

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

CHRISTMAS CARD FOR BONNIE...

Please take a moment to sign the Christmas Card for Bonnie Taylor—it's in the foyer. It's something that will bring her incredible joy!

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 _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

How did you hear about this? ☐ Friend ☐ Family ☐ Church ☐ Other _____

How often do you pray? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you fast? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you give? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you serve? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you evangelize? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you disciple? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you mentor? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you lead? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you teach? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you counsel? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you comfort? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you encourage? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you rejoice? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you love? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you serve? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you lead? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you teach? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you counsel? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you comfort? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you encourage? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you rejoice? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____

How often do you love? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other _____



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

"You don't need candlelight and fireside glow to make Christmas happen. Trees, ornaments, gifts, and all of it are splendid embellishments. Not necessary, but so very nice. It's Him... It's priceless to discover the pleasure of His company... May your home know something of all this glory during these days." —Jack Hayford

12/06/15

METRICS
THAT MATTER

34

ATTENDANCE

\$2,637²⁵

GIVING

3

GUESTS

9

VOLUNTEERS

0

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

EXPECT *the* Unexpected

The Unexpected Place

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written **Matthew 2:1-5**

A PROMISED *Messiah*

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. **Isaiah 7:14**

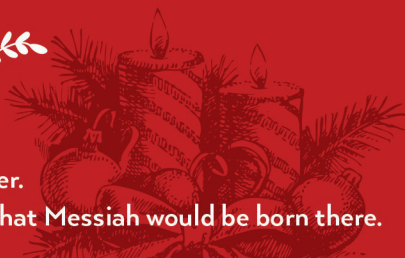
¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. **Isaiah 11:1-3**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6**



Bethlehem

- A small village.
- David’s hometown.
- Not a center of power.
- God had promised that Messiah would be born there.



“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” **Micah 5:2**

Immanuel: **GOD WITH US**

GOD IS CLOSER

Than You Think...



- Jacob at Bethel
- Jacob at Jabbok
- Jesus borrows Peter's boat
- Mary Magdalene at the tomb

Isn't That
GOOD NEWS ?

- 1 THE SPACE** *Problem*
- 2 THE CONTROL** *Problem*
- 3 THE SITE** *Problem*

We want to meet Jesus at a neutral site...
we don't want Him to see our mess.

IF GOD IS THIS CLOSE—

you have a choice—you don't have to
stay with your pain! Jesus takes away
our last excuse... you have a choice.

