

## Ponderings From the Pastor

### The Birth of Jesus as told by Luke

By Brad Taylor, Pastor

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping



watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



# He Was Born To Die

Submitted by Mindy Taylor



Song-

*It must have broken God's heart  
 For the future He could see.  
 Yet He formed the hands  
 And feet knowing one day  
 They'd be nailed to a tree.  
 So all the world could know Him,  
 A gift came from above.  
 For God so loved the world  
 That He gave His only Son.*

*Jesus, baby Jesus,  
 With a tear of love in Your eye.  
 Jesus, sweet baby Jesus,  
 You knew You were born to die.*

*So, Jesus, thank You, Jesus,  
 For Your gift of eternal life.  
 My Jesus, Jesus,  
 'Cause for me You were born to die*

Exodus 15:2 — The Lord is my strength and song,  
 And He has become my salvation;  
 This is my God, and I will praise Him;  
 My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

December is a month full of remembrance, tradition and family.

- Dec. 4 will be our kickoff celebrating with our nursery, children and youth, as well as a fun surprise in the opening — so be ready to celebrate!
- Dec. 9 and 10 is the Live Drive Thru Nativity from 6-8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11 we will worship our King!
- Dec. 18 will be our Old Time

Family Christmas. It's time to start looking for an ornament from your family to place on the church family tree and in exchange take one from Pastor Brad and me as a gift. Don't forget to get me your three family photos from the past by Dec. 11.

- Dec 25 Christmas Day. For this very special day we will not have Sunday School and will have Worship at 11 am. This will be a candlelight service in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ's birth.

Make the most of every worship opportunity with your family. I hope this will be a very special Christmas for you and your family.

## Daily Bible Reading Plan To Read The Bible Through In 2022

### December Bible Reading Plan

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psalms	Dec. 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thess. <input type="checkbox"/> 42	Dec. 21 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 52
Dec. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 146	1 Thess.	Dec. 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Nahum <input type="checkbox"/> 43	Dec. 22 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-14 <input type="checkbox"/> 53
Dec. 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 <input type="checkbox"/> 147	Dec. 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 148	Dec. 11 ----- Reflection -----	Malachi
Dec. 4 ----- Reflection -----	Dec. 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Joel <input type="checkbox"/> 149	Dec. 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter <input type="checkbox"/> 44	Dec. 23 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 <input type="checkbox"/> 54
Micah	Dec. 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 150	Dec. 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk <input type="checkbox"/> 45	Dec. 24 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 55
Dec. 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 40	Isaiah	Dec. 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah <input type="checkbox"/> 46	Dec. 25 ----- Reflection -----
Dec. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-7 <input type="checkbox"/> 41	Dec. 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Jude <input type="checkbox"/> 47	Dec. 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Haggai <input type="checkbox"/> 48	Revelation
	Dec. 17 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 49	Dec. 18 ----- Reflection -----	Dec. 26 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 <input type="checkbox"/> 56
	Dec. 19 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 50	Dec. 19 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 50	Dec. 27 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 57
	Dec. 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-9 <input type="checkbox"/> 51	Dec. 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-9 <input type="checkbox"/> 51	Dec. 28 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 58
			Dec. 29 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 59
			Dec. 30 <input type="checkbox"/> 9-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 60
			Dec. 31 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 61

# OGBC Youth News

Submitted by Matt Shepard, Youth Leader



We had awesome fellowship at our Youthsgiving in November! We had a total of 12 youth and five adults attend. I would like to thank all those who donated food (Sean's grandma Jackie Briscoe, Paula Shepard, Nicole Zugelder, Denice Jackson, Angela Owen, Sue Pierce, Sandy Bond). I would also like to thank those who stayed and helped serve and clean up (Bryan and Nicole Zugelder, Murray Schoen, Taylor Shepard).

Taylor and I had our baby Nov. 9 (same as the twin's birthday!). His name is Luke Joshua Shepard ,weighing 8 lbs 13 oz.

Thank you to those who helped covered youth during my two weeks off!

The next youth event will be Dec. 11. We will be doing a youth progressive dinner starting and ending at the church. Youth will need to be dropped off at 4 p.m. and picked up at 7 p.m..

If you have any other questions or concerns, please email me at: [ogbc.mshepard@gmail.com](mailto:ogbc.mshepard@gmail.com).

## Welcome

### New Members!

Ben, Tasha, Ava, Katie and Jaxson Pruett

David and Margaret Gaulding

## December Van Schedule

Dec. 7 — No Awana

Dec. 14 — Toney Robbins, Sharon Lee, Mike Mayfield, Gail Mayfield

Dec 21 — Christmas Break

Dec. 28 — Christmas Break

## December Sermon Calendar

Dec. 4 — The Light of Christmas, Luke 2:1-7

Dec. 11 — God With Us, Matt. 1:18-22

Dec. 18 — Christmas Peace, Luke 2:8-14

Dec. 25 — Candlelight Service

# Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

## Dec. 1- God's Reach Through Healthcare

International Mission Board missionaries Patrick and Anne Stein work with ministry partners to facilitate medical clinics all over the country. Healthcare strategies offer access to people they wouldn't even have a chance to meet, let alone engage in gospel conversation. By meeting physical needs, believers can also bring the cure to their greatest spiritual need — separation from Jesus.

The Steins are used to being watched. It's part of their lives in a region where Christians are not always welcomed. Inside the church, though, set up on these days to receive patients, security is relaxed. Even the police are invited to have their blood pressure checked or see a doctor.

People come ready for help, but they also come ready to talk. They bring their ailments, their concerns and even their spiritual questions.

## Dec. 2- God's Ministry Through Students

International Mission Board missionaries Jess and Wendy Jennings committed their lives to bringing the gospel to these islands. The Philippines is their home, the place where they raised their three children, who are now adults.

Much of their work has been focused on student mobilization, specifically through Nehemiah Teams. Nehemiah Teams is one avenue for students to serve with the IMB. The Jennings coordinate the work of training and sending out both American and Filipino students each year. Since 2004, almost 2,400 Americans and 1,200 Filipinos have participated in Nehemiah Teams. They see the long-term value of short-term commitments made by students who experience God's work among the unreached.

## Dec. 3- God's Healing Among Refugees

David and Shannon Brown serve with the International Mission Board, and they, along with their home church, partner with and support the pastors of Dancu Baptist Church and the Moldovan Baptist Union in ministering to Ukrainian refugees.

They've been impressed at the way Moldovan believers have embraced refugees like Olga.

Olga's family found safety and family in Dancu Baptist Church.

Her grandchildren found freedom and safety within its walls. The emotion rose in her voice — strong and insistent, but also trembling — as she said, "They've surrounded us with love and care.

"They are supporting us psychologically, emotionally and spiritually," she continued.

## Dec. 4- God's Influence in Global Cities

Through strategic placement of advertisements on social media, the team made up of IMB missionaries and local ministry partners have piqued interest in learning more about the gospel. Those interested click on a link or scan a QR code which leads them to a local church or believer for follow up. The one-on-one contact most often begins with answering questions and progresses to studying Scripture.

A lot of young people are disillusioned by the majority religion in this area. Many turned to a hybrid-form of Deism — not wanting to say there's no god but searching for a better answer.

"So that's why Southern Baptists sent us," Erik explained.

"Here, we try to do the missionary task to see healthy churches among the peoples and places of our city." Names are not given for security reasons.

## