





By Dan Jenkins

## “I’m Glad He Was Born, But . . .”

We are at that time of the year when much of the world is focusing on the events surrounding the birth of a child in Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago. The Catholic church created the celebration of Jesus’ birth and linked it to a Christ-Mass. The very name is evidence that it was not a celebration known by the early church, but it originated hundreds of years later and was tied to the mass of Catholicism.

**Many are so glad He was born because it is so easy to love baby Jesus.** The events surrounding the birth of a child are fascinating, but none are more fascinating than the events of Jesus’ birth. The baby in the manger and the visit of the shepherds and the wise men are well known, even by those who do not have any faith in Jesus. Baby Jesus is so easy to love.

**Many are so glad He was born because babies make no demand of them.** It is so easy to love those who do not demand our time or attention. All babies are cute, and others, except their parents or care givers, can enjoy being around them because they can just walk away from infants whenever they like. Baby Jesus is like that. The shepherds and the wise men came to where He was and simply walked away anytime they liked. Baby Jesus is great and so lovable as long as we are in control.

**Baby Jesus is so easy to love, but there is more to the story—He is also Lord Jesus!**

**Many are so glad He was born, but that all changes when He gets older.** Do you recall how amazed the religious leaders were when young Jesus talked to them in the temple? It was these same leaders who loved young Jesus who later put Him to death. It is rather fascinating that so many today have this same relationship to Jesus. They love talking about Him when He was little, but really have trouble when He is old enough to talk back to them!

**Many are so glad He was born, but lose sight of the real reason He came.** The early church did not focus on the birth of Jesus, but on His death and resurrection. Peter proclaimed Jesus as the Lord and the Christ (Acts 2:36). Because Jesus is Lord, Peter commanded his listeners to repent/change in the name of Jesus. Baby Jesus is one thing, but Lord Jesus is another. The only hope this world has is not found in a baby in a manger, but in a Savior on the cross. He left the manger to go to the cross, but He left the cross to go to a throne where He rules the world.

**Many are so glad He was born and focus on it, but the early church focused on His cross.** They assembled every Sunday to remember Him—not as a helpless, undemanding infant but as an Almighty Savior. Imagine how Christendom would change dramatically if we focused on Him as Lord instead of as a baby!



By David Sproule

## Mimeographs Are Not Lost Technology!

With the advances in technology over the last half-a-century, the word “mimeograph” and the whole history of mimeograph technology is being lost as a relic of the past. Before photocopy machines, there were mimeograph systems, which created a stencil through which ink was forced onto paper. Using that stencil, numerous copies could be made over and over, which would match the stencil. Look at the word “mimeograph” and recognize that the copies that were made from a stencil would actually “mimic” (look like) the stencil.

What does all of this have to do with us? The Greek word, from which we get our English words “mimic” and “mimeograph,” is found a handful of times in the New Testament. Keeping in mind the mimicking nature of a mimeograph machine duplicating the original stencil, consider how God uses this word to instruct Christians.

**As Christians, we must mimic the Lord!** “Therefore be imitators of God” (Eph. 5:1). “Become imitators...of the Lord” (1 Thess. 1:6). He is the stencil; we are the blank sheets of paper onto which His image must be stamped and exhibited! When others look at you, can they see the imprint of the original stencil? Do they recognize whose image you bear?

**The mimicking nature of a mimeograph machine duplicated the original stencil.**

**As Christians, we must mimic the faithful of the past!** “Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Heb. 6:12). Lives of faithful imitators of God are detailed in Scripture “for our learning” (Rom. 15:4) and “as an example” to mimic (1 Cor. 10:11). We must strive to look like them, duplicating their faithfulness in our own lives!

**As Christians, we must mimic the faith of our leaders!** “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” (Heb. 13:7). Look back at the lives of faithful elders and mimic their faith in your own life, as they mimicked the image of Christ!

**As Christians, we must mimic good and not evil!** As the apostle John contrasted the divisive, self-centered nature of Diotrephes with the proven, faithful character of Demetrius, John urged his readers, “Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God” (3 John 11). Which stencil are we using—evil or good? One stencil is “of God” and the other has never been in the presence of God! Does your life mimic what is good (to look like God) or what is evil (to look like the world)?

