

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.
- realizing the power of a life in Christ-



**CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS!!!
THE MOST JOYOUS TIME OF THE YEAR**

It's that time of year again, the time of busy activities and thoughts of the Christmas holiday and celebration and gift giving and more. It truly is a happy season, even with all the commercialization that is often criticized. Let's face it – even just on the material surface what is wrong with a day of gift giving, a time when people gather together for fellowship and give presents to each other? Nothing! And even though there is monumental secularization of this holiday in our time, you cannot deny that there is more mention of Jesus, more focus on the Lord because of the celebration of this holiday. People in churches throughout the land talk more about the Lord and his birth. And both believers and hopefully non-believers everywhere are drawn more to think about him and what he did.

So I thought to share a few Christmas insights and moments, perhaps to prod your meditation on this time.

- There are a few truly gigantic moments in human history. Really gigantic. The creation of mankind described in Genesis. The fall of humans away from God in the garden. The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The great sacrifice of Jesus in going to and through the cross, thereby creating the opportunity for each human being to be reconciled to God. And the return of the Lord. Only the latter has not yet happened. There could have been no sacrifice on the cross and no coming return of the Lord without his birth, so commemorating that birth surely is a good thing.
- Having said that, we all must remember: Jesus' birth was over 2000 years ago. It is a thing of the past. He has been born. He has already been victorious in going to and through the cross. He is in heaven at the Father's right hand. And he is coming back soon. We can celebrate his birth as a great gift of God to us, but we should probably keep it in perspective. Think about how we and most others celebrate our own births once a year at our birthday times. We don't go back and focus on our lying in an infant bassinet in a hospital or home, do we? No, we just recognize the anniversary. That's what Christmas is, the anniversary of Jesus' birth. He is not in a manger in a stable. That is past history. More important things are now afoot, specifically his coming return to a world that is clearly not ready for him.
- Just to drive home the previous point, several years ago Cathy and I were in a Christmas Eve service in a Moravian church. It was a precious service, one of joy and delight. Suddenly I heard the Lord speak: "These people are celebrating my birth, and here I am about to return soon." No condemnation of the celebration. He just made the point. He is coming soon. His birth is long over. Something he did 2000 years ago. Let's get it in historical perspective. Just as he is not on the cross today, he is not in that manger as so many displays show.
- One moment that particularly stands out strongly to me at this Christmas season happened several years ago. It's one of those gifts from God, a true and very personal miracle. I have written of it and you may have read it. This happened while we were having a Christmas gathering at our home. A woman named Kay arrived late and flustered. When I opened the door, she handed me a box of clementines (very small orange-like fruit) and said "Here!" She then said the Lord had told her to bring me a box of clementines, and that she had looked all over

town to find some. Her husband recounted for me years later how they had driven to many grocery stores looking for this.

So Kay came into the house holding the small box of clementines, handed them to me, and went into the kitchen where she began speaking with Cathy. And I just stood and looked at the box. And pondered the significance. Clementines have a special memory to me. Many decades ago when my children were little, they and the entire family loved to get a box of clementines at Christmas. The clementines were just the right size for their small hands. And clementines were not so readily available then, usually being found only around Christmas in specialty stores. And here the Lord had told this woman to bring them to me. Kay had no way of knowing the significance of clementines to me. But God knew. And he had told a woman whom he knew would obey to bring me a gift of clementines. They were a gift from him. By this gift he was showing me in dramatic fashion how he knows every detail about me no matter what is happening in my life and also how he loves me. Of course, he also knows all about your life as well, and he loves you too. (The full account of this gift from God, titled A CHRISTMAS GIFT, is included in the article section of our web site.)

YOUR YEAR END DONATIONS ARE IMPORTANT, NEEDED, ESSENTIAL

I encourage all of you to consider donating in the next few days before year's end. In a practical sense in our secular economy, such donations provide you another tax deduction against 2013 income taxes if we receive it before year's end, so timeliness is important. But in the greater scheme of things, we need the funds to get God's truths out to a hurting and lost world. Giving to the ministry has been down this year. I know the times are tough but I also know how the Lord promises to bless those who do give to him and the gospel, which is what you are doing when you give to this ministry. Please consider making a timely donation or increasing your regular one. We do have opportunities to get the word out to more and more, but many cannot be followed up without funds. That is the truth of the secular world we live in, even if we are residents of the kingdom of God.

As a quick summary many have probably seen before, you should know that the newsletter and other communications go to people throughout the world - in Uganda, Ghana, Sri Lanka, India, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, and many many states in the United States, throughout the East Coast and as far west as California and Oklahoma and Texas, as far south as Florida, Louisiana and Alabama, as far north as Maine. These communications are always sent out free of any charge. You might be interested as well in that we send teaching CDs and Bibles and ministry materials to various places abroad free of any charge to those who request them and quite obviously have no means of contributing for them. Even in the US our CDs are often given to those who cannot contribute. Beyond this your donations support the web site that provides for free extensive teachings, television programs for viewing, articles, opportunities to request materials, and much more. People have actually reported from faraway places being delivered and healed and freed while watching something on our web site. And then of course there are the funds needed for all the other activities of the ministry and the production of materials.

May you and all your family and friends have a very

Merry Christmas!

John and Cathy

[Contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation.]

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

P. O. Box 15797, Wilmington, NC 28408 * 910 395 1465

www.johnnewlinministries.org

Email: info@johnnewlinministries.org