

A WOMAN'S WALK

Quarterly Newsletter sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council of Calvary Baptist Church.

"Connecting women to Christ and each other for growth."

December 2011

God's Precious Gift

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me
blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great
things for me—
holy is his name.

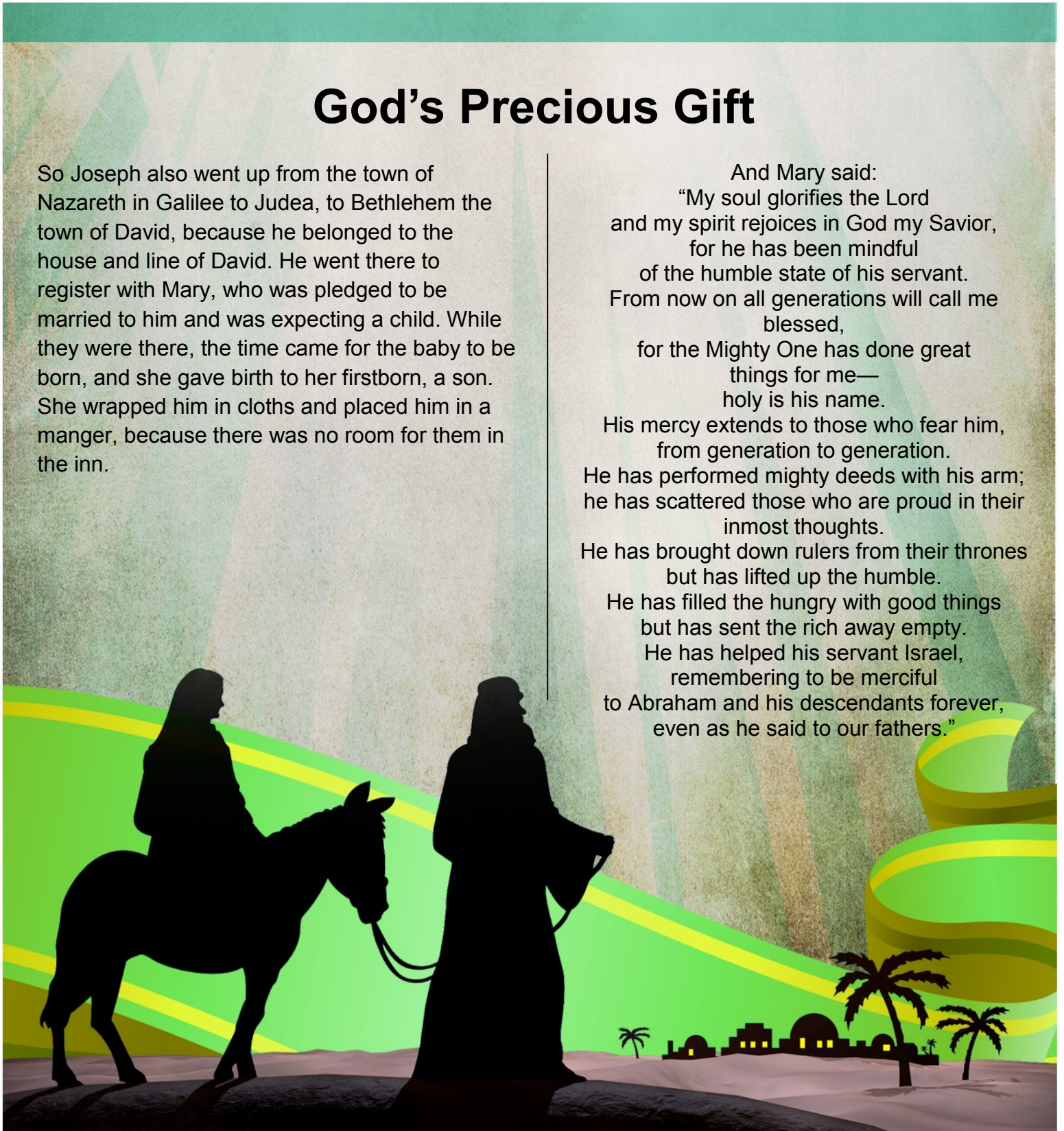
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

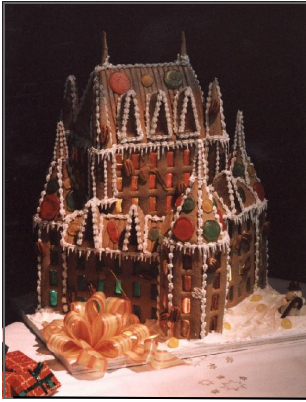
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their
inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
even as he said to our fathers."





