



# Celebrate the Birth of Christ in the Advent Season

Advent stems from the Latin word that means “coming” or “arrival” and Advent is a call to followers of Jesus to remember the birth of the Savior and to look forward to His glorious return.

The Children’s Sunday School activity bags include candles and materials to celebrate Advent with their families. Kelly Siedenbug will teach the Advent lessons at the start of Children’s Sunday School beginning December 6. Join children and families in the Multipurpose Room at 10 a.m. on Sundays to watch the video lesson or view online at your convenience. (See page 5 for more information.)

Go to Focus on the Family for more resources on Advent. Information for these lessons is from “Advent – A Countdown to Christmas.” Another article entitled “Celebrate the Advent Season” includes an Advent Scripture reading schedule.

### Advent week #1:

## HOPE

**Prophecy candle (purple – color of royalty – Jesus is the King of Kings)**

We remember how God fulfilled His many prophecies to send the Messiah. (Some examples of the fulfilled prophecies: Genesis 3:15, 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Zechariah 9:9, Isaiah 7:14) When we have trusted in Jesus as our Savior, He brings us the hope that He walks through this life with us and that He gives us eternal life.

### Advent week #2:

## PEACE

**Bethlehem/Preparation candle (purple)**

The arrival of the promised Messiah gives us peace (assurance knowing God is in control). GOD prepared the way for Jesus’ birth. The Jewish people prepared their hearts for the Savior, and we prepare our hearts to remember and celebrate His birth and prepare for His second coming. God prepared the people, the place Bethlehem and every detail of Jesus’ birth. (Luke 1, Luke 2:1-7)

### Advent week #3:

## JOY

**Shepherd candle (pink) The pink candle symbolizes joy.**

We rejoice in the Messiah and joyfully anticipate Jesus’ second coming. (Luke 2:8-20)

### Advent week #4:

## LOVE

**Angel candle (purple)**

God showed His love for us by sending His Son to be our Savior. The birth, death and resurrection of Jesus bring us peace. (Luke 2:21-40)

### Memory Verse for the month:

Luke 2:10-11

“And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is CHRIST the LORD.”

This monthly PAGE 2 column reminds us that a partnership takes two. We should all be active, on-going SENDERS partnering with the SENT.

Compiled and edited by Ellyn Roe

\*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact [ellynroe@comcast.net](mailto:ellynroe@comcast.net)



**Boulevard Park Press  
December 2020**

Published Monthly by  
Boulevard Park Church

1822 S 128th Street  
Burien, Washington 98168-2903

Phone: 206-243-2600  
E-mail: [Info@bpcpc.org](mailto:Info@bpcpc.org)  
Website: [www.bpcburien.org](http://www.bpcburien.org)

Pastor: Bud Diener

Worship  
Services: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

### Press Staff

Editor: Eva Lee Henderson  
Reporters: Sue Redhed  
Ellyn Roe  
Photographer: Jessica Barton  
Proofreaders: Peggje & Ernie Recker

The Press is available in color on  
the church website.

January Deadline: December 15

Phone 206-988-3918  
E-mail: [bpcpress@bpcburien.org](mailto:bpcpress@bpcburien.org)

Photo credit on page 1 banner:  
Waldemar Brandt on Unsplash.com

## PAGE 2: YOU AND YOUR GLOBAL WORKERS Twosomes Partnering with God around the World

### Translation Complete!

By Noe and Lisa Martinez

Ethnos360 Bible translators go through a process of close to 20 steps when translating Scripture. This is done to ensure accuracy of meaning and naturalness of form, so that the readers understand clearly what was being communicated to the original audience.

After working through nearly all these steps with the book of 1 Samuel, Lisa was ready for her coworker, Ned Beall, to fly out to PNG last March to do the final consultant check on the book. However, due to Covid-19, Ned was unable to make the trip.

Thankfully, in October Ned was able to do a virtual consultant check on the book, something that technology (slow internet in PNG) would not have allowed even just a couple years ago! Ned started a group phone call from Texas, which included Lisa in Seattle and Paska (elder/pastor of the Tigak church) and his wife at the mission center in our region of PNG.

After 2 hours of working out the technology kinks, all parties were connected, and the consultant check began. Ned instructed Lisa what verse(s) to read. After listening to the verse, Paska and his wife told Ned what occurred in that passage. Ned listened closely to see that the entire passage was understood, and asked Paska clarifying questions on any difficult passages.

