



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 32 YEARS"



THE CORNERSTONE

December 2014

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord *is* good; Blessed is the man *who* trusts in Him! Psalm 34: 7-8

Ladies' Christmas Soup and Salad

Ladies you are invited to
attend
Our Soup & Salad
Supper on Sunday
December 14, 2014
At 5:00 PM



Gingerbread Houses



Wednesday

December 17, 2014

7:00 pm

We will have our regular
Wednesday Meal at 6:00
pm

After which we will building
the gingerbread Houses.

The houses will be fur-
nished.

You may bring your candies
to decorate them.



Christmas 2014—Second Mile Ministries



Want to make the holidays special for children in Fort Bend County? Join more than 80 organizations, churches, and businesses in collecting new, unwrapped gifts for children from infants to age 12. Most needed are items for children ages 8 to 12.

Last year at Second Mile Ministries alone, 430 children received gifts. And 115 volunteers came through to help during the two days of our Christmas Toy Store. They played with kids, served drinks and snacks, wrapped gifts, and helped parents shop. If you want to help this year, call (281) 261-9199 ext. 13.

Gift Container at Sugar Land Bible Church

Please place your unwrapped gifts in the marked container in the foyer of the church.

Suggested Gifts

Ages 8-12: a personal music player, watches, jewelry and hair accessories, books, G-rated DVDs, Nerf/sports items, and paint sets

Ages 3-7: educational toys, dolls/stuffed animals (no Bratz), art supplies, Play-Doh, watches, bicycle helmets, G-rated DVDs, Hot Wheels cars, model cars, airplanes, action figures, and board games (no Candy Land, please)

Ages 0-2: riding toys, balls, Legos, building blocks, dolls, trucks/cars, DVDs for pre-school ages, stroller, crib mobile, infant books, and push/pull toys



Andy Woods—Pastor

Why Believe in Christ's Virgin Birth?

As we enter the Christmas season, we celebrate Christ's entrance into the world. Yet, Christ's birth was anything but normal since He was born of a virgin (Matt 1:18-25). We might ask, "Is it really necessary to believe in the virgin birth?" Why was it so important for Christ to have been virgin-born? At least *six* reasons come to mind. **First**, the virgin birth was necessary to fulfill Old Testament prophecy. Isaiah 7:14 predicts that when the Messiah shows up, He will be born of a virgin. The Hebrew word used here is *almah* and it can mean either a virgin or a young maiden. As one studies this word as it is used throughout the Old Testament (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19), it is found in contexts that apply to virgins. The Septuagint (a Greek translation of the Old Testament created two centuries before the time of Christ) translators understood well the significance of this since they translated the Hebrew word *almah* with the Greek word *parthenos*, which always means virgin. Matthew also used *parthenos* in his Spirit-inspired translation of Isa 7:14 in Matt 1:23. Simply put, Isaiah's prophecy given 700 years before Christ was born demands that the coming Messiah be born of a virgin.

Second, the virgin birth emphasizes both Christ's humanity (Luke 2:52) and deity (John 1:1). Christ was both, since He was the unique God-man. He was one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man (also called the Hypostatic Union). The fact that Christ was born of a woman (Gal 4:4) emphasizes His humanity, and the supernatural element of His virgin birth emphasizes His deity. **Third**, Christ's virgin birth emphasizes His eternality. Christ has always existed (John 8:58; 17:5; Rev 22:13). There never was a time in which He was not. This point is emphasized in the Nicene Creed, which says Christ was "begotten and not made." Had Christ experienced a natural conception, He would have had a beginning point. Yet the eternal Christ had no beginning point, thus necessitating His supernatural conception through the virgin birth.

Fourth, the virgin birth was necessary in order to maintain Christ's sinlessness. The Bible indicates that Christ was the only sinless man to ever live (John 8:46; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 John 2:1; 3:3). If Christ had a biological father, then the Adamic sin nature, which is passed down to all of us, would also have been passed down to Him at the point of conception (Ps 51:5; Rom 5:12). Yet, because Christ was sinless, His conception had to be supernatural rather than natural. **Fifth**, the virgin birth was necessary in order to protect Christ's bodily atonement. Only an eternal God could pay the eternal penalty for man's sin (Rom 6:23). As explained above, Christ's virgin birth protects His eternality. Also, only a perfect substitute could pay the penalty for man's sin (1 Pet 1:19). God will only accept a perfect sacrifice in the place of the guilty. Such an emphasis on perfection explains why an Old Testament



sacrificial animal had to be unblemished (Exod 12:5). As explained above, Christ's virgin birth protects His sinlessness. Thus, the virgin birth protected both Christ's eternity and sinlessness. Both of these elements are required for Christ to atone for the world's sin debt.

