

## BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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# THE BETHEL CONNECTION

December 9, 2020

## Christmas Worship – Think It and See It!

Resetting your hope in Jesus this Christmas. We are encouraging each other to think soberly about and carefully set our imaginations on the grace of God that will be delivered when Jesus comes again. That grace focuses our anticipation and mind's eyes on what God has done, what he is doing and what he will do to completely deliver his people from sin.

How? How can we as individuals and families reset our hope over these weeks leading to Christmas?

First, set a time aside. Put it on your calendar today. It could be several brief times, or a few longer blocks of time. Plan to get alone with God.

Second, ask God for help. Pray that God would open your eyes and mind to see and think about Jesus in new and greater ways. Your prayer could be shaped by or follow the pattern of what Paul prays in Ephesians 1:16-22 or 3:14-21. Ask God to "enlighten the eyes of your heart, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you . . ."

Third, read your Bible. Saturate your mind and heart with God's living and Spirit empowered word. Read it again. Read it with the attitude of a detective looking for every detail and clue that will unlock the message of the passage. When you read, leave enough time to write out your answer to the question, "what do I want to do, use or remember from this passage of scripture?"

Here are 6 parts of the Bible that focus on the hope we have in Jesus Christ coming as a baby in Bethlehem. You could pick one and stick with it. Read it multiple times. Memorize some of it. Talk to others about what you are observing and learning.

Matthew 1:18 – 2:23

Isaiah 8 – 9:7

Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-38

Micah 4 – 5

John 1:1-34

Philippians 2:1-11

Fourth, tell someone about two things. One, about your 'resetting hope' plan. Ask them to pray for you as you do it and encourage them to try one as well. Two, about how God met you as you spent time with him in the word and prayer resetting your hope. What you read. How he 'enlightened' the eyes of your heart in fresh ways.

My prayer for you is that God will meet you and your faith in refreshing ways as you seek him this Christmas season. Please let me know as he does.

Don



Thanks so much for those who took tags from the Angel Tree!

Please remember to bring them back to the church no later than Tuesday, December 15.

Contact the office with any questions.

## Bethel Christmas Caroling – COVID Style

Every year our church family enjoys getting around to visit and give goodie bags to many of our Bethel members, some of whom are unable to get out to our meetings. We want to do that this year as well but plan to do it a bit differently in a way that protects everyone's health as much as possible. We will not have our usual Wednesday night meal and caroling on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Instead, visits will be made to deliver the goodie bags and Christmas greetings by a few Bethel volunteers at a time scheduled with each one on the list.

Keith Schladenhauffen will oversee and organize this ministry this year. Here's how you can be a part of this ministry of love and care for our church family.

- Make baked goods for the goodie bags. These can be brought in on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> or Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Leave them in the church kitchen. We have 18 on our 'to visit' list.
- Volunteer to help put the goodie bags together for those who do the visits.
- Volunteer to visit someone. Keith will organize a visiting team for each one of our folks that need a visit. He will give you all the information you need to make your visit.

We would like to make the visits sometime the week of the 13th. Please contact Keith or Melody if you would like to volunteer in any of the above ways. We look forward to reaching out to many and encouraging them this Christmas season.

We need your help!!



Dear Bethel Bible Church and Pastor Don,

**Thank you** for your tremendous support of Bethesda's Christmas Project. We began the year with plans to welcome a team from your church to Bethesda to serve along with us for a couple of weeks this summer, but with most plans in 2020 God had another (a better) plan. I'm glad He is working all things together for our good even when I can't see it! I trust that when we are able to have teams once again at Bethesda, a group from your church will be able to be amongst the first. I thank God for US churches that partner with Bethesda Outreach in continuing the work of making disciples of Christ in South Africa of orphan and vulnerable children. **Thank you!**

Thank You

## Bethel Prayer Concerns

- Please remember Joie, the granddaughter of Bob & Carrie Fritz in your prayers. She has been feeling poorly lately & is waiting on a clear diagnosis from doctors.
- Continue to remember the Budd family in your prayers. Dave's mother, Ruth, went home to be with the Lord this week.
- Please remember those who have recently lost loved ones: Miller family with the loss of Gregg Inskip, Leman family with the loss of Howard Leman
- Continue in prayer for Chris Shell as he struggles with his Lyme disease.
- Matthew Scott is still deployed with the National Guard. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.
- Brad Garling has begun treatments. Pray for good health; pray that God would guard his mind.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- Ladies Bible Study, Saturday, December 12 @ 9 am
- Sunday, December 13, worship service @ 9:15 am, Junior Church & Nursery will be available