

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Sunday, December 6, 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!*

I am looking forward to what God has in store for us as we gather today and as we walk through this holiday season and into the New Year. As I reflect upon this past week it has been an interesting one to say the least. As we have determined to *Share the Good News of Christmas* this holiday season, it seems that opportunities are coming from every direction to do just that. In the midst of these “God opportunities” to share the good news of Christmas I have been challenged with the fact that I tend to live life with “tunnel vision.” I look straight ahead of me and keep my eyes from straying to the left or the right. There are times when tunnel vision is a good thing because as we live in this world there are things that we are better off not seeing.

But I am learning that sometimes my tunnel vision keeps me from seeing those around me that need to experience the *Good News of Christmas*. Just like going through the mall, I can look right past all the window treatments, all of the sale signs and the flashy, eye appealing displays – I am on a mission and it doesn’t usually involve looking around. I wonder how many times I miss things that God wants to show me? I wonder how often I miss out on opportunities to be a blessing to someone because I refuse to look around?

In the gospels we read that Jesus frequently “looked upon the multitudes with compassion.” In shopping I have learned that looking may cost me money. In the world of life, looking has a price tag as well – I think the price is compassion, involvement and action.

I have found myself this week asking God to forgive me for the days that I inappropriately live with tunnel vision and have asked Him to help me live with my eyes wide open. Eyes that are open to the needs of those around me, eyes that are open to the opportunities that perhaps have come from God, opportunities to be a blessing and to receive a blessing. Think about your habits, do you live with tunnel vision or are your eyes wide open?

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

**Share the Good News of Christmas** - This year we are adopting two families for Christmas through the *Mooreville Christian Mission*. We will be providing 3 gifts for each child of these families. To donate one of the gifts from the children's Wish List, go to the Information Desk and pick up a card. Each card lists the name and age of a child and one of their Wish List gift ideas. Please return the gift no later than December 16, as we have to take the gifts to the mission for them to distribute.

## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS!

**Christmas Program** - We will be presenting a special Christmas program during the Sunday worship service on December 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in a short speaking part (you will not have to memorize anything), please see Anna **TODAY** after service in the Kidz Church building. There will be a mandatory rehearsal on December 19 for all participants. **PARENTS please see Anna for information for your children to participate.**

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY & CHRISTMAS CAROLING** – Friday, December 18 beginning at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall. Caroling will begin at 6PM and the party will begin at 7PM. Bring snack/finger foods & Christmas deserts. We will be playing a gift exchange using Christmas ornaments and we will have a special gift exchange for the children. The ornaments should be wrapped or placed in a gift bag. The children’s gifts should be age appropriate and marked with an age and for a boy or girl if necessary. Please sign up at the Information Center so we can plan accordingly. See you there!!!

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** – make worship a part of your family Christmas tradition. This year we are scheduling two Christmas Eve worship services so that you can choose which works best for your family’s schedule. Both services will be candle light communion worship services and last an hour or less. The service times will be 6 and 10PM. Christmas Eve worship is a great way to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ.

### PRAYER REQUESTS / NEEDS

- **Aaron Compton** – heart attack in CCU in Hickory, NC
- **James & Danielle Harris Family** – relocating to Mooresville from California for Danielle to undergo cancer treatment at *Duke Medical Center*
- **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 Family** – As he passed away this past week
- 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

- 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