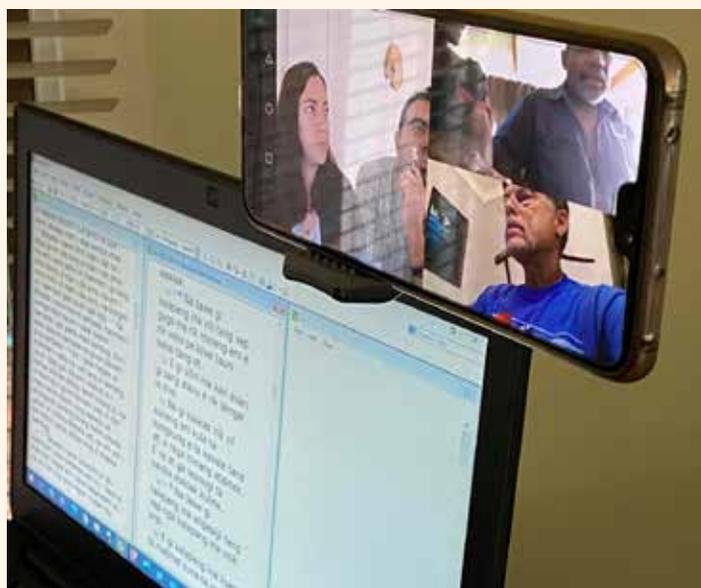
This check took about 4 days. Work began in the afternoon for us in the USA, which was early morning in PNG, and we generally worked for 6-8 hours each day.

Following this check, Ned sent Lisa a list of final edits to make, and once she submitted those, he sent a report back to her and to Ethnos360 headquarters to confirm that the book of 1 Samuel has been completed in the Tigak language!

Thank you to many of you for praying that there would be a good enough internet connection to



Via cellphone video chat, Lisa reads her 1 Samuel Tigak translation to Ned in Texas, and Paska in Papua New Guinea.



Lisa waits for Ned and Paska to approve her translation of this passage from 1 Samuel (shown in Tigak).

complete this translation check. All currently translated Tigak scripture portions (the entire NT and portions of the OT) are now being proofread

by Ned and Lisa to prepare for formatting, typesetting, and printing of the first Tigak Bible!



Visiting a dear neighbor in D-Town.

Photographer: KD

### Old Stomping Grounds

By K.D.\*

I'm thankful for the chance to have spent over ten days recently in my former town, visiting old neighbors and friends and helping out some new team members as they spend time there learning language and culture. This is the longest I've been able to visit since leaving in 2015, and I'm so grateful for that chance to spend time with a number of people and to continue language (Chadian Arabic) and culture learning myself. I've now returned to the capital, where I hope to get to know new neighbors and settle in further at our new house.

# COVID-proofing Your Christmas

By Pastor Bud

Ninety percent of Americans say they celebrate Christmas. However, only 46% say they celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. As you might expect, with less than half of the population viewing Christmas as a religious holiday, two accompanying realities exist: (1) The number of people who believe in the virgin birth of Jesus, the gospel account of Him lying in a manger, a star guiding the magi to Him, and angels announcing His birth is declining. (2) There is decreasing support for the presence of nativity scenes in public.

It seems that with every passing year, we must fight harder and be more intentional about keeping Christ in Christmas. Now add the COVID-19 pandemic to the mix, and the challenge to focus on the truth of Christmas gets harder.

How will Christmas 2020 unfold? What kind of restrictions will the government impose, and how will they change our celebrations? How many of us will celebrate Christmas this year without a loved one? What long-held family traditions will not happen this year?

All this may sound depressing, and for some, it may dull the excitement with which so many approach Christmas. But wait! The real glory of Christmas is impervious to COVID-19, political divisiveness, and ethnic relationships. These realities do not diminish the significance of our Savior being born.

This year, more than ever, we need to see the glory of Christmas without all of its external adornments and traditional embellishments. This year, let us promote the theology of Christmas even as we remember the story of Christmas.

John's gospel records the meaning of Christmas by revealing four theological realities that Christmas accomplishes. If we embrace these truths, they will help infuse our Christmas celebration with glory, joy, and hope, none of which COVID-19 or any other circumstance can touch. We need the theology of Christmas now more than ever.