Mimeograph technology may be a thing of the past, but Christians are still called upon to mimic the stencils provided to us by God and the faithful who have gone before us!



By Josh Blackmer

## 89 Inspiring Ways to Know Christ...or So I Thought

There it was in the magazine rack amongst all the juicy titles: “9 Practices for Better...,” “12 Ways to Know your Man is...,” “The Scandal Comes to Light, Interview with...” This particular title stood in stark contrast to those around it. Printed above a picture of a large towering cross against a cloudy background was this title, “Jesus: 89 Inspiring Ways to Know Christ.” I was shocked to find any “religious” materials in the grocery store checkout lane. After my initial shock wore off, I began to wonder, “How are they getting 89?” I was hooked. I had to pick it up. I did not buy it. At \$12.99, it hardly seemed like a worthy investment, but it warranted a thumbing through while the lady in front of me worked out her coupons.

Printed in its propaganda was this statement, “This special edition magazine exalts Jesus by giving an overview of 89 names and attributes described in the Bible.” Not what I thought. I expected 89 “inspiring” ways to get to know the Christ on a spiritual level. I expected 89 denominational ideas on how to have a relationship with the Christ. Instead, it was 89 different ways the Bible refers to the Christ by name. You can come to know more about Christ through such a study. However, there is a more important issue at hand—to know and to be known by the Christ, the Savior.

**There is a more important issue at hand, to know and to be known by the Christ, the Savior.**

I know that most people don’t know the Jesus of the Bible. They know the Jesus filtered through their own social and philosophical ideals. This filtered Jesus makes them feel good about themselves and their current state. How do I know this? I know this because people change the teachings of the Biblical Jesus. They change the message to fit their needs. They sanitize it, wrap it in plastic and put it on the shelf. To them Jesus has become an icon of their own spirituality. The real words in red, when read in context, make people feel uncomfortable and should shake us loose from conformity to the world. When applied, they convict the heart and move it to cry out to the Savior of the world, “My Lord and my God!” The heart that says this is obedient to His commands.

The other side of knowing Christ is to be known by Him. Matthew 7:20-23 introduces an uncomfortable concept of the Biblical Jesus. In verse 20, we are known by our actions or fruits. Verses 21-22 mention that on the day of judgment there will be people talking about all the things they thought were “spiritual” that they did. Jesus’ response will be, “I never knew you” (v. 23). The key is in verse 21. It is not about doing what we think is spiritual but rather doing the will of the Father in heaven. There are not “89 inspirational ways” to know Christ. There is simply one inspired way—conform our hearts and minds to the will of the Father.

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### How about some Good News?

*Ugh! Please no more bad news!* That seems to be the only kind of news these days! Would you like some good news?

**Good News:** God loves you! **Good News:** Jesus loves you!  
**Good News:** Jesus is constantly interceding for you! **Good News:** You are forgiven!  
**Good News:** God listens to your prayers! **Good News:** God sees your heart!  
**Good News:** Jesus knows what you’re going through!  
**Good News:** Jesus doesn’t just strengthen you from without; He strengthens you from within!  
**Good News:** The Bible is still the best seller!  
**Good News:** The Bible is still God’s go-to source for guidance and comfort!  
**Good News:** No matter what, no one can separate you from God’s love!  
**Good News:** No matter what, no one can separate you from Jesus’ aid!  
**Good News:** No matter what, no one can separate you from the Words of God written on your heart!



So, what was that about only bad news? For Christians, there’s tons of **Good News!** – DS

### Avoid the twist!

As Peter neared the end of his second epistle—in which he emphasized the need for brethren to grow in knowledge, in order to stand against false teachers and doctrines that would plague the church—Peter warned that certain individuals would come along and “twist...the Scriptures” (2 Pet. 3:16). The word “twist” means that something is distorted, warped or turned in a different direction. What a disturbing thought—that someone would distort God’s Word from its intended message, meaning and purpose to have a different message, meaning and purpose! Who would do that? Peter says that they are “untaught” (or ignorant, having not been properly taught) and “unstable” (or unsteadfast, not being firmly set or fixed on Divine revelation). Such twisting results in (by bringing upon oneself) “destruction”—eternal consequences.

