

December 2016

Tis the Season



For the Reason



# Tis the season to be MERRY ? !

**About the time** our Christmas newsletter has arrived at your door, you probably have pulled out your memory lane of family photos that can never be replaced. Moments you cherish never forgotten and frozen in time. And some only in your heart.

Some of those faces you can only view on photos, for they are no longer with you on earth. This Christmas, our family is now cherishing in our hearts three of those moments at the passing of Nancy's brother **Bob Stephens – November 19, 2014** her cousin **Shirley Herron – April 22, 2016**, and our most recent loss of my brother Tim Burgher's granddaughter, **Elizabeth Morgan Jantz – December 1, 2016** before her birth.

By the grace of God, they all have joined their and family members in heaven. But the memory of their loss is not always followed by **"MERRY"**.

Yes, we all have had shared feelings of great sorrow as the words of King David expressed at the loss of his child. His words have resonated throughout history ***"But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."*** (2 Samuel 12:23)

Oh those sorrowful three days the disciples huddled behind locked doors after the death of Jesus. Or the mourning of Martha and Mary at Lazarus' seemingly premature death.

Then their mourning was **TRANSFORMED** into dancing at the resurrection.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS ! "I will go to him..."

What is Christmas in the first place? ***"Unto you a child is born. Unto you a son is given..." "For God SO LOVED the world that He GAVE is ONLY begotten son..."***

How could we, as finite mortal man, **EVER** reach heaven where the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, is seated on His Throne?

**"CHRISTMAS" MINISTRY** – The Almighty God sent His Son in the fullness of time to pay our way for **us to go to Him.**

**This is the Christmas ministry of our prison systems.** They cannot come to us, but we can go to them! Jesus made this very clear, **"I was in prison and you came to visit me..."** They cannot come to us, deserving their rightful place, even through the **CHRISTMAS SEASON**. Not so merry at all. **Every visit made to inmates is truly their Christmas gift of visitation – totally unexpected and undeserved!**

Though you, our supporter, cannot have access to personal visitation, the next best surprise is a **PREPAID Christmas post card from YOU!**

**Please send your message on this card.**



## When Christmas celebration goes to lockdown

I miss helping parents around home, bringing in firewood for Dad, shoveling the snow so that he can relax instead. I miss being there for parents and my two brothers and six sisters, laughing, praying, worshiping together and filling them with joy with me present instead of them feeling sorry that I can't be there with them. The last Christmas I spent with them was 2 years ago. I'm **more than ready to reunite with family.** No one else cares about me. They are the only people on this earth who aren't irreverent about me trying all they can to help and support me.  
*Anton*

I appreciated being with my wife and kids, seeing all my family, going to church with them and seeing Christmas plays at church. Being at my parents house hearing my Dad read the Christmas story. Eating good food and spending time with my kids while that are out of school. On and on!! **I miss my freedom not to take things for granted.** I need most of all to put God first, teaching and leading my family toward God, always helping others draw closer to God. My testimony will changes many lives.

Being away from my wife and child, Mom, and many loved ones not knowing the happiness they are having and **not having someone to love face to face.** Not having that place with Jeans to share as a blessed day. I do need prayer for myself, hurting inside on the case I face and my loved ones. I need prayer and deliverance for all these things and my sins in Jesus' name.  
*Anthony*

Not to take time or people for granted. MY SON – 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas without him. The feeling of **letting people down who really love me.** The feeling of being alone. Hope for change / faith for change. Carden, I'm sorry son. I love you. You are my world. *Tyler*

This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas in a row that I will miss. What I'm witnessing is that **I crave my family's love.** The things that I miss most is seeing everyone. I truly care about coming together and being happy. **I miss seeing my Mom smiling on Christmas morning just hoping that she got something that she likes. But the gift doesn't matter because I would love anything from her for she was thinking of me when she got it. I just miss seeing her happy.** *Anon.*

Mom and Dad, I always thought you were on my back. Now realizing you both were the ones that truly had my back side covered. I need not to take small things for granted. Spending time with my loved ones VS working making \$\$ **I see how little \$\$ means to me NOW!**  
*Don*

I wanted to be there for my parents who are both around 80 and be there for their needs. To **spend time with family and enjoy them for who they are with no thought about my problems and needs.** That my daughter who is 10 has no real clue as why her Daddy is not in her life and is going thru God only knows what. That while God forgives and I am not beating myself up, but I have really become aware of how my stupid choices have affected others. *Ken*

I really have a lot of guilt. I am a methamphetamine addict. I work, I pay bills. My sister has 4 kids that don't have a father to buy Christmas gifts for them. I was going to help provide them a Christmas, but can't because I violated probation. **I guess that kids need to be taught that the season isn't about gifts,** but celebration of Christ's birth.  
*Jamie*

# THANK YOU to our “extended family”



Over the years, so many friends have shared with us in the court hall ministry. There has to be that special day we just set aside all our schedules and ministry opportunities to share our hearts, love and appreciation to them in our home.

Amazing how God can take so few dedicated believers in Christ to impact thousands of people for His Kingdom!

**SINCERELY WE THANK YOU!**

There is the TEAM that has been with us in prayer and so often support several almost from the BEGINNING – our extended Sunday School class. We have branched off from them to begin a class specifically for those who have had family members encountered with the court system, to be welcomed with open arms with Bible studies and personal support in their journey with Christ. To this class, we **THANK YOU for your daily support.**

## God's Amazing Redemptive Grace in November

*“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.” Luke 15:24*

Celebrate with us all those who prayed for forgiveness and salvation. Please pray for each name as they face the opposition because of their new faith in Christ alone. Pray they not lose heart in spiritual warfare.

Khristyan Barthelus  
Malek Buckley  
Yaovli Montanez  
Paul Burgos  
Vern Harris  
Cassimiro Roiz  
Alex Boyd

David Elkins  
Ciara Harris  
Loretta Williams  
Tommy Tran  
Anthony Oliver  
Kimberly Roiz  
Baogang Jiang

Abraham Irvana  
Ivan Montanez  
Michael Jackson  
Corey Palmer  
Frank Royz  
Marcus Way  
Andy Cruz

**We thank you in advance**

knowing your every prayer and dollar will keep us on the front lines as we

**expand into other counties**

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We're on the Web! Look for our new, improved site.