## Here are four glorious realities of our COVID-proof Christmas:

**1. The unknowable God became knowable (Jn. 1:1-3).** The pagan concept of God was that He was unknowable. Early Gnostic cosmology asserted that God was too holy to have any interaction with human beings. So he sprung off a series of eons or emanations, each being less holy than He. Eventually, there existed an emanation that possessed enough evil to create the material world. This evil spinoff of God was called the demiurge or the Logos. John's opening to his gospel dispels the idea of divine separation. The "unknowable" God can be known. He is not a separated emanation as some distant corrupted copy of the Holy other God, He is God; He is our creator.

**2. The invisible God became visible (Jn. 1:4-9).** John tells us that *"in Him was life, and the life was the light of men."* The shroud of mystery and darkness has been removed, revealing God as never before seen. John 1:18 says it all, "No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." To a large degree, God's voice through

the prophets contained an element of the unseen and unclear. But now, in these last days, He has spoken to us in His Son, the final and ultimate self-revelation of God (Heb. 1:1-3a).

**3. The transcendent God became intimate (Jn. 1:10-13).** *"He came to His own"* (vs. 11) that they might know God. He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh so that He might offer Himself for our sins (Rom. 8:3). He, who existed in equality with God, became the humblest servant (Phil. 2:5-8). He became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14). He loved us to the end (Jn. 13:1). And by His sacrifice, to those who believe, He gave the right to become children of God (Jn. 1:12). As children, we enjoy intimacy, love, and relationship.

**4. The unreachable God became embraceable (Jn. 1:14-17).** By becoming flesh and dwelling among us, He was *Immanuel*—God with us! Grace and truth are realized through Him. *"But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Rom. 5:20-21). It is a super-abounding favor that invites us to embrace the Savior and live.

So, whatever our Christmas celebrations will look like this year, remember the depth and glory of Christmas' true meaning—the God of the universe became knowable, visible, intimate, and embraceable. There is no message our world needs to hear and remember more.

For His glory alone,  
Pastor Bud



## Celebrations!

### December Birthdays

- 5 Randy Sneesby
- 6 Jo Ann Peterson
- 7 Jael Nagy
- 8 Micah Harder
- 9 Bill Roenicke
- 11 George Brown  
Sharon Nickells  
Carmel Walder
- 12 Miesha Hartley  
Susie Hudson
- 13 Julia Barton  
Roma Erdahl  
Terry Mudie
- 17 Robin Sheppard
- 18 Les Bear  
La Ruth Christiansen  
Melia Nelson
- 21 Roger Cox  
Bennett Faulkner
- 22 Cheryl Reynolds
- 23 John Siedenburgh
- 25 Bud Diener
- 26 Paisley McCombs
- 27 Natalie Malis  
Rita Swenson  
Donnie Wootan
- 28 Carolyn Parish  
Beverly René
- 29 Barry Dubnow  
Denise Hovland  
Bonnie Johnson
- 30 Nancy Brown  
Sylvia Kendrick

### Early January Birthdays

- 1 Lynda Eck
- 5 Rebecca Carvo  
Jennifer McCombs
- 6 Alex Alford  
Rebekah Jonasson
- 8 Edmund Faulkner
- 10 Sheila Richardson
- 11 Jacqueline Griffin
- 12 Kelly Graham

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office.

## Neighborhood Outreach

# A Journey Thru Christmas

By Lisa Siedenburgh

**It's almost here! Please plan to help.**

### Still needed:

- **Preparation:** Prayer Team
- **Publicity:** Pick up a yard sign and some postcards to share with your friends and neighbors! They will be available in the office during the week and in the foyer on Sunday mornings.
- **Preparation the Day of the Event (12 p.m.):**
  - Scene Set Up
  - Sound/Lighting Set Up
- **The Evening of the Event (4:30-7:30 p.m.):**
  - Welcome Team (Outside)
  - Parking Lot Guide
  - Hospitality (Mostly Outside)
  - Clean Up Crew (7:30-9 p.m.)
  - Sound/Lighting Crew
- **Production Crew (Mandatory Dress Rehearsal Dec 12, 9 a.m.):**
  - Villagers (As we are trying to prevent the spread of COVID, we are having families volunteer together as much as is possible. Families with young children will be invited to be "villagers" in between scenes. Families with older children may participate in the scenes or as angels and shepherds out in the field.)
- **Donations/Loans:**
  - Extension Cords
  - Canopies
  - Propane Fire Pits/Propane Tanks

Let us know if you can help with any of these! Contact: Lisa at [children@bppc.org](mailto:children@bppc.org) or 206-334-6775 or Peggie at [peg\\_recker@comcast.net](mailto:peg_recker@comcast.net) or 206-248-1450.