Sixth, the virgin birth was necessary in order to circumvent Jeconiah's curse, which God had placed upon Jeconiah's lineage (Jer 22:30). Christ was a candidate to be cursed since He and His legal father Joseph were in Jeconiah's line (Matt 1:12). However, the virgin birth took Christ out of this cursed line since Joseph was not Christ's biological father. The Holy Spirit used Mary's womb, and Mary was not in Jeconiah's line. It is indeed amazing to consider all that was accomplished through the Messiah's virgin birth: the fulfillment of the prophetic Scripture regarding the virgin birth, the uniqueness of the God-Man's deity and humanity, the effect on His eternity and sinless humanity that qualified Him to bodily atone for the sins of man, and the bypass that God provided for Christ to be born outside of Jeconiah's cursed lineage. In the midst of the hectic Christmas season, let us routinely reflect upon these profound truths. After all, He is the reason for the season.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 13, 2014

at 8:00 am



All Men and Teenage boys are invited



Baptism

If you have never been baptized and would like to be baptized, please contact your Elder.

The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:

earlbudc@att.net or send information to Carol Henry at Carol@SLBC.org

Bulletin Board



Home Fellowship Groups

First Colony East—Adults Only: Host: Eric and Veronica Wasek—Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 7 pm—2801 Hidden Knoll Court—281-980-3742— A study in 1 & 2 Timothy -.Leader: Earl Chandler

First Colony West—Children Welcome: Hosts: Keith and Judy Kurrus- 2803 Pineleaf Drive—281-242-3031 Co-Hosts: Brooks and Elizabeth Sellers—281-313-0527 : Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 6:30

New— Young Couples Fellowship—Held at SLBC—7 pm. Coordinator: Andrea Merkin, 1-210-367-6452; Meets 2nd & 4th Friday They meet in the fellowship room.

Men's Weekly Bible Study— Tuesday, 8:00 pm David Sandlin—Teacher

Ladies Bible Study—Thursday—September 18th—9:30 to 11:30

Ladies Class—Hostess and Teacher: Betty Cooke

21926 Rustic Canyon Lane, Richmond, 281-232- 1795 Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm

We encourage you to visit the church Library

We encourage you to visit the church Library. It is open before Sunday School and after church on Sunday mornings and also on Wednesday evenings. It is very "user friendly" and by following the instructions that are found on the wall to the left as you enter the door, you can easily check out books for your pleasure.

Take time to browse the different sections of the Library and I believe you will find something that interests you. You also can now find the Library inventory on our church Website (slbc.org). It will save you time in locating materials. The guide for sections is posted on the bulletin board as you enter.

There are books and tapes for your children from early age through high school. There are also family videos that will bring enjoyment to your whole family. Many books have been added recently that complete series written by your favorite Christian fiction writers.

Take a few minutes to stop by.

Scripture for the Month: Isaiah 9:6-7



For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will



THE PEOPLE WHO MISSED CHRISTMAS

Starting on Sunday, December 7th, Bob Graper will be interrupting the Daniel 9 – 12 Bible Study on *The Future of Israel* to present a 3 week study on *The People Who Missed Christmas*. Bob says, "This will be a look at those who missed the first Christmas, and why they did – The Innkeeper; Herod; the Chief Priests and Scribes; The People of Jerusalem; The Romans; and the People of Nazareth. And, we will find that people today miss Christmas for many of the same reasons." Hopefully, this short series will help you to focus your Christmas on Jesus Christ.

The Daniel Series (*The Future of Israel*) will resume after Christmas (December 28th).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2014

At

6:00 PM



February 21, 2015 – Ladies' Fellowship Luncheon – 11:00 a.m.

Our speaker this year will be our own Lynn Munsterman. Sign up forms are available to register and to help. The cost is \$10.00 for SLBC ladies and is free for your guests. You may invite as many guests as you would like. Please give your cash or checks to Ernie Mae Dixon and mark Ladies' Luncheon in the memo on your check.