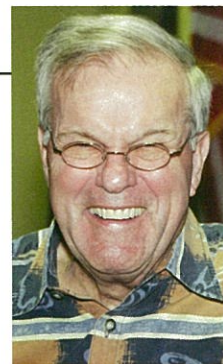
BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

Winter 2015

GRAPEVINE

*But when the proper time came God sent
his Son, born of a human mother
and born under the jurisdiction
of the Law*

*Galatians 4:4
(Phillips)*



T Minus Zero: The On Time Arrival of the Heavenly Gift

Christmas, the season of our savior's birth, is nearing. Shall we start our celebration with a little humor, thanks to an old joke?

Mrs. Rosenberg was stranded late one night at a fashionable resort at Cape Cod, one that did not admit Jews. The desk clerk looked down at his book and said, "Sorry, no room. The hotel is full."

The Jewish lady said "But your sign says that you have vacancies."

The desk clerk stammered and said curtly "You know that we do not admit Jews. Now if you will try the other side of town."

Mrs. Rosenberg stiffened noticeably and said "I will have you know I converted to your religion."

The desk clerk said, "Oh yeah, let me give you a little test. How was Jesus born?" Mrs. Rosenberg replied, "He was born to a virgin named Mary in a little town called Bethlehem."

"Very good," replied the hotel clerk, "tell me more." Mrs. Rosenberg replied, "He was born in a manger."

"That's right," said the hotel clerk, "and why was He born in a manger?"

Mrs. Rosenberg said loudly "Because a jerk like you in the hotel wouldn't give a Jewish lady a room for the night."

Our Norwegian son-in-law introduced us to *lutefisk*. In case you aren't among the initiated, lutefisk is a white fish that is soaked in lye for some days, washed thoroughly, and served with a special sauce that could hold bricks together. Some Scandinavian wit called lutefisk a piece of cod that passes all understanding.

What is also beyond all understanding is the fact that God the Father loved us enough to send His Son to redeem us: a mission to end all missions recorded in Luke 2:1-20:

1. *The mission is formed*, verses 1 through 5
2. *The on time arrival or T minus Zero*, verses 6 and 7
3. *The angels announce the arrival*, verses 8 through 14
4. *The shepherds verify the arrival*, verses 14 to 20

The Mission Is Formed—Luke 2:1-5

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child (Luke 2:1-5 NKJV).

These first five verses reveal that God moves men into positions of leadership for the accomplishment of His purpose and the fulfillment of prophecy.

There is no way that Caesar Augustus, the pagan Roman emperor, had any knowledge that he was being coerced or directed sovereignly to issue this decree at this time to fulfill biblical prophecy. God is the sovereign of the universe and He moves the hearts of men in the ultimate accomplishment of His purpose.

The psalmist expresses it this way: "my times are in your hands" (Psalm 31:15). The

continued on page 14

GRAPEVINE WINTER 2015

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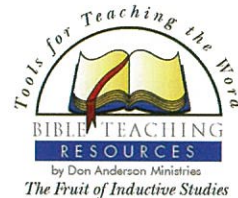


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From the Editor

We hope this season find you and yours enjoying the blessings of our Lord and Savior as we celebrate His birth. Inside you will find updates on the **new** discipleship ministry launched this spring at a gathering near Granbury and now expanded to Tyler. Don and Pearl are excited about this **new** venture. Bible Teaching Resources also has a **new** physical home, as noted inside. How grateful we are to Richard McKellar for making the relocation to a new Tyler location possible! We continue to explore ways to use technology to keep Don on the cyber-road, if not on the actual interstate, also. May God bless you this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Thank you for your faithful friendship, prayers, and support.

M. Jane Rodgers



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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Christmas

Christmas Greetings from the BTR Board: Ken & Carolyn Stanford

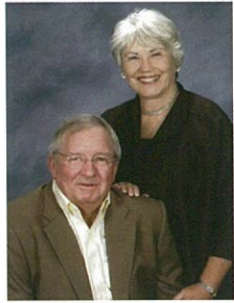
Compared to so many of you, we are “new kids on the block.”