Photo: Elynn Roe

Recording engineer Roger Cox worked on the 2020 Christmas Outreach narrations last month.



## A Journey Thru Christmas

Saturday, December 19, 5-7 p.m.

### Invite your Neighbors, Bring Your Family – Make This Part of Your Christmas Traditions

Holidays are a prime opportunity to make friends with our community, and all the more by sharing the joy of Jesus' birth at Christmastime! The story won't change, but due to the pandemic, we will have to do some things differently and all scenes will be outdoors.

- **Drive Thru** – Our guests stay in their cars, but we will still offer a warm welcome when they arrive as well as a gift stop and a cocoa delivery stop along the way. Families will receive a keepsake booklet of the script, with scriptures of the Biblical account of Jesus' birth.
- **Pre-recorded audio** – Our volunteer acting team and narrators will pre-record their lines, so the guests in the cars can hear them better and safe distances can be maintained.
- **Most music** will be pre-recorded. To keep our own people safe and spread out, there will be no choirs, just a solo and a family duet.

## Children's Ministries

# Sunday School Lessons in a Bag

By Peggie Recker

Every five weeks, a Children's Ministries crew assembles materials and activities (and surprise gifts!) to accompany each of the Answers in Genesis lessons. Everything a family needs for the next five lessons is packed, along with instructions, into fun boxes or bags for each student. The festive GOLD bags shown here also include Thanksgiving and Christmas lessons, Advent candles and instructions. The bags needed to be extra large to accommodate everything! Contact Lisa Siedenburg at [children@bpc.org](mailto:children@bpc.org) or 206-334-6775 for more information on Children's Sunday School.



Photos: Peggie Recker

The Children's Ministries crew assembles materials and activities for families to pick up at the church.

## Please Return Baby Bottle Banks — no late fees

By Ellyn Roe, Care Net Liaison

THANK YOU, dear church family, for once again participating so enthusiastically in the recent Care Net baby bottle fundraiser. Every cent in every returned bottle, bag, box or jar has been turned in to Care Net Administration in Tacoma. A stalwart team of Care Net volunteers will be counting the donations from each church, and BPC should be notified in late winter of our total contribution. **If you have a Care Net bottle you forgot to return** (even from a prior year) please turn it in (empty is ok) to the Sunday morning check in team, or call the church office to arrange for a pick up at your home. Don't be embarrassed! Your thoughtfulness means Care Net won't need to purchase new bottles for next year's fundraiser. Thanks again!



## Milestones

### Deaths

**Danny Lenhart**  
November 14, 2020  
brother of Linda Huck

**Beverly Payne**  
November 17, 2020  
former member of BPC

## Upcoming Events

December 19, 2020, 5-7 p.m.  
Journey Thru Christmas — BPC  
parking lot

Thursday, December 24, 7 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Service (Note: We  
will not be lighting candles this  
year.)

December 25  
Christmas Day — church office  
is closed

# Here We Go A-Caroling (We Wish)

## Some Favorites

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Joy to the World!

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

The First Noel

O Little Town of Bethlehem

What Child Is This?

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Away in a Manger

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels We Have Heard on High

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Silent Night

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Go, Tell It on the Mountains

We Three Kings

The Press-powers-that-be, such-as-they-are, decided that this year of all years would be perfect for focusing in on Christmas carols and what they mean to us. This Christmas season is so unexpectedly different for most of us than it's ever been, yet the precious carols are touchstones directing our hearts to our Messiah, Jesus, Immanuel, God with us.



Tuned to an all-Christmas station on my car radio last year I was singing, along with a glorious choir and full orchestra, Charles Wesley's **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**. The message of the third stanza overwhelmed me. Though I know it word for word, at that moment, the whole gospel unfolded in all its truth and glory and I was quite undone, especially when I thought of it being aired on a secular station.

*Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!*

*Hail the Son of Righteousness!*

*Light and life to all He brings*

*Ris'n with healing in His wings*

*Mild He lays His glory by*

*Born that man no more may die*

*Born to raise the sons of earth*

*Born to give them second birth*

*Hark! the herald angels sing:*

*'Glory to the newborn King!'*"

*Memory from Peggie Recker*



I always looked forward to Sue and Carolyn playing the annual Mannheim Steamroller arrangements of **Joy to the World** and **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**. Glorious!"

*Memory from Eva Lee Henderson*



For several years, the Voyagers held an annual Christmas carol outreach. With Larry Bretz or Dave Huck driving Methuselah, the ancient church bus, the first stop was always the parking lot at Five Corners where everyone ran to their fast food joint of choice to grab a bag of dinner to eat en route.

The group then headed out to sing carols for various church folks who were shut-in or otherwise in need of some Christmas care. One unforgettable moment was singing for a dear saint, Alice Bierce. She'd had a stroke and was unable to generate words to speak, but amazingly, she sang quietly along with every carol, remembering ALL the words, mouthing them clearly while patting her hand in time to the music and grinning from ear to ear. What a blessed memory."

*Memory from the Voyager Archives*



Early in December, dozens of caroling teams brave the cold downtown Seattle streets for the annual Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition. For many years the Llewellyn siblings won the contest, but eventually, they were asked to be judges to give other groups a chance to win! One year Roger and I went to hear the singers. All of a sudden I heard someone calling my maiden name, 'Carol? Carol Manning, is that you?' It was John, the oldest, my same age. I went to grade school and church with them but after they moved, I only saw them a few times at football games, Torchlight Parade, etc. I was shocked he could recognize me after so many years! So, a wonderful Christmas memory. We chatted and I introduced Roger to him. It wasn't an overtly spiritual experience, but that incident and the great Christmas music left a warm and lasting impression on both Roger and me.

P.S. Roger bought an "official" Dickens caroling hat for himself and another carol-singing friend at church."

*Memory from Carol Gillihan*





“

The yearly programming of the symphony orchestra in which Steve and I played for decades included an annual “Holiday Concert.” While the programming always included light classics and secular Christmas songs, every year we also played a medley of Christmas carols for the audience sing-along. To be part of the sound and power of a symphony orchestra playing Christmas carols was thrilling, but when the sound of the audience singing about Jesus’ birth washed back over the stage and enveloped the orchestra, I could barely keep my emotions in check to continue playing my instrument. It was extraordinarily moving to hear a largely secular, liberal community singing about Jesus.”

*Memory from Ellyn Roe*

“

What fun it was to round up a rag-tag group of kids and dogs and parents to joyfully sing carols for our neighbors.”

*Memory from Grandparents*

## SPECIAL GIFT! (Tune in)

Beginning on Sunday, December 6, Sue Vercammen will play Christmas music as a prelude to our online Sunday School Class. Feel free to sing carols at the top of your lungs (mute yourself!) from the comfort of your own home! By the way, if you aren’t already a participant, why not join us? We recently began a new video series with Dr. Derek Thomas who walks us through the stunning passage of Romans 8, bringing comfort and encouragement to the children of God. You may join by phone or follow the computer link below to sign on. Be sure to join in by 8:45 a.m. so you don’t miss a note of Sue’s music.

### How to participate

Any time after 8:45 a.m. you may join from your computer, iPad, or cell phone via the internet by clicking on the following link: <http://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1498943128>. Or, if you do not have internet, you may dial into the meeting via 206.278.9013, (or via the back up dial-in number +1.623.404.9000). When prompted, please enter the Meeting ID: 149 894 3128.

“

This Christmas carol is probably not the first one that comes to most people’s minds.

The melody of ‘**Go Tell It on the Mountain**’ drifted through the open window of our temporary home in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Lapilo facility and support staff (like the Harders) undergird all Ethnos 360 missionaries who live in the remote Highlands area. These missionaries (like the Martinez family) have the privilege of living with national citizens, learning their customs and language, and eventually telling them about the One True God and His Son Jesus Christ. Many MK’s (missionary kids) from that region attend school at Lapilo. At that time, the band practiced in the maintenance shop just across the road.

That carol was still playing in my mind one evening in early December. Glen and I were walking home after a farewell supper with friends. The night air was cool. The only sound was the crunching of our feet along the dirt road. Looking up we could see a myriad of stars that seemed to stretch forever. We thanked God that we could play a small part in telling the Good News ‘on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere’ in PNG.