This should be a warning to all of us! First, let us not be guilty of twisting God’s Word to say what we want it to say! Second, let us teach others and firmly set them upon God’s truth, so that they may not be guilty of twisting God’s Word to their own destruction! – DS

# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Helen Bashaw</b>	suffering with pneumonia
<b>Judy Carmack</b>	recovering from eye surgery, back & leg pain
<b>Betsy Donahue</b>	upcoming surgery on ligaments in her foot (12/11)
<b>Trudie Holland</b>	continues to deal with pain in her legs
<b>Lynne Jorgensen</b>	undergoing procedures on her knees
<b>Don Matter</b>	recovering at home, severe artery blockage
<b>Jermaine Smith</b>	undergoing rehab after leg surgery
<b>Linda Studer</b>	cancer free, finishes chemo treatments in a few months

### Long-Term Health Issues

<b>Lillian Bankston</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Janet Hickerson</b>	suffering with back pain
<b>Ruth Milton</b>	chronic health problems
<b>Silas Moses</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Charles Norton</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Gene Puckett</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Norm Smedley</b>	breathing problems
<b>Patricia Ventress</b>	both kidneys removed



**Sandy Colage** upon the passing of her mother, **Jackie Brandecker**, last week.

<b>Our Shut-Ins:</b>	Cora Lee Dennis	Margaret Griffo	Shelton Howell	Betty Matter	Leigh Puckett
	Millie Ames	Kay Fish	Margie Hardin	Daniel Johnson	Ricky Smedley
	Vera Day	Helen Gardner	Loretta Holaday	Jean McMasters	Margaret Wade

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Willie Allen</b>	Jennifer Goodale's uncle, diagnosed with cancer
<b>Kyle Bridges</b>	Josh Blackmer's cousin, broke both arms in work accident
<b>Kristal Davis</b>	Jim Davis' sister, recovering from major surgery
<b>Carl Hoeweler</b>	Jenny Jordan's uncle, complications from cancer surgery
<b>Perry King</b>	Bettye King's father, under Hospice Care, liver cancer
<b>Colbie Kinsey</b>	Connie Plouffe's 4-mo-old great-granddaughter, neck surg.
<b>Peggy McKeal</b>	Ruth Lipford's daughter, still battling cancer
<b>Roslyn Phillip</b>	Maria Hackshaw's aunt, recovering from knee replacement
<b>Eddie James Smith</b>	Mary A. Jackson's cousin, pancreatic cancer

**Remember Our Mission Works**

*Paraguay*  
**Troy & Andrea Spradlin**

*Pacific Islands*  
**Robert & Mary Martin**  
**Scott & Rebecca Shanahan**  
**Joey & Tammy Treat**

*Africa*  
**Tamuka Arunashe**  
**Nnanna Aforji**

*Montgomery, Alabama*  
**Apologetics Press**

*Coral Springs, Florida*  
**Mauricio Yegros**



# Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, December 7

- ◆ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Baby Shower for Mauricio & Kayla Yegros** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room. They are registered at Wal-Mart. It's a boy!

## Monday, December 8

- ◆ **No Monday Night Bible Study.** Classes will resume on January 5.

## Tuesday, December 9

- ◆ **No Tuesday Morning Bible Study.** A Potluck Brunch is scheduled for Thursday, December 18. Regular classes will resume on January 6.

## Friday, December 12

- ◆ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Night** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Grace Hackshaw. Bring a \$10 gift for the exchange. All ladies are welcome. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.

## Sunday, December 14

- ◆ **Class for Jr. High, Sr. High & Parents** at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Room. Josh Blackmer will be teaching.

## Sunday, December 14 (cont.)

- ◆ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Thursday, December 18

- ◆ **Potluck Brunch for the Tuesday Morning Bible Class** at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Dan & Judie Jenkins. Bring a dish to share.

## Tuesday, December 23

- ◆ **Midweek Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. We will NOT meet on Wednesday, December 24 for Bible Study.

## Wednesday, December 31

- ◆ **Midweek Bible Study** at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ **New Year's Eve Gathering** at 9:00 p.m. Bring finger foods and drinks to enjoy together.

## Sunday, January 4

- ◆ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home** at 2:30 p.m.

## Sunday, January 11

- ◆ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship.



## Palm Beach Lakes

# Young Adults

## Saturday, December 13

- ◆ **Young Adult Holiday Party** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Sarah Collier. Wear a tacky holiday sweater and bring a \$10 white elephant gift to exchange. See Sarah Collier or Ivan Villard for details.

## Saturday, January 3

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD.

## Monday, January 5

- ◆ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Rachel Fuller.

## Saturday, January 17

- ◆ **Young Adult Service Project.** See Ivan Villard for details.

## Sunday, January 18

- ◆ **Young Adult Meeting** after evening worship in Adult 1.

## Monday, February 2

- ◆ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m.



## Palm Beach Lakes

# Youth

## Sunday, December 14

- ◆ **Class for Jr. High, Sr. High & Parents** at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Room. Josh Blackmer will be teaching.
- ◆ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Saturday, December 20

- ◆ **Sr. High Holiday Party** at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Paul & Lisa Metzkes. Bring a \$15 gift for the exchange.
- ◆ **Young Families' Holiday Party** at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Cam & Hollie Crotts. See Melinda Price for details.

## Sunday, December 28

- ◆ **Sr. High Luncheon** after morning worship. Sign up on the bulletin board to bring a dish. See Paul Metzkes for details.

## Friday, January 2

- ◆ **Sr. High Lock-In.** See Paul Metzkes for details.

# January 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> a Julio & Flo Aristy b Sarah Rodgers	<b>2</b> ☆ <b>Sr. High Lock-In</b> a Gary & Jacqui Jenkins b Michael Archer b Ellen Gager	<b>3</b> ☆ <b>Young Adult Devo</b> b Jacqueline Creary b Quintavias Smtih
<b>4</b> ☆ <b>Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit</b> a Joseph & Anthioda Charles b Gabrielle Newby	<b>5</b> ☆ <b>Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night</b>	<b>6</b> b Bobby Ingraham b Joe Maloney	<b>7</b> a Willie & Giselle Smith b Sandy Colage	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> a Matthew & Kasandra Jones b Brenda Collier	<b>10</b> b Marjorie Ruiz-Carmona
<b>11</b> ☆ <b>Youth &amp; Family Singing</b> a Harrison & Danielle Carter	<b>12</b> b Barbara King	<b>13</b> b Linda Allen	<b>14</b> b Robin Davis b Cindy Nelson	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ☆ <b>Young Adult Service Project</b> b Cynthia Parker
					<b>Sr. High Camping Trip (16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>)</b>	
<b>18</b> ☆ <b>Soup-or-Sunday</b> ☆ <b>Young Adult Meeting</b> b Terry Denton	<b>19</b> a Cornelius & Andrea Henderson	<b>20</b> b Julie Charles b Godfrey Pratt b Norma Pratt b Kari Reeves	<b>21</b> b Doug Carrick b Edward Gager	<b>22</b> b Cora Lee Dennis b Andrea Leslie	<b>23</b> b Jaqua' Lewis b Luther Robinson	<b>24</b> b Keila McLeod
<b>Sr. High Camping Trip (16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>)</b>						
<b>25</b> ☆ <b>Mission Sunday</b> ☆ <b>Jr. High Family Devo</b> ☆ <b>Sr. High Devo</b>	<b>26</b> b Jimmie Banks b Winifred Patterson b Andrea Spradlin	<b>27</b> b Ed Buonadonna	<b>28</b> b Joyce Parker b Lana Smith	<b>29</b> a Lawrence & Kay Richardson b Annie Faison	<b>30</b> a Lynn & Cynthia Parker b Joyce Barnhouse b Dick Haines b Carol Hardman	<b>31</b> b Charles Hayes b Mary A. Jackson

**"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)**



Sunday,  
November 30

Dearest Palm Beach Lakes friends and family,

Thank you so much for the cards, letters, and beautiful orchids regarding the passing of my father. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. God's richest blessings for peace and honor on each of you.