In 2004 we joined a Sunday school class at Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury, Texas.

Shortly after, we met Don and Fran Saddoris. Don told our class about a conference directed by Don Anderson that was to be held at Kaleo Lodge in East Texas. We, along with 21 other couples from the class, decided to attend. Wow, what a life changing experience this was for us!

After that session, Don Anderson, with the help of Don Saddoris, started a Bible study in Granbury at our church. We attended other conferences at Kaleo Lodge, Summers Mill, and Lakeview conference center.

Don started an in-home Bible study in Pecan Plantation in the Granbury area. The Saddorises and we hosted the studies in our homes on Monday nights and the Andersons spent the night, had breakfast, and went back to Tyler. Having them spend the nights with us was wonderful. We would watch baseball games with them after the Bible study. Don and Pearl even made those ball games fun (we are not baseball fans).



Don planned a conference in Buena Vista at Trail West. We decided to attend and asked our daughter and son-in-law, Kynell and Doug Brown to go with us. They had not been involved with Don before this time. Doug could not attend but Kynell went with us. She was really blessed by Don's teaching and the fellowship we shared at the conference.

Two years later we went to Trail West again. This time Doug went with us. Now both their lives were changed. Don started having Bible studies at Granbury Baptist Church in Pecan Plantation. Don and Pearl spent the night with the Conders, the Saddorises, and us.

Another spectacular event was Don's 80th birthday party at Carl and Joyce Low's airplane hanger.

In 2014, Don held his first BTR discipleship conference with five couples at the lake home of Pat and Cindy Hawkins. Don asked us to prepare the meals for the group during the conference. Doug and Kynell were among the couples there to meet and get to know the other four couples. Being involved in this ministry was a very moving and rewarding experience.

There are many more stories but WOW what an experience for this old couple who are “the new kids on the block.” It is a joy serving on the BTR board and watching the Lord supplying the financial resources so the work can continue. It could not be possible without your friendship, prayers, and support.



Greetings

More Christmas Greetings from:

Jake & Jeni Billingsley

Let's celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Have a blessed Christmas.



The Campbells

"A gift too wonderful for words." Our Christmas this year came in July and now we are three.



Name: Kandace Noel Campbell

Birthdate: July 25, 2014

Weight: 5 lbs. 10 oz.

Length: 18 inches

Merry Christmas from the Campbell household.

Brian & Denise Mahoney

As we prepare our hearts in celebration of this precious event, we wish each and every one of you the gift of Joy this Christmas; may faith, hope and the love of Jesus Christ be yours in the New Year and always!



