



the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

17 DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Special Christmas Memories

by Jerry Ascher

A week from today is Christmas Eve. By next Friday, most of the holiday plans we had hoped to accomplish will have been completed. The excitement for Christmas Day is what motivates all the effort we put into it. As we consider all the Christmases we've celebrated in our lives, it's amazing how few of them we can remember in any kind of detail. But there are some which we can never forget, and when we get together with those we love during the holidays, conversations often begin with, "I remember the Christmas when..." Sometimes these memories are a little difficult for various reasons. But when a special gift is given, a kindness is shown to a stranger, a loved one returns from a long absence, or a surprising event occurs unexpectedly, it's then that lasting memories are made.

This is exactly what happened on that first Christmas night when shepherds were tending their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. We know the story well. An angel appeared to them in the dazzling light of God's glory to give them the news that the Savior of the world had just been born. After a few more instructions, the angel was joined by many more angels filling the sky with their exalted praise. After the angels departed, we don't know what thoughts went through the minds of the shepherds, but Scripture does tell us that they soon decided to go to Bethlehem to see the Christ-child. Upon leaving the manger, they spread the news of all they had seen to anyone who would listen, a story they continued to tell for the rest of their lives.

Historians think that the first use of the word "Christmas" came about a thousand years after the birth of Christ, but I still can imagine the shepherds never forgetting that night as they tended their sheep when the best Christmas gift ever to be given was announced to them. Their children and grandchildren would fondly remember hearing when those who "saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true" would say, "I remember the night when..." And they would again share what they witnessed that first Christmas.

I hope that for you, Christmas 2021 will be one that is remembered far into the future for all the best reasons. More importantly, may the memory of what happened on that first Christmas be as meaningful to you and me as it was to the shepherds so long ago.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." 2 Cor. 9:15

SUNDAY, 19 DECEMBER 9:30 OR 11 AM

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP &
PRAISE SERVICE



- "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"
- "Joy Has Dawned"
- Prayer
- Children's Story
- "Away in a Manger"
- Christmas Reading
- "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
- "O Holy Night"
- Christmas Reading
- "What Child Is This?"
- "Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery"
- Message: "The Mystery of Christmas" 1 Timothy 3:16
Pastor Kevin Williams
- "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Nursery available for ages 0-3

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- Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study and Kids 4 Truth resume 5 January
 - Children's Sunday School and Adult Fellowship Groups resume 9 January
 - Next Sunday, 26 December, there will be two services: 9:30 or 11 am. The Lord's Supper will be observed



CHRISTMAS EVE *Service*

- Two Candlelight Services: 4:30 or 6:00 pm
- Services held only in the auditorium
- No nursery available
- One hour of Christmas carols & Scripture reading

GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted, and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

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MBC MISSIONARY UPDATE FROM DARREN & ELIZABETH HAMMERMEISTER, SURREY, BC

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As most are probably aware, the recent floods in British Columbia have wreaked havoc on the failing infrastructure around us. Houses, bridges, rail lines and highways have been washed away resulting in shortages in the stores and gas stations. We are thankful that neither we nor our church folks experienced any flood damage. However, we will all be affected by the aftermath while the province works at reconnecting our area with the remainder of the country.

Since our last letter, we have been able to resume services in the community centre where we met pre-Covid. Our province has instituted a "vaccine passport" which limits access to certain public events and services, but it does not apply to worship services at this time. There are many other restrictions in place because of community centre rules, but we are grateful to be back!

On December 4th Darren was able to get his "presurgery" MRI on his back. Today, he met with his surgeon and surgery will take place in 1½ -2 years (due to typical surgery wait list further exacerbated by COVID-cancelled surgeries).

We have scheduled meetings this summer with all our Canadian supporting churches. However, our furlough replacements may not be able to cover for us due to border restrictions and vaccine requirements for entering Canada. In light of this, we are considering the possibility of reporting to supporting churches while ministering to the church in Surrey through Zoom or YouTube Live.

Thank you for your continued support through financial giving and prayers. Please continue to pray that God will open the hearts of the residents of Surrey to the Gospel.



Missionary Christmas Offering:

Thank you for giving!

Total Collected:
\$14,630

We were able to send a generous gift to each of our 11 missionary families this week!