



**THE CORNERSTONE**  
a ministry on the move

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**Thanks to all who volunteered and participated in Operation Christmas Child.**

The Atlanta Process Center (including Florida shoe boxes) will be sent to India and two African countries, Ghana and Benin. We hope you enjoy the pictures. We will give you the final count next month.



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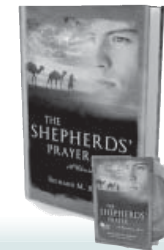
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**Play Scripture Sleuth**

Listen to The Cornerstone for your chance to win The Shepherds' Prayer... A Christmas Novel by Richard M. Barry. Includes the book and a 3 CD set.

A young man orphaned as a baby has only a cryptic message on a lambskin blanket about a child born in a stable in Bethlehem. Who is this mysterious child? The answer could change his life forever... and maybe yours. Win the book and audio book if you locate the hidden mystery verse in this newsletter. It's the one surrounded by magnifying glasses. Be the first person to call 756-9094 on Wednesday, December 17th between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



**Contact Us**

Call Us: 386-756-9094  
Toll Free: 888-756-9094  
E-Mail: [wjlu@wjlu.org](mailto:wjlu@wjlu.org)  
Website: [www.wjlu.org](http://www.wjlu.org)

## The Significance of Christmas

by Bill Powell

*For Christians, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Actually most of the accoutrements of Christmas have nothing to do with the real significance of how colossal the event of Christ's birth really was.*

If one don't have a problem with Christmas trees, shopping for gifts, baking cookies, trees with lights and garland. I have to admit black Friday is a shopping person's dream. Then we have chestnuts roasting on an open fire but I do take issue with Jack Frost nipping at my nose.

In more recent years, there has been an attack on Christmas but there seems to be a change in the wind. Businesses are realizing catering to the anti-Christmas movement is not wise. I have noticed an upswing in the pro-Christmas movement. One of the latest is a sticker that says, "It's Okay to Say Merry Christmas." This is all great but none of this has anything to do with the meaning of Christmas to us Christians. I have always been a history buff and was amazed when I learned that at one time Christmas was illegal in this country. This was due to the origin of many of the traditions that made up the holiday that sprang from paganism including the tree, yule logs, Santa Claus, card giving, eggnog, mistletoe, gift giving and the date of December 25th.

Our young country didn't have any traditions, so Christmas was chosen because it was part of the culture of many people from the different countries who settled here. To Christians, however, this became the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. It was Christianity that helped shape Christmas as we know it today including beautiful songs like "God Rest Ye merry Gentlemen," "Silent night" and "Joy to the World," the manger scene and candlelight services.

The real significance, however, is that Christmas to us represents the birth of Jesus Christ the Savior of the world. Before His birth we were lost in our sins and doomed to pay the penalty which is death and hell. Immanuel, God with us Wow! What a thought! Jesus was not just a great man. He was fully man, yet fully God, co-equal with the father and co-substantial, yet fully man. God Almighty came as a man and suffered as we suffer yet without sin. Born in a manger of humble means, died on the cross and bore the iniquity of our sins for us. This gift He gives freely to all who call on His name. What a gift! This is the real meaning of Christmas. This is truly worth celebrating.

Merry Christmas!  
Bill & Cecelia



## Special Dates:

### December - January

The Cornerstone will be closed Dec 25 & 26 and Jan 1 & 2.

### January 27

The Cornerstone will once again be hosting the Christian Marriage & Financial Workshop Series with Frank Reynolds. Frank is a Christian Financial Planner, who speaks to churches and groups around the country. He is also the host of the radio program Wealth and Wisdom, heard on the AM voice of The Cornerstone, WMFJ 1450 at 11 a.m. Monday - Friday. The first in the series of workshops will be "Financial Communication for Christian Couples." (great for singles too!) Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 7 p.m. Call for reservations 756-9094.

**Check out  
The Cornerstone  
Website [wjlu.org](http://wjlu.org)**  
For upcoming events in our community.



**100%**  
**Christmas Music  
on The Cornerstone**

## Christmas Memories: *Some assembly required. Money not necessary* by Edie & Josh Jones

When I was kid I remember watching Christmas commercials on TV. Department stores would show children coming down the stairs on Christmas morning to find their parents proudly standing by a tree surrounded by stacks and stacks of gifts. Jewelry stores would show wives and mothers opening tiny boxes of sparkling diamonds. Grocery stores would portray nicely dressed, well-mannered families sitting around a feast politely passing decadent dishes to one another. I think those advertisers would be disappointed to learn that after all their hard work, my favorite childhood Christmas memories are the quiet times I spent alone watching the lights on the tree in the dark while the snow fell softly outside.

