



SPIRIT BREEZE

WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Newsletter

DECEMBER 2016

PUT CHRIST BACK INTO CHRISTMAS!

REALLY?

As we enter into the Advent and Christmas season each year, there is the cry from many within the Church, to **“Put Christ back into Christmas!”** It appears that the world keeps trying to take everything that has to do with Jesus out of the Christmas season and replace it with Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales of glittering merchandise and drinking parties.

My question is, “When — at least for the Church, was Jesus the Christ ever out of Christmas?” Christmas is the Christian celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We who believe in him, know Jesus as – Yeshua, the Messiah [*Hebrew*] and Jesus, the Christ [*Greek*]. Both Titles mean, “God’s Anointed.”

The world has no understanding, whatsoever, of “God’s Anointed.” It has no knowledge of Jesus, the Christ of God, except for what it may have heard or seen in the lives of those of us who are known as “Christians.”

We should not be surprised, then, that people of the world - pagans, atheists, unbelievers and people of other religious faiths, are offended by the name of Christ. It has been so from the beginning. The Gospel writer, John writes, *“The true light that gives light to every person was coming into the world. He was in the world and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own and his own did not receive him. Yet [and that is an important word—yet!] Yet to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”* [John 1:9-13]

The world neither sees him nor knows him; nor does it seem to want to see him or know him. Why? John answers that question in 1:19. *“Light has come into the world but people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear their deeds will be exposed.”*

For those of us who are Believers in Christ and have, by his grace and mercy, been born anew into the family of God, we should not feel that we are chosen to defend the name of Christ to an unbelieving world by insisting — or perhaps demanding, that the name of “Christ” be kept in Christmas, by a world that doesn’t even know him or understand what his name means.

It is not necessary to wear wrist bracelets or T-shirts or bumper stickers or head bands that declare, “Keep Christ in Christmas!” That is somewhat like declaring, “Keep Sun in Sunshine!” Sun is in sunshine whether or not we declare it or the world chooses recognizes it. To the Believer, Christ is not only *IN* Christmas, He *IS* Christmas! Really! Whether or not we declare it or whether the world wants to recognize it, he truly is *“THE* reason – and the **only** reason, for the season!” At least it is for those of us who are in the family of God!

Christmas has been celebrated in various forms from the 4th century AD until now. At times it was recognized as a sacred and holy time when Jesus’ Birth was celebrated with a sense of awe and wonder. At other times it has been a time of raucous, decadent celebration, much like the present day Mardi Gras. The world appears to use any excuse to declare a “holiday” for gratifying its own fleshly nature.

However, the issue is not whether the name of Christ is retained in the word “Christmas.” The real issue is whether or not the real presence of Christ lives in the hearts of us Believers — and not just one day a year when we celebrate his Birth, but all the time, 24/7, year round. We are to let his light shine through us every moment of every day of the year so that people who walk in darkness can see the Light of Christ and be drawn into a living relationship with him.

Jesus said, *“You are the Light of the world. Let your light so shine that people may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* [Matthew 5:16] Regardless of how the world looks at Jesus and celebrates its “holiday,” let us Believers have a Joyous Christmas as we celebrate the Birth of the Christ, God’s Anointed, that lives in our hearts and Who is the Light of our lives. LLE

Wind of the Spirit Ministries

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CHRISTMAS IN INDIA

Jeremy and Joy Ellington

Christmas in India is a pretty exciting time. First of all, it is the coldest time of year with night temperatures reaching down into the lower fifties. Secondly it is the time of year when tigers tend to get pushed out of their habitat and come into our area. This causes some excitement. But the greatest thing about Christmas here is that it is a celebration of the birth of Jesus and is a time when many people have come to be drawn to our fellowship and to a relationship with Jesus.

Caroling is an activity that has brought many young people into fellowship with us. They love it. It is 6 nights where we visit more than 150 homes. We often get cake or tea and or other snacks. When we carol, we will have around 80 people in the group. In this group 1/3 will be dancers, 1/3 singers and 1/3 musicians and their assistants. The songs are not soft quiet songs but loud riotous songs speaking about Jesus, Joy and about victory. In every house we sing and then ask if we can pray for them. 99.5 percent of the people whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian will say yes. What a privilege to bless them in health, wealth and in their children's studies etc. etc. After prayer we invite the house people to our Christmas party on December 25th night.

The Christmas program is a culmination of lots of hard work. We will have around 100 participants. These are children from the after-school program or from Sunday School. Each child has put in many hours of practice. They will be dressed in a tailor-made outfit that we give to them. This outfit will be a great blessing for them throughout the whole year. It will be worn to weddings, funerals, and parties and to church. After about one year of constant use it gets demoted to use as play clothes or work clothes. On any given day, we can see children wearing Christmas clothes from different previous years. Today was no exception. We praise God for your support that has enabled us to bless these kids for the past 13 years.

