



From The Pastor's Desk

Pastor Bill Adams

The Christmas season is one that is filled with unusual sentiments. Christians and non-Christians

just seem to be in better moods. There is a festive spirit and an attitude of giving and extra efforts made to get along with one another. But this should not be a seasonal spirit but an every day one. In this month's column, I want you to consider: **"Carry The Christmas Spirit Every Day."**

Expectation

During the days prior to the birth of Jesus, there was an expectation that the Messiah would come. The Old Testament prophets had prophesized of His coming. Simeon, a dedicated believer, lived in expectation of Christ's coming: *"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him"* (Luke 2:25). The word "waiting" carries the meaning of to await with confidence and patience. The anticipation and assurance of this coming Comforter characterized his life. Every day, you and I ought to wake up expecting great things to happen from God: how God may use me this day for His glory; how His strength, grace, and mercy will be poured out in abundance to sustain me in each trial; how I can grow this day into a more intimate relationship with Him; etc. Paul challenged Titus to live this way: *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13). The Apostle John said to his readers, *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in*

him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:2-3).

Preparation

Mary was a woman well prepared for the bidding of the Lord. When Gabriel suddenly appeared to her, Mary was ready to serve at a moment's notice as the Lord needed: *"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her"* (Luke 1:38). The wise men, in coming to visit the young Child, were prepared: *"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh"* (Matthew 2:11). When it was time to worship or work, these surrounding the birth of our Saviour were prepared. It's one thing to live in expectation, it is



quite another to live in preparation. Every day we ought to be ready and prepared to pray, to persevere, to praise, or to provide anything the Lord needs of us whether it be our time, talents, or treasures. Ezra readied himself: *"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments"* (Ezra 7:10). Peter charged his readers: *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"* (1 Peter 3:15). Let's be ready and prepared always for the Lord's bidding.

The truth is that Christmas should be
(Continued on page 2)





(Continued from page 1)

celebrated every day. For without His birth, we could not have a second birth. This special spirit found among those at Christ's birth ought to be carried by us throughout the entire year. On December 26th and June 26th, we should be living with a spirit of spiritual expectation and preparation. Why? He's coming again!! Jesus said He was (John 14:3); the Old Testament prophets have said so (Zechariah 14:1-4; Isaiah 9:6-7); the New Testament writers have said so (Heb.9:28; James 5:8). At His sudden second coming, may He find us watching, waiting, and working!

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

The Actions of the Wise Men Matthew 2:11

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem. The Bible does not say how long they followed the star, but we do know that they traveled a great distance from the East. They first went to Jerusalem, the seat of the king, but they were soon directed to Bethlehem. Upon their arrival there, they found Christ with His mother and presented Him with gifts.

Verse eleven describes four actions that the wise men take. First, we see that they **"fell down"**. In these times, this is the way that people would show

honour to one another, especially to kings. The wise men understood that the child before them would one day become King.

The second word is **"worshipped"**. Even though these wise men fell down before Christ, they worshipped Him as the King of Kings. Worship was only due to the king and God. The wise men understood that Jesus was both King and God. They worshipped Him as such.

The third word is **"opened"**. These wise men opened their treasures for Christ. They did not give Him their second best. They gave their best. They offered gifts that were fit for a king. These were usually sent from other countries with ambassadors.

The fourth action that we see is **"presented"**. This word in the Greek means "to offer". These wise men offered their best to the King. The gifts that they gave were items that were most esteemed among themselves. The gold was the usual gift given to kings. Frankincense was costly and fragrant gum distilled from a tree in India and Arabia. Myrrh was an aromatic gum produced from a thorn-bush that grew in Arabia and Ethiopia. Each of the items showed how much the wise men believed that Jesus truly was the King of Kings.

Young people, as you consider this Christmas, you should think about your actions. Have you "fallen down" before Jesus as the King of your life? Are you worshipping Him as your only God? Have you "opened" up your most treasured possession, your life, and "presented" it to the Saviour of the world?

These are the actions that the wise men took over 2000 years ago. What actions will you take now?

