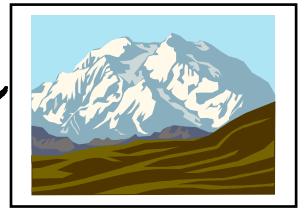


The Meadowlark Messenger

Glorifying God, Sharing Christ, Encouraging One Another

Fort Collins, Colorado, **January 2009**, Published Monthly



Pray for our India Mission Team!

Reuben Addo
Jennifer Goldman
Randy Robinette
Corey Rosenberg,
Russ Whitten



On January 2, the team from Meadowlark will be leaving for a mission to Chennai, India to plant churches. The team will assist Paul Renganathan with his Christian work. Please keep this team, their work, the Christians in India, the Renganathans and the team's safety in your prayers.





Jesus the Christ

By Mary Stilson

Christianity is based on actual historical happenings as recorded in the Bible. The most important of these is the life of a little known Jewish carpenter who was born in a stable of a virgin mother, died at the age of 33 as a criminal rather than a hero, and resurrected in three days. He never travelled more than ninety miles from his birthplace, owned nothing, attended not college, marshaled no army, and instead of producing books, did his only writing in the sand. Yet his birthday is observed about the world. Who, then was he?

Biographical details are disappointing by how little information there actually is. We do not know what he looked like for there is no physical description of him. As a consequence, people will visualize him differently. To some he will remain meek and mild, surrounded by children. Others will visualize him a rugged, bearded prophet walking over the hills of Palestine toward Jerusalem.

When we pass from appearance to biography of Jesus in the conventional sense, we know too little. We know that he was born in Bethlehem during the reign of Herod the Great. He grew up in or near Nazareth. He was baptized by John. In his early thirties he had a teaching/healing career which lasted between one and three years focused primarily in Galilee. In time he incurred the hostility and the suspicion of Rome, which led to his crucifixion on the out skirts of Jerusalem.

To understand the historical moment of his life we need to understand what kind of man he was, the quality and power of his life. The Gospels do not succeed in fully revealing who he was, but they are utterly unable to conceal him. No critical reader can miss the might and distinctive force of his character or personality which moves throughout the Bible. He has been characterized as a person of strange and incomparable greatness. Out of obscurity, he steps forth in heroic dimensions. Those who were closest to him found themselves gradually convinced by what they saw to declare he was God. The first acknowledgement of his being the Messiah came from the total impression he made upon his disciples. The conclusion of his divinity came from what he did, what he said and what he was.

The gospel of Mark is filled with the miracles that Jesus performed. However, almost all of his miraculous deeds were performed quietly, and as a demonstration of faith. Without self-consciousness, he moved among the dregs of society, prostitutes and tax collectors.

Raising the dead, healing, helping people out of disrepair, counseling in their crises, he went about doing good. He did it with single-mindedness and effectiveness that made those who knew him declare God is pure goodness, and if He were to take human form this is the way He would act.

What Jesus said, his language-vocabulary was part of the man himself, stemming from the urgency and passion of his driving convictions. All the words of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament can be spoken in two hours. Yet they are the most repeated words in the world, such as, "love your neighbor as yourself", "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He told parables of buried treasure, of sowers, of a good Samaritan, of a young man; - the world knows them all well. His words were of beauty and truth that were in direct odds with the values lived. Taken together, his parables and Beatitudes, everything he said, form the surface which focuses man's awareness on the two most important facts about his life: God's overwhelming love for man, and the need for man to receive this love, then let it flow outward again toward his neighbor.

The most impressive thing about the teachings of Jesus is not that he merely taught them, but that he lived them. His entire life was one of complete humility, self-giving, and love. It is impossible to read what Jesus said about selflessness without sensing at once how free he himself was of pride. The same is true of his sincerity. People were drawn to him, they loved him intensely and they loved him in numbers. They surrounded him, flocked about him, and followed him. In the end, when he laid down his life, He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Phil. 2:7-8)

Jesus left his purse to Judas, his clothes to the soldiers, his body to Joseph of Arimathea, his mother to John, his peace to the disciples, his supper to his followers, His gospel to the world, his presence with God's children, His crown for us... "For you know, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)

- Mary Stilson



Ike Relief

On our trip to Houston over the Thanksgiving holiday we got to see first hand the results of hurricane Ike. After almost 3 months since Ike hit, relief efforts are continuing. In the community of Bolivar hot meals were continually served until Dec. 5. Galveston received lots of damage, but the area of Bolivar was almost completely destroyed.

We saw no signs of the Red Cross, or Salvation Army, but disaster relief efforts by Churches of Christ was continuous. Christians from Florida, Tennessee, California, as well as from across Texas and other states have teamed up to do a great work.

Students from LCU and ACU came mid December to continue the work. Money was given by hundreds of churches and individuals to support the effort. The Clear Lake Church installed showers, and their teens gave up their wing of the educational building. This area was being used for sleeping out of town workers, as well as for office space. The Christians, including the teens from the Clear Lake church as well as those through out the greater Houston area have been invaluable in all aspects of the work. They have repaired roofs, delivered food, cleaned houses including the church building in Galveston etc. It was good to see how some of the money given by folds from Meadowlark was being used. It was also good to see brothers and sisters working together to serve hurting people.

-Don & Bonnie Fike



Meadowlark Church of Christ
2810 Meadowlark Ave.
Ft. Collins, CO 80526

The Meadowlark Messenger is published monthly. If you would like to receive the bulletin via e-mail, please contact the office. If you are unable to receive e-mail, please pick up your copy in the foyer.

Meadowlark Church of Christ
 2810 Meadowlark Ave.
 Ft. Collins, CO 80526
 Phone: (970) 223-7788
 Website:
www.meadowlarkchurch.org
 E-Mail:
charlene@meadowlarkchurch.org

January Service Schedule

Song Leaders:

1/04 Seth Meyer
 Adam Prior
 1/11 Gary Bolin
 1/18 Tyler Wells
 1/25 David Watson

Sound Booth:

1/04 David Watson
 ppt: Duane Fisher
 1/11 Lawrence Luna
 ppt: Duane Fisher
 1/18 Lawrence Luna
 ppt: Abel Galvan
 1/25 Debbie Brunk
 ppt: Abel Galvan

Nursery:

1/04 (B) Wheats
 (T) Riffles
 1/11 (B) I Fisher / M Wells
 (T) Whitten / Lanier
 1/18 (B) Williams
 (T) Jones
 1/25 (B) C Brown / J Kyle
 (T) Nance

Greeters:

1/04
 1/11 Kiltz
 1/18 Kiltz
 1/25 Shaw

Elder:

Milt Brown



Sunday Bible class 9:00am
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Life Groups 5:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm

Shepherds:

*Milt Brown, 221-3256
 Tim Brown, 223-1949
 Chuck Grenier, 482-3984
 Chappy Wells, 493-9746

* Elder chairman

Ministers:

Teen Minister:
 Derek Walker 266-9119

Campus Minister:
 Russ Whitten 223-3755

Administrative Assistant:
 Charlene Whitten 223-7788

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|---------------------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| <i>Family Record</i> | 12/7 | 12/14 | 12/21 | 12/28 |
| <i>Worship Attendance</i> | 283 | 207 | 226 | 252 |
| <i>Contribution</i> | \$24,398 | \$5,055 | \$25,241 | \$5,762 |
| <i>Budget</i> | \$6,641.00 | | | |