As Christmas approaches, our culture almost commands us to stress over the things we can't afford to buy. It's important to remember that these messages are coming from advertisers. It's their job to make us think our celebrations will be incomplete without their product. One man with adult

children told me that after years of gifts, his most-loved memory was the year he had absolutely no money and made origami ornaments and decorations for the tree with his children. If you're feeling the money-crunch this year that does not mean this can't be the best Christmas ever. Find out about free or low cost Christmas events, cantatas and parades to share with your family by visiting the bulletin section of our website ([www.Wjlu.org](http://www.Wjlu.org)). Bake and decorate cookies together. Pack a thermos of cocoa and plan a night walk to look at Christmas lights in your neighborhood. Make a campfire and roast hotdogs and smores in the backyard. Help your children visualize the manger scene as you read the real Christmas story from the Bible by candlelight. Most of all remember, it's not the size of the gift they will remember in the years ahead, but the size of the heart that gave it.

*May all your Christmases be bright.  
Merry Christmas!  
Edie & Josh*

## Music With a Message by Chris Johnson

Having a son has radically changed the Christmas season! This will be Noah's 3rd Christmas and I am so excited for two reasons. First, Stephanie and I have the privilege of teaching Noah about the real meaning of Christmas. For me training Noah in the ways of our Lord is the greatest part of being a parent. I know and treasure the great value and worth of Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and it is my joy to systematically share Him with my children. I know the significance of teaching children the ways of God because I am a living testimony of my parents' diligence in doing so. There are indelible memories etched in my mind of sitting around the living room and as a family reading and discussing the Bible. Family devotions were a huge part of my growing up years and I look forward to continuing that tradition with my children not only this Christmas but throughout the upcoming year!

It is my family's prayer that you and yours have a blessed Christmas season and Happy New Year. I have been so blessed by so many of you these past four years of ministry here at the Cornerstone and I look forward to a great fifth.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

*Chris, Stephanie & Noah Johnson*



Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."*

Matthew 1:20-21 *(20) But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (21) She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

Isaiah 9:6-7 *(6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

## Beyond the Lights by Carla Intriago

One of my favorite date nights with my husband at Christmastime is to grab a cup of coffee and drive around the different neighborhoods looking at the houses decorated for Christmas. I never did that as a child so I think that is why I love it so much.

We like to decorate our house too. We decorate our house and yard with the icicle lights, reindeer, snowmen, snowflakes, and more! However, the most important message we give to

those driving by our house looking at our lights is the true meaning of Christmas. We have our nativity scene out there, which is familiar to most, but we also have a sign in our yard. It is a simple wooden sign in the shape of a birthday cake and it simply says, "Happy Birthday Jesus." Beyond all the Christmas lights and festivities, Jesus is and always will be the true meaning of Christmas. Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of

Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:1-2

*From my family to yours, we want to wish you a very BRIGHT Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Rami, Carla, Crystal, Alex and Ryan*

## Prayer Corner

Many people are struggling to find work and many are facing financial difficulties. We all know that the Lord owns the cattle on a thousand hills so let us all pray that our nation's economy returns to a normal position. Maybe you know someone who is having a tough time. Why not be a prayer warrior for them until the Lord restores them. Please continue to pray for Operation Bigfoot. We are currently in the process of having the building expanded and soon will order the new transmitter. So far, we have received pledges totaling \$72,990.48 of the \$121,000 goal to make this much-needed power increase a reality. Pray for us as we pray for you.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you

## Pause and Give Thanks

*Wherever you find yourself today,  
Whether filled with joy or wrapped in pain,  
Remember to pause a moment and give thanks  
For no other event in our history and time,  
Can change our lives like the birth of Christ – so Divine.  
His love never failing, and His Presence always near  
The greatest wonder in Heaven on Christmas did appear.  
God's gift full of grace that brings life, love, and hope,  
Can be unwrapped by us all - changing life's scope.  
For when we invite His life into our hearts,  
No love is greater than that He imparts.  
So wherever you find yourself today,  
Remember to pause and give thanks,  
For He is the Truth and the Way!*

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