

## That Special Gift...

Three sons each wanted to show their mom how much they loved her at Christmas. Getting together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.



The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat."

Mom always enjoyed reading the Bible but you know she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the Church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon thereafter, mom sent out her letters of thanks: "David," she wrote one son, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house." "John," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!" "Dearest Jeffrey," she wrote to her third son, "You have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious."



### MBBC Family Christmas Dinner

- **Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**
- **Bring your favourite dish and join us!**
- **Invite your family & friends for a great evening**

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Hear the story of that First Christmas night  
Sing the carols \* Light a candle of hope  
Come and bring the whole family!



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given..."

*"Where Christ is cherished, family is loved, and everyone is family"*



# GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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### **Christmas Planning**

There's lights to erect, a tree to put up,  
you've got no time to spare,  
But as you hurry and scurry,  
always say a prayer.

In the midst of family gift suggestions,  
to pick what is truly needed is rare.

Do your best; let God do the rest:  
Always say a prayer.

It may seem like your plans for Christmas dinner  
are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather-  
always say a prayer.

God knows how stressful the "holidays" can be;  
He wants to ease your worries and cares,  
and He'll respond beyond your hopes – if you...  
Always say a prayer!



### December 2014



**What Child is this...**

**Jesus, God's gift to you,  
comes in 3 dimensions –  
your past, your present, &  
your future.** (Rick Warren)

### Check out inside...

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**Celebrate Christmas with us!**

**Sunday mornings 10:45am worship & praise**

**Experience as God Draws Near**

## The Lighter Side...

### Science Revisited in the mind of a child...

1. How do you keep milk fresh?
  - Keep it in the cow.
2. Name a disease caused by smoking.
  - Premature death
3. What causes the tides of the ocean?
  - A fight between the earth & the moon because there's no water on the moon and nature hates a vacuum.
4. How is dew formed?
  - The sun shining down on the leaves makes them perspire.
5. Name the four seasons?
  - Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar. (you decide which season is which)

My friend decided to renovate his bathroom before guests arrived to visit over the Christmas holidays.

When they arrived they were eager to see what his new bathroom would look like. As he took them through the back door off the kitchen, he pointed to the little building about 30 yards away and said, It's all done; we just have to wait for a thaw to plant new grass.



**Be rash this Christmas – Wish Merry Christmas to a stranger!**

## Something to Think About...



**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** (Romans 6:23)

It seems like it has been weeks already that we've been hearing about early-bird specials, door-crashers, that perfect gift and the lowest price bargains for Christmas. Everyone is looking for you to shop – now the competition is between going to the store or shopping on line.

Yes, there are ads everywhere. But what do they really offer? Go ahead and try to remember what they were offering you last year. Do you remember? For that matter, list everything you got for Christmas last year – many of the items are probably tucked neatly away waiting to be used. What if there was an ad that offered you a

gift you could really use? What if you came across an ad that said, “Free Ticket”? Would you take the time to check the fine print and discover, “Paradise – Limited time offer! Available only until death – for sinners only!” Would you take the offer?

The ticket is offered by God and that ticket is his Son, Jesus Christ. By his sacrificial death on a cross, He paid the price for your sins and mine. That isn't the gift we often associate with Christmas but the gift of eternal life is exactly the reason that Jesus came to earth, opened the doors to the kingdom of Heaven, revealed the Father and died for us.

The Apostle John wrote, “*And this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*” [1 John 5:11-12].

What is even more exciting is that this wonderful gift given to you on that first Christmas, wrapped as a baby laid in a manger, visited by the humble of heart is both a gift given for you and the gift that you can give away to all those you love. Sharing your excitement about your relationship with your Saviour, God's own Son, Jesus will lead others to the wonder of Christmas, perhaps opening their heart to the offer of eternal life and letting them, “get on board with a ticket

to heaven”. They will discover in Jesus a gift that they will never pack away and forget about, they will discover a gift that is practical and useful every day of the year. They will find Jesus in the gift of eternal life (it begins today) and the hope of Christmas which lasts forever.

So go ahead and pull out your shopping list but put away the catalogues, get out your bible, read God's Words of encouragement, pray for those you love and truly give the gift of life and have a blessed Christmas.

**Operation Christmas Child...** A *special thanks* to everyone who helped reach out to children around the world with a gift this Christmas.

## Mark your Calendar...

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>**

– Christmas Bible Study

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

– Communion Sunday

– MBBC Christmas dinner (5pm)

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

– Christmas Eve service. Plan to come and bring a friend!

### Lighting the Advent Candle

Opportunity to light a candle and read a brief presentation – speak with Pastor Dave.