Gingerbread House

Have you seen the BEAUTIFUL Gingerbread House at the Women's Kiosk? How would you like it decorating your Christmas table this year? Sign up for the Gingerbread House drawing at the Women's Kiosk and you could be selected to enjoy it this holiday season. The Gingerbread House is donated by Ben Jensen Dental. The winner will receive it the day before Christmas!

***Don't miss this ladies night out!
Join your friends in a fast paced night
of growing friendships deeper
and creating new ones as well!***



FAST FRIENDS

Friday, Jan. 20th • 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

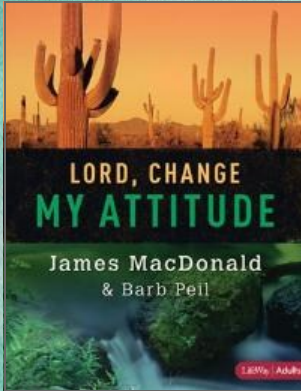
Do you really know your friends?



Who are you eager to find out about?

“LORD, CHANGE MY ATTITUDE”

Spring semester women’s Bible study



What does God think about attitudes? This study uses examples from the Israelites’ journey out of Egypt to show attitudes can affect whether someone stays in the wilderness or enjoys the blessings of the Promised Land. There is hope for the attitudinally

challenged.

In this study, James MacDonald shows how you can lead others (and even yourself) out of attitudes God hates and into those He honors, from:

- complaining to thankfulness
- coveting to contentment
- critical to love
- doubting to full of faith
- rebellion to submission

Joy in the Morning will begin Tuesday, January 11 at 9:00 AM in the Youth Theater. Joy Kids, our companion child care program, will begin at the same time.

Fire by Night will resume Thursday evenings beginning January 12 at 7:00 PM in the youth theater. Child care is available by request.

Please register yourself **and** your child(ren) at the women’s ministry kiosk in the foyer.

Mid-day Meal will continue the study of the Old Testament book of Ezekiel. However, they will be meeting Thursday at 11:45 AM instead of Friday. For more information please contact Joleen Pietrzak (605) 999-3047.

What is Prayer?

- Eileen Bramer

Prayer in the Christian realm is usually thought of as communication between a Holy, loving, just, sovereign, all knowing God and a sinner saved by grace or about to be saved by grace.

What is my image of God’s character by why I pray?

What is my image of God’s character by how focused I am in prayer?

What is my image of God’s character by when I pray?

What is my image of God’s character by my persistence in prayer?

What is my image of God’s character by a ‘wait’ or ‘no’ answer?

What is my image of God’s character by whom I pray for?

What is my image of God’s character by whom I pray with?

What is my image of God’s character by when I pray for myself?

What is my image of God’s character when I sit quietly and listen?

Women’s Ministries Prayer Teams

- Eileen Bramer

The nine prayer teams for Calvary’s Women’s Ministries will be revised near the end of December and the beginning of January. If you are interested in staying on the same team as last year an email or text message would be so helpful. If you are not a part of the Women’s Ministries prayer teams and are interested please contact me, Eileen Bramer. (lebramer244@gmail.com or 402-360-0371) If you have questions as to what the Women’s Ministry Prayer Teams is all about; I would enjoy visiting with you.

Women’s Retreat

Save the Date

April 21, 2012

Prayer Shawl

It has been three years since we started the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Calvary. During that time we've given 87 shawls. Our outreach has evolved from giving shawls to those within our church to occasionally giving to others outside of our church family who are grieving or hurting. In addition we have given shawls to those in the military who are connected to our church.

We'd love to have more people be involved in this ministry. You don't have to be a senior citizen (We are blessed to have two younger ladies join our group.) or attend our meetings to be involved in this ministry. You also don't need to know how to crochet or knit. We can teach you to crochet or knit.

Another part of our ministry where you could be involved is prayer. We continue to pray for those who have received the shawls and to remind them that God loves them and that people care.

We usually meet on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00 in the conference room near the youth area. We will not be meeting in December so our next meeting will be on January 17, 2012. We hope to see you there.

