

THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

- 1 → To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
- 2 « To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
- 3 → To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
- 4 « To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.
- 5 → To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

-from *Unplug the Christmas Machine* | by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppic

**PROJECT
ACCESS
SCHOOL
DISTRICT
= U-46 =**



There are about **500 homeless children in School District U-46** that are in need of **clothing**. If you are interested in being a blessing to one of these children, please let **Pastor Bob** know so that we can contact **Dr. Terri Dallas** by Monday. He will get back with ages/sizes for the children.



AWAKENING

Start strong and join us for a season of fasting, prayer, and personal devotion. **January 4-24**, we plan to set **aside 21 days to pray, fast, and seek God** to believe Him for miracles in our lives, the lives of others, our church, and the world. An **Awakening Guide Sheet** will be printed to provide you with important information regarding the effort.

CONNECTION CARD Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card in order to **"MEASURE"** our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.

EXPECT the Unexpected | **CONNECTION CARD**

I AM INTERESTED IN: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ I will come to church
☐ I will give money
☐ I will serve the church
☐ I will be a leader
☐ I will be a witness



December Teaching Series

EXPECT the Unexpected

Nov 29 / The Unexpected Gift
Dec 06 / The Unexpected Way
Dec 13 / The Unexpected Place
Dec 20 / The Unexpected Time

PRAYER REQUESTS

Breanna V.	▶ Health Issues
Lily M.	▶ Dementia
Anabelle G.	▶ Lung Cancer
Andrew H.	▶ Health Issues
Noe F.	▶ Health Issues
Elizabeth S.	▶ Health Issues
Kenny D.	▶ Skull Fracture
Trevor W.	▶ Deployed to Afghanistan
Danny L.	▶ Peace Corps Assignment
Sean L.	▶ Loss of His Brother
Ralph H.	▶ Fluid in the brain
Moe M.	▶ Lung Cancer
Ruth S.	▶ Undiagnosed Health Issues
Jim B.	▶ Eye Problems
Mary H.	▶ Mobility Issues
Jane G.	▶ Hospice Care
Darryck T.	▶ Spiritual Strength
Bill L.	▶ Post-Surgical Healing
Suzie S.	▶ Health Issues
Larry C.	▶ Stroke

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"No change of job, no increased income, no new home, no new electronic device, or no new spouse is going to make things better inside of you." —**Matt Chandler**

11/29/15

METRICS
THAT MATTER

31

ATTENDANCE

\$1068²⁵

GIVING

3

GUESTS

9

VOLUNTEERS

0

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

EXPECT *the* Unexpected

The Unexpected Way

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God." ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."


³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail." Luke 1:26-37



The Mary Miracle **SETS A PATTERN**

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- Gabriel tells her not to be afraid of God's miracle.
 - Gabriel proclaims God's favor on Mary's life.
 - God's favor ushers Mary into the greatest storm of her life.
 - Gabriel assures Mary that: "Nothing is impossible with God."

GABRIEL'S VISIT *Reveals God's Way*



He will be great.

LUKE 1:32



*The Lord God will
give Him the*

throne. **LUKE**

1:32



*Of His kingdom
there will be no end.*

LUKE 1:32

THE PURPOSE OF HIS ENTRY IS NOT ONLY TO ABIDE WITH US, BUT ALSO TO EXTEND HIS KINGDOM THROUGH US.

Surprise **BABIES...**



The good news of the gospel doesn't end with our new birth. It continues by announcing the possibilities of periodic, additional *"surprise babies"*.

- Release from life's most besetting sin, as habits are broken and forgiveness drives out guilt.
- Brightness shining in life's darkest corners, as love beams in and drives out fear;
- Provision unfolds for life's deepest need as God's abundance drives out want.
- Strength flows to focus on life's weakest point, as divine enablement drives out failure;
- Health springs forth at life's sorest place, as the Healer Himself begins to drive out pain.

MARY'S *Committed Response*

Gabriel has laid bare the mystery of God coming in the flesh. He has assured Mary "that nothing is impossible with God." Mary had a "how" question—the Lord replied that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and she would conceive. To this Mary gives an incredible reply:

"I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38

