

Merry Christmas

God so loved the world that He sent His only Son Jesus to deliberately come into His own world to take our "death penalty" that will cancel our sin debt as far as the east is from the west.

God so loved the world that He CAME TO US!

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Matthew 23:12

His "red carpet" entrance trails back to the blood trail of animals sacrifices since Cain slew Able. *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make an atonement for your souls upon the altar, since it is the lifeblood that makes atonement.* Leviticus 17:11

His "advertisement" *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Isaiah 9:6

It is beyond our comprehension to fathom the immaculate virgin conception of our Lord Jesus Christ to physically enter into the very world He created in a cow barn trough. How much lower could He get? Then to dispatch His "innumerable media legion of angels" in a pitch black midnight to stunningly illuminate the entire sky to half asleep lowly shepherds is shocking to say the least. What greater spectrum of levels for His grand entrance to earth could you get? **I stand amazed** at the 2000 year lineage God preserved mankind for us to receive adoption into His family!

God so loved US that He gave us a family!

As I reflect on my own personal family with our 47 Christmas celebrations, Nancy and I are so humbled to see how God divinely united the Burgher line and the Stephens line into ONE physically and spiritually. After years of adjustments, 12 location moves, numerous closed doors, tests, setbacks, natural disasters, God engineered our steps to create a door unknown to America – a court hall chaplain pioneer.

Now through these 17 years of BTGM to thousands of hurting and broken families, we are delighted to dedicate our **December newsletter to our family who has been so faithful and supportive in those lean and prosperous years.**

Below is just a tiny window of our family to share from our home hearts to your home heart.



Families UNDER CONSTRUCTION

"WE'RE NOT CALLED TO SEE THROUGH EACH OTHER, BUT TO SEE EACH OTHER THROUGH."

Dr. Jess Moody



Nancy and I met miraculously the first day of registration at the 2nd year of the newly opening of **Palm Beach Atlantic College** in WPB, FL. in 1971. (now a University) God literally gave Dr. Jess Moody, pastor – FBC WPB, a dream in **1963 to build the most unique college unknown anywhere in America**. A man of sheer guts, humor, intelligence, the fire of the Holy Spirit, and a passion for his incoming students.



Numerous families have been mentored over the years.

December 11 at our Christmas covered dish dinner, God climaxed His handiwork together in the midst of brokenness, hurting, full of energy, to remold families as never before. The laughter and humor sharing our own marriage story connections was a sight to behold.

What God is revealing to me with such a variety of family issues has been so beautifully illustrated in this story below. **Yes, what we were taught at PBAC !**

At our 45th college reunion, Nancy and I literally soaked in the most wonderful fellowship with Jess and his wife Doris at the banquet. Yet of all the stories, sermons, lectures we listened to, we both left PBAC with his famous above quote. **We didn't realize till this week** it came from his Dad before he went off to Baylor University in 1939 on \$20.

THE PEAR TREE

There was a man who had 4 sons. He wanted his sons **to learn not to judge things too quickly**. So he sent them each on a quest in turn to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away. All four sons went to the same tree separately in the four seasons of the year. When they had all gone and came back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.



First son said the tree was ugly, bent and twisted.



Second son said it was covered with green buds and full of promises.



Third son disagreed and said it was laden with blossoms smell so sweet and looked so beautiful. It was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.



Fourth son disagreed with all of them. He said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The Dad then **explained to his sons** that they were all right, because they had each seen only on a season in the tree's life. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season. The essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy and love that comes from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

To give up in winter means we miss the promise of spring, the beauty of summer and the fulfillment of fall.

Robin Willis - 2009 compiled