Weigh In For God's Glory

Every Wednesday at 12:15 PM women are coming & going from the Calvary kitchen; but they aren't doing normal "kitchen" things. They are stepping on a scale and encouraging each other in their quest to be at a healthy weight. The only person that sees the number on the scale is the person being weighed and a person who is keeping an accountability log. No one is pushing a specific diet plan or specific foods or pills and there is no charge to be a part of the group.

We ARE encouraging one another to follow the Biblical principal of "therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God – I Corinthians 10:31". Feel free to join us as your schedule permits. Contact Marcia Matson (605-760-3201 matson_marcia@hotmail.com) or Karen Brazelton (605-660-8043 kbrazelton@knology.net) if you have any questions about the group.

Friendship Through Cards

So many things to do, so many things to see, rush, rush, rush. **STOP!** Take a little time to connect with each other by making and giving hand-made cards. All women are invited to connect by making cards (9 of them!) on the 4th Tuesday night of each month. Sign up at the women's ministry kiosk or email Robin Neth (rrkk@goldenwest.net) or Karen Brazelton (kbrazelton@knology.net) so that supplies are on-hand.

Some of the cards that are being made are now available at the Women's Ministry Kiosk so take a few minutes to pick one up & give it away! Make someone's day special by letting them know you are thinking about them.

Financial Corner

by Joy N. Winther

With Christmas fast approaching, we begin making and checking our list. Hopefully, our December budgets were made early in November and careful consideration was given to seasonal spending—gifts, decorations, entertaining, travel, etc. Better yet, each month we put aside 1/12th of estimated seasonal spending, thus making Christmas a time we can enjoy without anticipating those dreaded January credit card bills.

If money wasn't put aside each month, it isn't too late to give serious thought to cutting back on this year's spending for the holidays. There is still time to make some of the gifts, including baked goods. Consider offering to do some free baby sitting, snow removal, or future baking. Give an invitation for a future movie and popcorn at your house. Be creative.

Giving gifts that are financially beyond our means is not wise. You may think you can afford it given your current income, but are you out of debt? If not, then perhaps you really can't afford big gifts. And, you may be putting the receiver at an unfair disadvantage of thinking they have to give you something of equal value when they really can't afford it either.

Let us be wise this Christmas and not go into the new year adding more debt to an already strained budget. Be a good steward of God's money.

Have You Met? Sara Braxton



My name is Sara Braxton. I have been married for the last 13 years to my wonderful husband, Jeff Braxton. We have two wonderful children, Jeremiah, who is 12 and Tecla, who is 11. I must also add that we have two dogs that are more like two more children than dogs. We have been going to Calvary for the last couple of years and have been members of the church since April 18, 2010. I have worked for Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for the last 16 years. My current position is at Avera Majestic Bluffs where I am the Nutrition Services Supervisor. I very much enjoy my job. I spend a lot of time at work. However, When I am not working, I enjoy spending time taking care of my family. When I have time, I also enjoy cooking, baking, reading and also just spending time doing family things.

Holiday Recipes

Cake Balls

Make one boxed cake mix of any flavor according to the directions. Let cool. Once cool, crumble up the cake in a large bowl and add one container of desired frosting.

Mix the cake and frosting together and then form into balls and dip in almond bark. Place on wax paper to dry.

Oreo Truffles

1 18oz pkg. of Oreos- finely crushed
1 8oz pkg. of cream cheese
1 package of white almond bark

In large mixing bowl combine cream cheese and crushed Oreos. Beat with mixer on low until well blended. Form into small balls by hand. Dip balls in almond bark and place on waxed paper. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm.

Red Red Salad

2 Pkg raspberry jello
2 cups boiling water
1pkg frozen raspberries
1 can jellied cranberry sauce

Beat with egg beater and pour into serving bowl or dishes. Very pretty and very tasty!

—Hilary Eidsness

Chocolate-y Christmas Café au Lait

-Joleen Pietrzak

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups whole milk
2/3 cup plus 1 teaspoon sugar
1/2 cup unsweetened Dutch-process cocoa powder
2 (2-inch) cinnamon sticks
1 strip orange peel, about 1/2 inch by 3 inches
10 whole cloves
2 to 2 1/2 cups hot brewed strong coffee
1/4 cup cold heavy cream
Ground cinnamon, for garnish
Cocoa, for garnish

Directions

In a medium saucepan, whisk together the milk, 2/3 cup of the sugar, and cocoa until smooth. Add the cinnamon sticks, orange peel and cloves and bring to a simmer, stirring, to dissolve the sugar and prevent the cocoa from sticking to the bottom of the pot. Simmer for 2 minutes, then remove from the heat, cover, and let steep for 10 minutes.