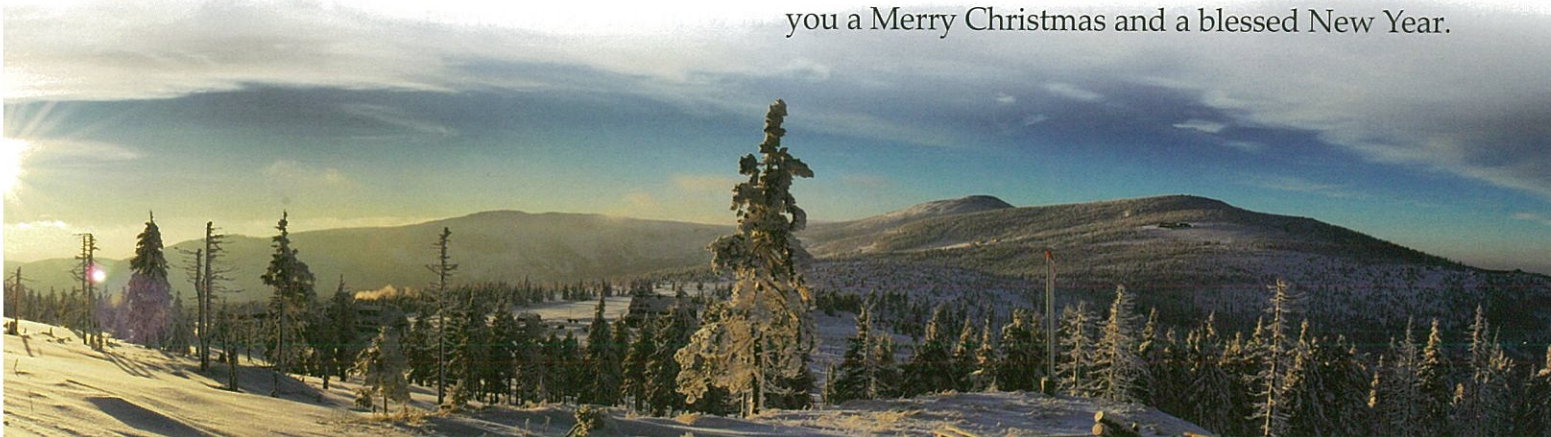
Doug & Kynell Brown

Regarding Christmas, for many people, the first things we think of are gifts. We are so thankful for the greatest Gift ever given: that of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We celebrate the birth of our Savior and wish you all a very Merry Christmas 2014. With love & faith, "The Captain and Kynell."

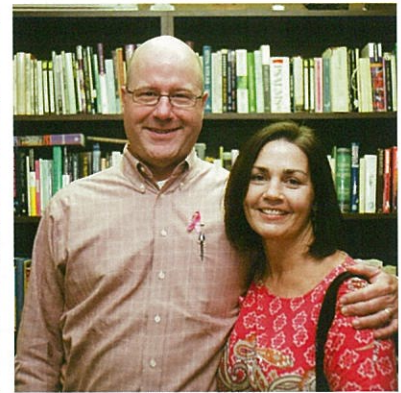


Scott & Jeannie Borgmann

As we close in on the day we celebrate when our Lord and Savior stepped into our world, I find myself thinking about the day when He stepped into my life. I have not been the same since and my blessings are many. God has given me a life partner in my wife and has put some wonderful brothers and sisters there also. My heart of stone is being replaced with one of flesh as He continues to do a good work in me. Jeannie and I give thanks to God for the wonderful relationship He has given us with Don, Pearl and the other couples in BTR's discipleship ministry. From the Pacific Northwest both Jeannie and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.



BTR Disciples And Then Th



Last spring BTR's discipleship ministry kicked off with five couples. Now the ministry is multiplying and expanding to Tyler. The first meeting with the Tyler 5 was held Oct. 14.

The Tyler 5 are Joe & Rainey Freeman, Rich & Susan Knarr, Dr. Travis & Andre Markle, Richard & Dr. Heidi McKellar, and Walter & Ashley Wilhelmi.

Our plan is to connect these five couples with the original five, so that they can learn what is involved in the program and practice what they have learned while implementing a personal discipleship ministry. Continue to pray for this endeavor that the Lord Jesus will be made real and He will be glorified through this work.

Pearl & I are really excited! The following get acquainted email from two of the original crew, Jake & Jeni Billingsley of Phoenix, Arizona, to Tyler's Rich & Susan Knarr, offers a glimpse at what will be involved.

Friendship Ministry: Where We Were Ten



Rich and Susan—We just hung up the phone and we are excited. Don and Pearl Anderson told us a lot about the two of you and your family and we are looking forward to learning more about you in the future. Years ago I made a decision to get into the commercial real estate business instead of the oil and gas business. I hope to learn more about that business from you, Rich.

Jeni and I now have a permanent home just west of Phoenix where there is perpetual summer. But when May rolls around, and summer begins in earnest here, we head to the cool mountains of Colorado until October. We kayak, fish, ride horses, take photos and jeep there all summer. We have a little cabin near Durango, where I have a daughter and four of our nine grandchildren.

We love making new friends, sharing information, and maybe spinning a few yarns. And since I [Jake] was born at Mother Francis Hospital some 200 years or so ago, it will be fun to stay current about Tyler.

