



Merry
Christmas!

Jesus is the Reason for the Season



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Inside this issue:

Women's Ministry	2
Lottie Moon	2
Preschool & Children's Ministry News	3
Church News	3
December Calendar	4

His Name is Wonderful!

In the book of Isaiah we find the Lord speaking through His statesman Isaiah and announcing the impending doom and ruin of the nation of Israel. The nation had adopted foreign customs and established evil alliances. They lusted after anything foreign. God's people were pursuing and imitating worldly ways and making no apologies for it. Social decay and moral filth were predominant. In spite of this gloom and doom of impending judgment from almighty God, Isaiah reveals a ray of hope. He encourages his readers with four powerful words, "God is with us." (Isaiah 8:10b, NASB). Immanuel is with us, no matter how dark the hour and depressing the times. The most significant revelation in the book of Isaiah is tucked away in chapter nine. It stands out like a full moon against a black sky. It brings hope to the hopeless and encouragement to the downhearted. The verse says, "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on

them." What is this bright spot, the great light? The answer is in verse six; "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." In Hebrew, the word "wonderful" comes from the root word for miracle. The word is used primarily with God as the subject, expressing actions that are beyond the bounds of human powers or expectations. This idea is well expressed by the psalmist: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes..." (Psalm 118:23). The messianic title, *marvel of a counselor* in Isaiah 9:6, points toward God's anointed continuing the marvelous acts of God. It is obvious, therefore, that the person of this text is none other than the Son of God, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He is a marvel of a counselor. He is called "Wonderful" because He is. When Messiah came, we were delivered from the flood tide of sin; a bridge across the great divide between God and man was built. God's Son was born and He was

given. He was both God and man. Only someone as wonderful as Jesus could use a sparrow to teach us about how much God loves us. It takes a Wonderful Counselor to comfort the broken-hearted. Although it is difficult to speak of the cross as something wonderful, it is. We glory in the cross of our Lord. By His stripes we are healed from our sin. In His death, we find life everlasting. I remind you that the cross was not the end. Three days after His crucifixion, Jesus rose from the grave. Peter ran to the tomb and stood in *wonder* when he looked in and saw it was empty. The empty tomb makes life wonderful and the thought of heaven incredible. Death has lost its sting. The grave has been defeated. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! In light of this, shouldn't we join Isaiah in saying, "His name is Wonderful!" *I love you church family and have a Merry Christmas!*

-- Pastor Phillip



December 2010

Important Dates:

- **Dec. 3, 4, 5**
Back to Bethlehem
Workers please arrive no later than 4 pm
- **Dec. 11**
Lottie Moon Brunch at 10 am in FLC
- **Dec. 12**
Children's Party @ 11:30
Preschool Christmas Play @ 6:30 in Worship Center
Lottie Moon Offering
- **Dec. 15**
Wednesday Night Christmas Meal @ 5 pm
- **Dec. 19**
Lord's Supper @ 6:30
- **Dec. 26**
Morning Worship Service only @ 10:00 a.m.
- **Dec. 27, 31**
Church Office Closed





Women's Ministry News !

Upcoming Events and Bible Study



Women's Bible Study

Our next women's Bible study will begin on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. We will offer both a Tuesday morning session and a Tuesday evening session. The morning session will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the evening session will begin at 6:30 p.m. We will be studying "**Here and Now, Then and There: A Study of the Book of**

Revelation" by **Beth Moore**. Please sign up now at the women's ministry table if you would like to be a part of this exciting study of God's word. God's word promises that you will be blessed: Revelation 1:3 says "*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*" Sign up today so

we can order your Bible study materials.

Women's Ministry Reception

Join us Sunday evening, January 16, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have our annual Women's Ministry Kick-Off Reception. There will be a devotion, refreshments, and most importantly we will be recognizing the newest ladies in our church family.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The theme for our 2010 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is "Are we there yet?" For the first time in history, we can identify the people groups that remain untouched by the Gospel. **We can get there in our generation!** But that last part of the journey may be the hardest. It will take all of us - our churches, our missionaries, our national partners, our Great Commission partners to achieve this. Please be a part of our Lottie Moon Christmas offering at Cropwell. Here's how you can be a part of this important missions endeavor:

Lottie Moon Brunch

Our upcoming Lottie Moon World Mission Christmas Brunch on **Saturday, December 11th at 10:30 a.m.** will host Mrs. Stephanie Sawyer as our guest

speaker. Stephanie is Cleo Coley's daughter and is a resident of Pell City. She will share details and answer questions about her recent mission trips to the orphanages of Belarus. Many children were orphaned and left with no family to care for them after the Chernobyl disaster. The Belarusian government has no foster-care system so orphanage homes were quickly filled and staffed by the government. Dr. Chip Griffith of Gadsden and Dr. Eric Hicks of Pell City took the first team of missionaries to Belarus in 2001. Every year since 2001 a team of people from all Christian denominations in Alabama have gone each March to serve the orphanage and the people of Belarus. Join us for the Lottie Moon World Missions Brunch and hear the details of

how lives have been changed and how God has moved in the country of Belarus. **You may purchase your \$10 ticket for the Lottie Moon Brunch in the adult Sunday school classes or by contacting a member of our Women on Mission group. Tickets will be on sale through Sunday, December 5, 2010.**