In a medium bowl, whip the cream with the remaining 1 teaspoon sugar until thick and frothy, and peaks form. Set aside.

Strain the milk mixture into a coffee pot or carafe and add 2 cups of the hot coffee (2 1/2 cups for stronger coffee flavor, to taste). Pour into cups or small mugs and top each with a dollop of the sweetened whipped cream.

Serve immediately.

Mary's Meanderings

- Mary Holdahl

Lately I seem to have spent a great deal of time praying for our children. Both of our daughters have been experiencing major health issues and our son has been struggling with relationship issues. As I bring our children before the Lord, I am reminded of my first days as a new parent and what the Lord taught me then that I have carried over to today.

Our oldest son, Jim, was almost three when we adopted him. One day we had no children, the next we had an almost three year old completely dependent on us for everything. Talk about culture shock! Because I was a stay at home mom, most of Jim's daily care was my responsibility. To say I was overwhelmed is an understatement. We were committed Christians and wanted to raise our child in a godly home – but were not really sure how. I spent considerable time reading scripture, and beseeching the Lord for direction. One day I was reading through Deuteronomy and the Lord led me to these verses in chapter 6, “*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*” It hit me that a godly home began with our daily walk with the Lord and setting the example of “Christ likeness” before our son as we went about the tasks of day to day living.

Throughout Jim's life I often found myself praying through the same verses as he went through the various stages of growing into adulthood. One day it dawned on me that the Deuteronomy verses had become Jim's special life verses.

Eighteen months later, we adopted our second son, Heath. We had been told by the adoption agency that our chances of getting a second child were slim to none. However, God had other plans. One Monday morning we got THE call. “Are you interested in adopting a 3 month old baby boy? If so, come get him tomorrow.” Culture shock lesson #2! A four year old and a baby – with absolutely no baby stuff in the house. Again, we spent much time praying for God's guidance in raising our son. Eventually the Lord led us to Psalm 139 as Heath's life verses. There isn't room to quote the entire Psalm here, but please take the time to read it.

Six years later, we adopted our third child, Natesha, from India. By this time, we felt like we were old pros in the adoption arena. We had submitted three home studies and felt like everyone knew everything there was to know about the Holdahl family. When Natesha arrived on Christmas Eve, we didn't expect the usual culture shock. God does have a sense of humor, as we were hit with culture shock lesson #3. Picture this family: large white Caucasian father, white Caucasian mother, 10 year old Caucasian boy (bearing a close resemblance to his adopted mother), 6 year old Caucasian boy (bearing a strong resemblance to his adopted father) carrying out of the airport one very tiny, very brown skinned baby girl from India! We began to seek the Lord for guidance and He led us to Jeremiah 29:11 as Tessa's life verse. “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declares the LORD, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*”

Four years later, Navah, child #4, arrived from India. The culture shock was not as great. Maybe we finally realized that each child brings their own culture shock to a family. Nevertheless we diligently sought the Lord's help raising this child. As time passed, God led us to Proverbs 3:5-6 as Navah's life verses “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not onto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*”

Our children are grown now, but as parents we continue to pray for our children often using a child's life verse as the backbone of our prayers. For example, if Tessa is struggling with something I can pray, “Lord, I know you have a plan for Tessa, please show her what your plan is in this situation.” God promises that his Word will not return void but will accomplish what He intends. So instead of worrying and fretting, I can turn the situation over to the Lord. I can trust that God will answer my prayer for Tessa, or Heath or Navah. I know that approach seems simplistic, and I sometimes give in to worrying. However, having a specific verse or verses to pray for a child has helped me to release my children and their successes & problems back to the Lord. He loves them more than I can, and can lead, protect, guide them perfectly. In reality they are His anyway—He has just loaned them to us. I urge you to pray for your children.

Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus

Santa lives at the North Pole...

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...

JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...

JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...

JESUS has a heart full of love

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"...

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys...

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...

JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...the cross. We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Editor's Corner

We are in need of someone(s) to take over the responsibility for publishing the Woman's Walk quarterly. Most of the articles are submitted by individuals, so other than proofing the publication, writing would be minimal. Please contact Hilary Eidsness if you are interested or have any questions. Another possibility would be if a group of you would like to take over the publication. The finished product is printed at the church office. Please pray about how you might become involved. Thank you. Have a blessed Christmas!

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