Jake and Jeni

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

Cranberry Cream Cheese Bars

2 cups flour
1 ½ cups oats
¾ cup + 1 tbsp. firmly packed brown sugar
1 cup margarine, softened
1-14 oz. can Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk
¼ cup lemon juice, concentrated
2-14oz. cans whole cranberry sauce
3 tbsp. cornstarch

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stir flour, oats, ¾ cup brown sugar, and butter until crumbly. Set aside 1½ cups of mixture; press remaining mixture in bottom of a 13 x 9 baking pan sprayed with Pam. Bake 15 min. or until lightly browned. With mixer, beat cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in Eagle Brand until smooth; stir in lemon juice. Spread whipped mixture over baked crust. Combine cranberry sauce, cornstarch and remaining tbsp. of brown sugar. Spoon over cheese layer. Top with reserved crumb mixture. Bake 45 min. or until golden. Cool and cut into bars. Refrigerate leftovers.



A New Home for Bible Teaching Resources

Richard McKellar phoned BTR last summer to tell us he needed more office space for his company and would be moving to a new building. Richard also said he would love to have us office with him. We said yes! We are enjoying our new home on Paluxy and Sybil Lane in Tyler, Texas, and hope that you will come by and see us soon. Everyone who has been by already has loved the new space. The verdict is unanimous: what wonderful things God has done through Richard in providing these fabulous facilities for the ministry of BTR! To God be the glory!



VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

by Brian Mahoney

In the last issue of the *Grapevine*, David Guice provided you with an article about Skype. At this year's gathering at the Dunes Bible Camp in Ocean Park, Washington, we talked about how we would use video conferencing capability to support group sessions with "the 5" couples that Don and Pearl have sought to mentor from Tyler. As one of the "disciples," I offered to take the lead to see what method of video conferencing would serve us best in terms of capability and cost. As far as "no fee" services are concerned, we can use Google "Hangouts" to connect multiple couples simultaneously.

Hangouts is a free video conferencing application that supports Windows-based and MacBook computers, along with Android-based smartphones and tablets, Apple iPhones and iPads. The main difference with Hangouts was that it provided capability to host up to ten couples at once! There are other video conferencing options available; however, they come with a substantial monthly service fee attached. Regardless of brand, the only hitch with video conferencing is that you need a good computer with a least a 2Ghz processor, coupled with a broadband Internet connection for it to work well.

Skype just recently began offering free group video calling, and claims that it can host group video calls with up to 10 people (computers) at the same time. Previously, this feature was only available by purchasing a Skype Premium subscription. As we begin our periodic Discipleship Training gatherings with

Don and Pearl, we can experiment and compare both Google and Skype video conferencing products to see which one works best. I'm sure that when the next edition of the *Grapevine* is released, we'll have an update describing which product works best to support our needs.

Don To Speak at Adult Conference The Firs, Bellingham, Washington September 8-12, 2015

Pearl and I served on the staff of The Firs Bible & Missionary Conference facility in Bellingham, Washington, from 1962 to 1967. During those years, we built some wonderful relationships and had great years in serving our Lord.

After we returned from a recent trip to the Northwest, we received an invitation to return to The Firs for an adult conference in 2015. We eagerly responded with a yes, knowing that if the Lord is willing and things work out, it will be a great opportunity for many of you, our Texas constituency, to plan a time in the Northwest. Bellingham is beautiful and only 50 miles south of Vancouver, Canada. Opportunities abound for all kinds of wonderful experiences. Pearl and I would love to have you join us for this conference next September.

For further information contact
darell@thefirs.org



Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.

"At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God saying, 'Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people!'" Luke 2:25-32 NLT

"God is so grieved over evil that he sent his only Son to die in order that righteousness and

peace, truth and love would prevail...in order that we might escape the clutches of hell and be welcomed into heaven."

—*Pearls of Great Price* by Joni Eareckson Tada

"Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem." Luke 2:36-38 (NLT)

"The Bible says that Anna came right up to them, gave thanks to God, and spoke about the Child to everybody who was there. She told everyone,

'Here's the redemption of Jerusalem.' I love to picture it! This saintly old woman wrapped her wrinkled old hands around the infant Jesus, cuddled him in her arms, and then pronounced a beautiful blessing upon him. Anna had a chance to celebrate the birthday of Jesus the way it ought to be celebrated."