A few days later after returning home, we rode the old school bus with BPC friends\* who had helped make our PNG adventure possible. Yes, our annual caroling to shut-ins included ‘**Go Tell It on the Mountain!**’ After all, everybody, everywhere needs to hear or be reminded “that Jesus Christ is born!”

We went to PNG as volunteers in 1993. Glen went the first time in 1989 to help with Simmonds’ home.”

*Memory from Jean and Glen Rose*

\*see Voyager archives memory on previous page



# BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

*Reaching Our World for Christ*

1822 S 128th Street  
Burien, Washington 98168-2903

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 7375  
Seattle, WA

## Inside

Translation Complete!  
(page 2)

COVID-proofing Your  
Christmas (page 3)

Journey Thru Christmas  
(page 4)

Baby Banks - No Late Fee  
(page 5)

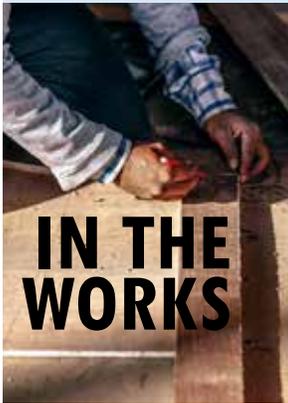
Here We Go A-Caroling  
(page 6)

Special Gift (Tune in)  
(page 7)

## Renovation Update

# Phase 1 MPR Restroom Renovation

By Todd Neumann, BPC Phase 1 Liaison



Renovation of our MPR restrooms and new ADA family restroom is well underway. Restroom accessories, new stained entry doors, toilet partitions, floor/wall tile, and a second drinking fountain are on order and will be arriving “soon”.

By the time you read this December status report the rough-in of mechanical/electrical/plumbing systems should be complete. And if the inspection process goes smoothly, wall coverings may already be

going up. Due to delays in the plumbing and electrical work, expected completion should be around the end of December.

New MPR carpet has been selected, though installation is delayed due to the desire to first complete other MPR projects including renovation of the north wall, new ceiling lights, ceiling and wall painting, etc. We’re still solidifying the design and requirements for some of these projects, so work likely won’t begin until early next year.

## Addendum to the December Press

# The Best \$9 Investment

By CH\*

With Christmas fast approaching, the American tradition is often full of family celebrations—and this is a wonderful thing! But for many Christians, it can also be hard to celebrate while knowing that loved ones—even our own offspring—are not joyfully walking with Jesus. In light of this painful reality, I put forth a holiday challenge: plan a simple date/outing with one of your spiritually-lost loved ones.

The path of least resistance may in fact be to buy an expensive gift they may want. And yet, it is ironically quite difficult to spend \$9 in the Starbucks drive-through with that same child (or sibling), and engage in a heart-level spiritual conversation. But I am suggesting—in line with orders from our King—that this is the greater gift that we must aim for.

Consider—those of us with children (or grandchildren, or great-grandchildren!), when is the last time we scheduled time for a deep heart-to-heart talk with one of our wayward offspring? When I was 25 years old my dad invited me, for the first time, to the local coffee shop to simply sit and talk intentionally together about my relationship with the Lord Jesus. This was a huge breakthrough. My dad was “splurging” (i.e. spending money on something that wasn’t absolutely necessary), but more importantly he was attempting to connect with me emotionally and spiritually. Yahoo!

If we’re honest with ourselves about the lay-of-the-land, most of us have children or family members who have backslid or even walked away

from the Lord Jesus. Why did this happen? There are thousands of possible reasons. A common one that comes to mind is that we have wrongly assumed that our youth (or loved ones) understood or embraced the true Gospel. Regardless of church attendance, we mustn’t assume spiritual growth—honest, heart-level and gospel-centered conversations are a discipleship must.

So whoever we find ourselves with this holiday season, my exhortation is this: In addition to that physical gift we may want to buy our kids or loved ones, let us also be courageous and schedule a date/outing where we will talk about meaningful topics—such as each other’s spiritual journey or faith struggles we may be experiencing.

In order to succeed in this we will likely have to get out of our comfort zone, go out on a limb, embody Christ-like boldness, and engage on a deeper-than-normal level. But for Christ’s sake, and for the sake of generations to come, it is worth it.

I can guarantee it will be the best \$9 investment we make this season.



Merry  
Christmas!