A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Simplify

One Christmas, long ago when I was a teenager, I remember being disappointed with my gifts, but it was my own fault. I was one of five children, the oldest. With so many of us to care for, money had to be used wisely. The things we got through the year were needs, like shoes, or perhaps a dress at Easter time. But, my parents tried to be very generous at Christmas. They really endeavored to get the things we most earnestly asked for. With great anticipation and with Christmas just around the corner, I knew where the gifts were probably hidden. As a kid, I wasn't thinking about anything but the presents, and I did something I shouldn't have done.

One day, when my parents were out, I went in search of the gifts I was longing for, hoping they hadn't been wrapped yet. Carefully, I went through the bags and sure enough, some of my gifts were easy to spot! I was so excited. I tried to put everything back the way I found it. As Christmas morning got closer, the anticipation had died down within me. After all, I knew I had gotten the things I had asked for. There was little joy as Christmas approached and finally came. My level of excitement was flat. It wasn't easy acting surprised. Had I waited till Christmas to see the gifts and focused on what Christmas was really about, that particular Christmas would have had better memories for me.

With so much to do and so much expected of us during the Christmas season, with the baking and gift buying, wrapping, decorating and entertaining, sometimes, we women can feel flat.

(Continued on page 4)





THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY



"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14



Announcements and Events

On Wednesday, November 4th, Missionary Pastor Dennis Seely preached for us. It was great to see him and hear a report of the Lord's work in Carbonear, Newfoundland.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 6th 11am
Cantata Practice
Saturday, December 5th 3pm

Missionary to Malta, Anson Van de Kemp

Sunday, December 13th 11am

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th 6pm

New Year's Eve Service

Thursday, December 31st 7pm
Food & Fellowship to follow

Baptism & Lord's Supper

Sunday, January 3rd 6pm

Keep fasting and praying for open doors in our new property search!

We have received almost \$18,000 toward our 23 month debt reduction goal of \$100,000. Thank you for your sacrificial offerings! We are praying for a mortgage burning service in December 2010.



(Continued from page 2)

Besides running our children here and there and the home responsibilities, and then add to that many who have to work outside the home, we can find our spirits drained of joy.

To keep our joy, we have to make an effort daily to think about the One who is the Unspeakable Gift (2 Cor.9:15). He is the One who gives us genuine

Our Schedule of Services

MINISTRIES ON SUNDAY

Sunday School
for all ages 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Service 6:00 pm
We have fully staffed and supervised nurseries at all services.

MINISTRIES ON WEDNESDAY

Bible Study and
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

We are an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, located in the heart of Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. The Church is located 10 minutes north of Metropolitan Toronto and 20 minutes from Toronto Pearson International Airport, and only a 40 minute drive from downtown Toronto.

William E. Adams, D.Min.,
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Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would like to share with your church family? Please contact us at the church office by phone or email.

joy. He is our greatest Gift, given to us. He is Christmas (Luke 2).

Recently, I saw a decorative plaque. It had one word written upon it and I wondered what it really meant. Now as Christmas fast approaches, I'm getting the message which I hope to incorporate in my life. The word on the plaque was "SIMPLIFY." Keep things simple and we can enjoy the Christmas season. How? Well, maybe you'll have to let the bathroom go for a day (o.k., maybe not), but, how about some cheap paper plates from the dollar store to help you do less dishes one day a week; cook a double batch of a casserole and freeze half for a busy day ahead. If you have children, get them each to pick up ten things around the house and put them away. Sometimes, we'd use a timer and set it for 3 minutes and see if we could get things picked up before the timer went off. Other times, I'd play the William Tell Overture and we'd try to get done before it ended. What fun, and we'd all end up laughing! Think of the best ways for you to "SIMPLIFY." Planning ahead will help. If we can do this, we are sure to have those precious moments that make for wonderful memories.

Wouldn't it be nice to focus more on the true meaning of this wonderful season? I wonder what God must think sometimes when we aren't enjoying his Gift to us. Think of that word, "Simplify." See where you can save time and energy, and leave out the unnecessary things. And then, take the time to close your eyes and think about 2 Cor.9:15, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