—*Pearls of Great Price* by Joni Eareckson Tada

Jesus ultimately gave His life as the price of redemption for the whole world.

"Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!"



The Cowboy Christmas Story

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For two years I'd been cowboying
Up along the Great Divide,
And I'd headed home for Christmas,
Which was about a two week ride.

I was trying to make it to this little
town where I could get myself a bed.
Cause it was gettin' dark and snowing
And my horses needed fed.

It was one of those quiet nights
and the big flakes fell straight down.
And the only noise was my horses hooves
crunching snow against the ground.

When through the falling snow
I saw this yellow lantern light.
And it flickered through the darkness
like a beacon in the night.

And as I rode a little closer
I heard singing from inside.
And at the hitching rail out front
There were buggies and horses tied.

Then I saw it was a country church,
So I stopped there beneath a tree.
And listened to, "Oh How I Love Jesus,
Because He First Loved Me."

Then I felt an urge to go in
So I got down and shook off the snow.
And quietly crept in the door,
And sat down there on the back row.

Two lanterns hanged from the ceiling,
And in the corner was a potbellied stove.
And about fifteen in the whole congregation
It was then that the preacher arose.

He was old and stooped at the shoulders,
And his hair was as white as the snow.
In his hands he held a tattered old Bible,
And he turned the pages deliberate and slow.

He had a countenance of wisdom about him
That testified of the life he had led.
Then he looked up from the pages of his Bible
and his voice trembled a bit as he said,

I've preached Jehovah's sweet message
for nigh on to sixty year.
And of all the stories in this book,
there is none that is quite as dear.

As the birth of Jesus, my Saviour
In a lowly stable in Bethlehem.
And how a bright star in the east,
Led wise men there to worship Him.

All about the precious gifts they all brought
And how they bowed down in worship that day.
Since that night I've not been the same,
For now I know I've been set free.

And where ever I go, I'm never alone,
And every day is Christmas to me.
To that special child who would change the
whole world, lying in that manger of hay.

How the angels came to the shepherds that night,
with the good news of his birth and then
How heavenly host sang glory to God,
And of peace and good will toward men.

Aw, but you know the story of how
He grew up and lived among men.
How He went about healing and serving,
and lived His whole life without sin.

Then how Judas His disciple betrayed Him,
And how He died on the cross all alone.
But the best part is, He overcame death
And now sits next to God on His throne.

And He did all of this just for you and for me
so we could be free from our sin
So when we knock at heaven's front door
He'll know us and bid us come in.

So the Christmas story is more than a birth
it's a resurrection to life, you see.
So that's why I love my Lord Jesus,
It was because He first loved me.



The Insanity of God by Nik Ripken

Nik has a passion for understanding how God uses suffering in the lives of His children to accomplish His purposes. This is required reading for everybody to understand the part that suffering plays in our walk with God.

After touring many countries and seeing the suffering, Ripken concludes with these words:

“My question now is this:

What do I do with this now, Lord? You seemed a lot tamer—and my faith felt a lot more comfortable—when I studied your ancient Scriptures and simply left you in the past. Allowing you, your resurrection power, your glory, and your Word into the present changes everything! It makes the good news of the gospel great news for the world today!

So what am I supposed to do about this resurrection faith? Where do you expect me to go from here?”

When A Nation Forgets God by Erwin W. Lutzer

Lutzer includes seven lessons we must learn from Nazi Germany.

Lesson #1: When God is separated from government, judgment follows.

Lesson #2: It's always the economy.

Lesson #3: That which is legal might also be evil.

Lesson #4: Propaganda can change a nation.

Lesson #5: Parents—not the state—are responsible for a child's training.

Lesson #6: Ordinary heroes can make a difference.

Lesson #7: We must exalt the cross in the gathering darkness.

Lutzer's book will help you to understand the slippery slope we are on in the United States.

31 Days of Drawing Near to God—Resting Securely in His Delight by Ruth Meyers

We have reviewed many books by Ruth Meyers over the years; she now is with the Lord and what a blessing her writings have been. I love reading her prayers and meditating on her words.