The night of the program will be a big party with sometimes over 700 people. Many of the parents who are poor tribals or other poor people will be blessed to see their children as the stars of the show on a big stage. It is a real honor for them. This program will present the gospel in song, dance, preaching and drama. At the end of the show we give out up to 400 gifts for all the children and we feed everyone. Once again we thank you for helping to make this happen. We will be exhausted when it is all done and yet we won't be able to sleep because of the wonderful hand of God that we have just experienced.

In addition to this—Joshua's birthday is the 26th and then David's on the 30th and then Esther's on January 7th. You could say it is the season to celebrate

HAVE A JOYOUS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

Joy Ellington

Christmas is a very special day in my life. Christ is a gift given to us and we share that gift with

others in the community, showing his love and kindness. In this culture, Pentecostals don't celebrate this gift. It's for Catholics and others. When we came here, we took this as an evangelism tool, along with sharing the love of God to others by singing, etc.

The year 2000 was our first Christmas celebration with Jeremy's brother, Tim and his wife Cindy, who came to visit us in India.

That year we went house to house singing and dancing and caroling. On December 25th the people wanted to have a singing competition for all ages. Even elderly people were involved. That was fun.

Since then, we have celebrated Christmas and from competition it turned into a kin's program where both our kids, Esther and David, were involved. Each year the program was growing bigger and bigger. We moved it from our home, went outside and started building a stage for the program.

In 2004 we had a big celebration with our tuition center children. We started giving clothes. The kids wanted more dances and singing and drama. In addition a guest speaker came to give message. God had his own way to reveal his love to the community. That year was the first time we gave gifts. We had shortages of gifts so we gave oranges as their gifts. People were happy even to receive an orange. That is how it began.

Now it has become a community celebration for everyone in our neighborhood. People look forward with great expectation to celebrate this wonderful, God-given opportunity to meet with his children and many receive hope and love of God in their life.

We present Gospel in singing, dancing, drama and message. And, we end with food and gifts for all kids.

That is something of what Christmas is like in India.

EAR END GIVING

We encourage you to take opportunity to make a year end contribution to Wind of the Spirit Ministries to help facilitate the ongoing work of the ministry in the States and Overseas.

Wind of the Spirit is supported by gifts and donations by friends of the ministry. It also receives financial resources from churches, conferences and other groups that invite us to conduct various seminars and teaching events in their venue.

All gifts are tax deductible and contributors will receive a letter in January that gives a record of their annual giving. You are encouraged to keep the contributor letter with your important tax papers as you file your income tax with the IRS.

HAVE A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

WEB-PAGE

**Wind of the Spirit Web Page address is
www.wosm-nw.org**

ST. JOHN UMC MISSION CHURCH, MONTALBAN, PHILIPPINES

Rev. David and Josie Sablan

“And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'” Joshua 14:9, ESV. This is the promise we believe and claimed the moment we saw and stepped on the land that was offered to us in October of this year. That parcel of land (please see photo) is so perfect for a church to be built. The land has concrete fence and with small structure to be used as room and storage area for church supplies. The land is 500 square meters in dimension and cost 670,000 pesos. Praise be to God the church was able to give as partial payment the amount of 270,000 pesos. We have six months (Up to May 2017, P 25,000 pesos a month) to complete the payment.

At present we have an average fifty children and thirty adults who worship every week on a rented multi-purpose building just beside the lot. We conduct Saturday Worship Service, Saturday School for Adult and Children, Bible Study and fellowship. You will notice why Saturday? Because the Multi-purpose building is available only during Saturdays from 9 – 11 am only. With our new church lot we can hold all activities on Sundays. A group of 10-15 lay mission team members travel for 1 to 1 ½ hours to get to Montalban Mission Point.

On that land we will put up our own sanctuary, school building and parsonage. We believe nothing is impossible with God! We can work this out by the grace of God. We need support as much as we can receive for the realization of this worthy project. Prayer and Monetary provision will be highly appreciated.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21, ESV



**NEW
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**Gifts may be given through
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P. O. Box 75, Silverdale, WA 98383 Phone: 360 692-9813 Email: wosmnw@yahoo.com

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Please return this slip with your next gift.
 Checks payable to “Wind of the Spirit Ministries” are tax deductible. **THANK YOU!**

My Prayer Request Is: _____

In addition to my prayer and moral support of Wind of the Spirit Ministries, I wish to contribute the following:
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DECEMBER 2016

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WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES



“He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to equip God’s people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up ...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11

MINISTRY CALENDAR

PLEASE POST AND PRAY FOR THESE EVENTS

OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES
Eddings Email address: woseddings@msn.com

January 14- Mid-Year meeting Board of Directors and Support Council, Silverdale, WA

February 22-26 Motivational Gifts Seminar, Silverdale UMC

June 22-24 Healing Seminar, Silverdale UMC

The Board of Directors and Support Council of Wind of the Spirit Ministries pray that you have a Joyous Christmas and New Year in your walk with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

