

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

IN THIS ISSUE! Page 1 – Celebrating Christmas! Page 2 – A Special Note

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS!

This is a most joyous season for most people who call themselves Christians. It is a time of merriment, a time when families get together more often than normal, a time of gift-giving. And most importantly it is a time of focusing on God's great gift to humanity, his son.

Oh, yes, at this time of year there are those who bemoan the materialism. Well, yes, there is massive materialism. Lots of companies seek to profit and sell, sell, sell. And many get so caught up in that side of everything.

And there are those who complain we don't really know the day Jesus was born. Well, that's probably true. I don't think we really do.

And there are so many who have been led this way or that and object to this or that aspect of the holiday, thinking it is based on pagan practices with the tree and all the misguided non-Biblical activities.

To all that I just answer:

Isn't this the time of the year that Jesus is talked about by more people than any other? Isn't this a time of year that it is possible and easier to have a discussion about Jesus with others who are not usually so open? Despite all the phoniness and downright total fiction of most television Christmas cartoons and many two hour feel good holiday movies, this is also the time the real Christmas story gets told and retold.

Yes, Jesus is no longer in a manger, as he told me one night long ago when we were sitting in a church on Christmas Eve. Yes, he has already lived out his life on earth, has gone to the cross and been crucified. And he is not on that cross anymore. No he isn't. He long ago rose from the dead and several days later ascended to heaven where his father set him down as his right hand and put everything under Jesus's feet. Jesus is the head of the body, and the body is all true believers in Jesus. It is his true CHURCH.

But even though he is no longer in the manger, so many do not know the full Christmas story, do not know how the Lord came to pay the price for our sins, to open a way to God for those who believe in him.

"For God so loved the world he sent his only son, that whosoever believes in him might not perish but might have everlasting life." And that everlasting life is with Jesus and the Father, as Jesus himself explained.

So celebrate Christmas? I'll say!!!! Celebrate **the only reason** human beings have any hope at all. Without Jesus, no hope. With Jesus, joy everlasting and life eternal with him and his father.

A big thanks to all who have supported this ministry over the years! Do you know that this newsletter you are reading is being read directly as we send it to them by people throughout the United States, from Maine to Florida, from North Carolina to California, and by people in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Ghana, and India. And do you know that many more are reading the newsletters and articles on the web site and blog, watching our videos there, looking at the materials and no doubt printing out some. From our web logs we know that large numbers from Brazil, Eastern European countries, China, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Germany, and many more countries go to the web site on a regular basis. Our new Twitter account seems to be a way many are finding the web site. So just from these publications alone, aside from any other activities, we are reaching many and getting the truths of Jesus' imminent return and the full gospel message out.

You are helping us in that. Some of you know also how we are involved in sending our CDs and other materials and in some cases financial support to certain ministries God has brought us in contact with in other nations.

We are ever so close to the return of the Lord. So few people on earth know. But it is true and it is happening so very soon. Help us keep the message going, through whatever media and method God would have us use. God bless all of you.

Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

Merry Christmas!

John and Cathy

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