This is a great little book to add to your devotional reading.

Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller

In the introduction, Keller writes, “What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.” This would be a great book to give to your college students.

What Are You Afraid Of? by Dr. David Jeremiah

This book is a treasure which came to my attention as we were celebrating my 80th birthday. It was good to face down the lists of fears that he outlines for each of us. I have benefitted greatly from this book. What Dr. Jeremiah says on page 186 is worth the price of the book.

“Jesus wants us to be overcome with awe and wonder at His power so we're never deeply frightened again. If He has to use every storm that tears at our sails, He will do it because He's determined to bring us to maturity.”



Since this is the Christmas season and many times good books are the perfect gift, I want to mention five that I have on my reading schedule. Some of these are from familiar authors; one is new to me.

The first book on the list is by **Tullian Tchividjian**, Billy Graham's grandson who has written a classic book on grace, *One Way Love*. I would highly recommend this book for your gift giving or for your personal reading. Number two—*One More Try* by **Gary Chapman**. We are very familiar with Gary Chapman's works. He wrote *The 5 Love Languages* which we've used so much in marriage counseling and the *Languages of Apology*. This new book is small, offering an approach to encouraging couples to give it another try. **David Jeremiah's** new book *Agents of the Apocalypse* is a great and timely work. **Max Lucado's** new book *Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer* is another must read. *Killing Lions* by **John Eldredge** and **Sam Eldredge**, a guide through the trials young men face, is another book I recommend without reservation.

News Flash: Don Anderson still teaching in Granbury!

Don,
After spending the summer teaching from the book of Ezekiel, we have decided to move back to the New Testament for a spell before we tackle Daniel. So, we're doing Hebrews.

In preparing the lesson in chapter 4 this week I came up a little unhappy with how the lesson was developing. Not to worry though because I have the Don Anderson teaching notes for the book of Hebrews. I devoured the chapter four notes last night and feel that the lesson is back on track.

All this just to say what a great treasure BTR is to help in providing sound teaching material for lesson preparation. And as noted, the effect of this is that you are still having a teaching ministry here in Granbury. It is different than before, not in person, not by Skype, but by having passed on great study material for others to use in teaching from the Word.

Love ya and miss you on tour, so we press on!
Looking forward to seeing you and Pearl on November 8th.

Good morning, Don

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoy your Monday e-newsletter. It is my favorite!! I love all the scriptures and excerpts from Christian books. I have sent it to my friends, and they are enjoying it also.

I have attended many of your Bible Studies in the DFW area, and attended the inductive Bible study training course you had at your offices in Tyler many years ago.

Hope your health is still good – I also get your magazine. You are such an inspiration to so many!! I pray that you will “keep a goin.” I am now 77 years old.



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

In Memory of Ethel Knarr

By Mike & Jane Rodgers

By Don & Pearl Anderson

In Memory of John W. Hardin

By Jerry Nelson & Associates

By Joe & Lois Salfrank

By Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Swann

By Lisa Bailey & Robert Epperson

By Mrs. W. R. Hendrix

By Mrs. Charles Childers

In Memory of Dr. Jack Warriner

By Wayne & Nancy Morrison

*In Memory of Arvil Pickett
& Bill Hill*

by Steven Pickett



And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Luke 2:12

unseen hand of the Almighty is directing the affairs of men to bring about the ultimate accomplishment, the little fulfilment of the prophetic scripture that yet remains to be fulfilled.

In Isaiah 14: 24, 26-27 we read, "It will all happen as I have planned. It will come about according to my purposes....I have a plan for the whole earth, for my mighty power reaches throughout the world. The Lord Almighty has spoken—who can change his plans? When his hand moves, who can stop him?" (NLT).

It is good for us during Christmas season to contemplate the fact that if a sovereign God can move the hearts of men to accomplish things as great as the birth of Jesus, can He not work all things together for good in our lives to the ultimate accomplishment of His eternal purpose? Look how He moved in human history to bring about the birth of the babe:

The Lord's birthplace is promised in Micah 5:2: "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

To David an eternal kingdom had been promised. The restriction of this prophetic scripture require the Messiah come from the family of David and in the city of David and from his family that we are now going to witness the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 7:14 says, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

And so it was.