Lottie Moon Offering

On **Sunday night, December 12th at 6:30 p.m.** your family will have the opportunity to contribute to our Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Your family will come forward during our evening service to place your Missions offering on the Lottie Moon Christmas tree. This money supports international missionaries. **Our 2010 Lottie Moon goal for Cropwell is \$5,000.**



Children's Corner

Preschool & Children's Ministry News

**the
Best Christmas
Pageant Ever**

DIG Schedule

Our last DIG session for 2010 will be Wednesday, December 15th. The 2011 DIG sessions will begin on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

Preschool Ministry

- No **MOMS meeting** or **Parents Night Out** during the month of December.
- **Preschool Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal** will be Friday, December 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is for 4 and 5 year olds only. Dinner will be provided.
- **Preschool Christmas Play** will be December 12th at 6:30. All preschoolers (3's, 4's, and

5's) should meet in the choir room at 5:30 p.m.

- **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:** Preschoolers please bring your socks with your Lottie Moon Offering for Sunday Night, December 12th
- Our **Preschool Family Dinner** will be Friday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Come and join us for a special family time of food and Christmas celebration in the Family Life Center. Meat, dressing, bread and tea will be provided.

A-L please bring vegetables and salads! M-Z please bring vegetables and desserts.

Children's Ministry

The Children's Christmas Party & Outreach Ministry will be Sunday, December 12th at 11:30 a.m. All children will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served and we will work on our Christmas Ministry Project. Also, our **Bible Drill meetings** will begin January 3rd, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. If you want to attend the Bible Drill retreat at Shocco, please let Mrs. Ashley know by January 2nd.



Celebration Service

Let's join together on Sunday night, **December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** to celebrate the true meaning of the Christmas season. We will be singing Christmas carols here at the church and then partaking of the Lord's Supper. Make plans now to be a part of this special service.

Congratulations!

Congratulations on a job well done! Our church collected over 100 shoeboxes for needy children this Christmas season through our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox drive. Thanks for being a part of this outreach effort!

New Church Directories

We are hoping to do a new print-

out for our Church directory notebooks in the next few months. If you are a new member, we should have a picture on file for you. However, if you have been a member for a while and did not previously submit a photo for our directory, please email the church secretary at sdaniel@cropwellbaptist.org to submit your photo or you can bring one by the church office to be scanned. (Please keep in mind copyright laws.) Also, you may want to submit a new photo if you have had a change in your family status. If we do not receive a photo from you by the end of

January, we will use the photo on file. Also, if you are a new member and have not received your Cropwell Directory notebook, please contact the church office.

Upcoming January Events

Choir rehearsal will resume on January 9, 2011. Our last **Wednesday night meal** for this year will be December 15th at 5:00 p.m. This will be our Christmas meal. Wednesday meals will resume again on January 12, 2011. There will be a **Men's Conference** on January 28-29 at Crosspoint Church. More information coming soon on this event. Also, mark your calendars for **Baptist Men's Day** on Sunday, January 30, 2011.



DECEMBER

2010



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>Avg November Attendance</u></p> <p>315 - Sunday School 415 - Sunday Morning 207 - Sunday Evening 2010 Offerings as of 11/21/10 \$ 819,674 <u>Under budget by \$ 83,005</u></p>		<p>** Regular Price/ Donations Welcome**</p> <p>Christmas Meal Menu:</p> <p>Beef tenderloin, Baked Potato, Salad, Roll, Beverage</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meal for B2B Workers @ 5 pm Dress Rehearsal at 5:30 pm 	<p>2</p> <p><u>12/1/10 Meal</u></p> <p>Hamburger steak, Mashed potatoes, purple hull peas, roll, dessert, Beverage</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Back to Bethlehem: Workers arrive by 4:00 pm Tours begin at 6 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Back to Bethlehem: Workers arrive by 4:00 pm Tours begin at 6 pm</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Back to Bethlehem: Workers arrive by 4:00 pm Tours begin at 6 pm No Evening Svc</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Visitation at 6 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>WOM/Knifty Knitters at 10 am</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Carolyn Britt Fashion Show in Springville - Leave @ 9:45. Deadline for tickets 12/5/10.</p>	<p>9</p> <p><u>12/8/10 Meal</u></p> <p>Surprise Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Boomers SS Party (FH) Preschool Dress Rehearsal (6:00) Set up for Brunch in FLC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lottie Moon Brunch at 10:30 a.m. in FLC</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Deacon's Mtg Preschool Play @ 6:30 Children's Party @ 11:30 Lottie Moon Offering</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ladies Prayer Group (FH)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Wednesday Night Christmas Meal at 5 pm** Pell City High Concert Choir @ 6:30</p>	<p>16</p> <p><u>Omegas</u></p> <p>Preschool Dept Set up (FLC) Singles 45+ Christmas Party @ 6 pm (FH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lindsey/ Lawrence Rehearsal Preschool Christmas Family Dinner in FLC @ 6:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lindsey/ Lawrence Wedding</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship Choir Christmas Caroling from 4-6 pm Christmas Celebration & Lord's Supper @ 6:30</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Visitation at 6 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>WOM Children's Place Christmas Party (9-1) Student/Men's Ministry Widows' Christ- mas Dinner @ 6 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>NO WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE ! Church Office Closes at Noon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas !</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>No Sunday School Morning Worship @ 10 am No Evening Svc</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>NO WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE !</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	