

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Sunday November 29, 2009

Good morning and welcome to Abundant Life! I am glad that you are here; I consider it an honor to worship the Lord together today. If this is your first time to worship with us please take a minute to complete one of our Welcome Cards located in the guest packet. If you did not receive a guest packet you can get one at the Information Center in the lobby. Once you complete the card either drop it in the basket during the offering or leave it at the Information Center. Again, I am glad that you are here today!

As we have “Officially” entered the “holiday season” we have adopted as our Christmas theme *Sharing the Good News of Christmas*. As we enter the celebration of Christmas this year, many are struggling, possibly more than any time in recent history. Unemployment rates are high; the economic crisis that has entrenched our world is slowly releasing its grip, at best. There is an increasing search for hope among our fellow man. As followers of Jesus Christ, we may not have all the answers but we do have HOPE in the One who does.

During this Christmas season it is God’s plan that we *Share the Good News of Christmas* with those around us. There are many ways that you can touch the life of another with the *Good News of Christmas*, from sharing an encouraging word with a co-worker or neighbor, to sharing the good news of what Jesus has done in your life, to giving so that others may be blessed and by praying for them.

We are currently in contact with a local benevolence ministry about “adopting” a couple of families from the community that without help they will not experience the *Good News of Christmas*. We will be sharing each Sunday between now and Christmas the *Good News of Christmas* as we celebrate Advent together and as we look to the Bible for instruction and guidance as we share the special gift that has been entrusted to our care – that gift is Jesus - the *Good News of Christmas*. Jesus did not come to earth as a baby to establish a holiday, but He came to transform lives, and that is the good news we have to share. Jesus can take the most messed up situation and transform it into something that is incredibly beautiful. We have been entrusted with the only message that will provide HOPE to our world and that message is found in the true meaning of Christmas.

Are you ready to start sharing? Are you ready to see Jesus transform more lives? I think God is and He is ready to use you, me and us to share the good news – Jesus came to set the world free!!!

Blessings as together we *Share the Good News of Christmas!*
Pastor Bob

HARVEST OFFERING – Last Sunday we received a *Harvest Offering* to pay off the remaining debt on our sanctuary remodeling project and to begin the renovations of our youth and children’s ministry areas. **PRAISE THE LORD** as we received almost \$4,000 in the offering. We will be paying off the remaining debt of approximately \$2,300 and have enough to begin the first phase of the building renovation. **THANK YOU for giving and for praying!** If you were not able to give toward the project last week, you can still give, please designate your gift as either *Harvest Offering* or *Building Fund* and it will be recorded and allocated properly.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS!

Special Thanks – for the overwhelming response to our non-perishable food drive last week. We were able to bless two families abundantly and have enough food remaining to be able to bless others as well. THANK YOU FOR GIVING ABUNDANTLY!

Ladies Ministry – Christmas Cookie Exchange

The Cookie Exchange will be December 1st at Malou Nicklow's home at 6:30pm. We can meet at the church and carpool. Make your favorite holiday cookies to share (*homemade only please!*). Our gift exchange will be with picture frames costing no more than \$15. Add a Prayer, Scripture or Word of Encouragement that is just from you to a fellow Sister in Christ! You will be just as blessed as the woman receiving your frame!

CHURCH WORK DAY – Saturday, December 5, 8:00am – until!

The work day will consist of mainly yard clean-up and general cleaning and maintenance projects in preparation for the winter months. There are lots of things to be done and plenty of work for everyone to help with.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS – Sunday, Dec 6 – 10:30AM

If you are not a “member” at Abundant Life and you would like to know more about partnering through church membership, please see Pastor Bob.

PRAYER REQUESTS / NEEDS

- Nora Barnett – Hospitalized with irregular heartbeat
- Wayne King - Jack & Dora Reid’s cousin – CCU with severe infection
- Madison – 9 year old cousin of Shannon Covington, cancer
- Jenny – Shannon Covington’s aunt – cancer
- Johnnie McClain – knee replacement surgery
- Remember those in our church and community who have lost jobs and those who are struggling financially

Christmas Card Box – Located in the church lobby is a box with the name of every family at Abundant Life on a folder. Save yourself the cost of postage and bring your Christmas cards to church with you and place them in each family’s folder. Feel free to check your folder as often as you like to receive cards for your family.

Upcoming Events

- Nov 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent
- Nov 29 - Guest Speaker, Rev. Virgil Lemings
- Dec 1 – A.L.O.F.T. Ladies Ministry – 6:30pm
- Dec 5 - Church Workday – 8am
- Dec 6 - Welcoming New Members; 10:30am
- Dec 16 – Church Council Meeting
- Dec 18 - Church Christmas Party/Fellowship & Caroling
- Dec 20 - Children’s Christmas Program – 10:30am
- Dec 23 – NO MIDWEEK SERVICE
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services
- Dec 25 - Merry Christmas
- Dec 30 - NO MIDWEEK SERVICE
- Dec 31 - New Year’s Celebration/Fellowship