T Minus Zero: On Time Arrival—Luke 2:6-7

Now it came to pass while they were there that the days were completed for her to give birth to the child. And she gave birth to her first born Son. And she wrapped Him in cloth bands and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:6-7).

The Amplified version of Galatians 4:4 puts it thus:

"But when the proper time had fully come." Berkeley translates it, "But when the time was completed." Peterson, in *The Message*, paraphrases the text: "But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman."

In other words, it was time, in God's economy, for the birth of Jesus. As another has put it, at Christmas, God came down the stairs with a baby in His arms.

So many Christmas carols express it beautifully: Christ the Savior is born. Clothed in flesh, the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate deity!

In *A Love Worth Giving*, Max Lucado writes, "Would you do what Jesus did? He swapped a spotless castle for a grimy stable. He exchanged the worship of angels for the company of killers. He could hold the universe in His palm but gave it up to float in the womb of a maiden. If you were God would you sleep on straw, nurse from a breast and be clothed in a diaper? I wouldn't, but Christ did."

Angels Announce the Arrival—Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. And an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shown around them. They feared a great fear or were terrified. And the angel said to them, "Stop fearing and behold I'm bringing you good news of great joy, which shall be for all the people. For today in the city of David, there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you, you shall find a baby, which has been wrapped in cloth bands and is lying in a manger. And suddenly there appear with the angel a great company of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and upon earth peace among men with whom He is pleased (Luke 2:8-14).

The Lord Himself through the means of angels gives His own birth announcement. It's like somebody in the dark of night turned on all the mercury vapor lights at the local football stadium. The key is that

the “Savior” is born in the “city of David.” This Savior then is identified as “Christ the Lord.” The angels conclude the heavenly birth announcement with praise: “Glory to God in the highest” and “peace among men” on earth. The shepherds hear and are forever changed.

The Shepherds Verify the Arrival—Luke 2:15-20

And it came about that when the angels departed from them into heaven, the shepherds began speaking to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then and see this thing that has happened that the Lord made known to us.” And they came in haste and found by searching both Mary and Joseph and the baby was lying in the manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made known the statement which was spoken to them about the child. And all who heard marveled about that which was spoken to them by the shepherds. But Mary was keeping all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them (Luke 2:15-20).

The highway of Christmas began in the Garden of Eden with the promise of a seed, winding its way through Ur of the Chaldees to find a man named Abram who would form the nation through which the seed would come. It would pass from Abraham to Isaac and to Jacob, through the 12 tribes of Israel to the tribe of Judah...and from the nation Israel to the kingdom of David. Finally it came through Bethlehem. The shepherds and the wise men found their way. But the highway did not stop there. It continued by a Cross and an empty tomb...and it continues from there, over the mount to the present.

Look Christian, the light is beginning to break over yonder hill. There is help, healing and hope. It is a revelation of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When we look at Luke 2, we see that Jesus’ mission is planned, His arrival on time, His advent announced by angels and verified by simple men, shepherds. Acts 1 reveals the consummation of the mission as the Lord ascends again to heaven.

Remember there were angels there that day, too. Acts 1:11: “And they also said men of Galilee, ‘Why do you stand, looking into the sky. This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’”

The prophetic scriptures are filled with the second coming of Christ and the setting up of His kingdom. The prophetic pieces are fast falling into place. And I am wondering if it will not be this Christmas when we see the Lord descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and the trumpet of God. Then the dead in Christ shall rise first. We who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Amen, come Lord Jesus!

My heart is filled with song as I complete this meditation. I wish I could say that on my lips is a Christmas carol. But I find myself bursting at the seams instead with “When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I’ll Be There.” Let’s join together as we worship and praise with verses 1 and 3 of this great old hymn.

*When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,
and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright, and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on
the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.*

*Let us labor for the Master from the
dawn till setting sun;
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth
is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.*

*Chorus
When the roll is called up yonder, When the roll is
called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.*

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