With our Father's love,  
Sue Hoelzer and family

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Mr. Jean Charles; Dorcas Francois; Keith Hatchett; Radhamie, Ria, Lea, & Sophie Nunez; Bob & Joan Hilterman; Mr. Mario Moss; Kevin Schenk; Byron Thomas; Miss Kimberly Traxler; and Crystal Lee Williams.

**OUT OF TOWN VISITORS:** Mike Barrios, Collierville, TN; The Brad Costello family and Mr. & Mrs. David Costello, Manchester, TN; Miss Squadeina L. Davis, Pembroke Pines, FL; Mrs. Joyce Griffin, Madison, AL; Monique Leblanc, Canada; Mr. & Mrs. James Lee, Tuscaloosa, AL; Mrs. Anne Merrill, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Rigney & Andrea, Manchester, TN; Mrs. Shirley Sneed, Hollywood, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Sumner, Anna, & Lexi, Searcy, AR; and Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Telesford, Jersey City, NJ.



Sunday (December 7<sup>th</sup>)

Jeannie Buonadonna  
Clayton Parnell

Monday (December 8<sup>th</sup>)

Harriett Morris

Tuesday (December 9<sup>th</sup>)

Mike & Jean Archer (Ann.)  
Lawrence D. Richardson

Thursday (December 11<sup>th</sup>)

Tasha Ellis

Friday (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

DeAndre & Lovetta Harmon (Ann.)  
Charlene Knowles  
Jo Ann Rogers  
Tyrone Toson

Saturday (December 13<sup>th</sup>)

Kevin & Stephanie Weeks (Ann.)



*"For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7*

**Those to Serve**

*If you cannot serve, please call Mike Ellis at 775-3533.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet in the Grades 6-8 classroom at 9:50 a.m.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at 5:50 p.m.*

**Sunday Morning, December 7**

Lead Singing .....Jerry Hopkins  
Opening Prayer .....Jim Rogers  
Scripture Reading..... Johnny Davis  
Presiding at Table ..... Jimmie Banks  
Serve at Table:  
Derrick Banks      Dan McLeod  
Tim Cox              L.H. Richardson  
Tim Fry                Vincent Rogers  
Namddie Ikon      Kevin Weeks  
Alternates:  
Mike Erickson      Ivan Villard, Jr.  
Closing Prayer .....Tom Martens

**Sunday Evening, December 7**

Lead Singing .....Jerry Pittman  
Opening Prayer .....Dirk Summerlot  
Scripture Reading..... David Brown  
Presiding at Table .....Dan Fuller  
Bobbo Lupo  
Tommy Pauldo  
Scott Studer  
Prayer..... Ken Tipton

**Wednesday Evening, December 10**

Lead Singing ..... Ivan Villard  
Invitation.....Clayton Trujillo  
Family Prayer ..... Bill Ingram, Jr.

**Our Record**

Attendance	<u>Nov. 30</u>	<u>Oct. Avg.</u>
Sun. Bible study	228	227
Sun. A.M. Worship	335	342
Sun. P.M. Worship	140	190
Wed. Bible study	155	215
Contribution	\$12,738	\$14,456
2014 Weekly Budget: \$13,670		
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: +21,471		

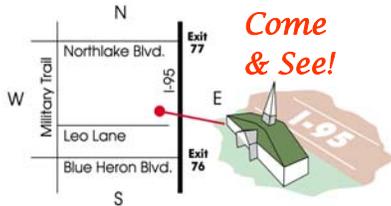
Ushers for the week of **Dec. 7** Head Usher: Rick Hall; Chuck Reeves, Sr. & David Thorpe



# PALM BEACH LAKES CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
www.pblcoc.org

*Speaking  
where  
the  
Bible  
speaks,  
silent where the Bible is silent.*



*Come  
& See!*

## Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ Bulletin (USPS 097-200)

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### Service Schedule

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 9:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday:

Bible classes ..... 7:00 p.m.



Front Cover: **Cody Price, Harrison Crotts, Adam Seal, Alice Nelson & Josiah Blackmer**



# I will never break my covenant with you!

## Judges 2:1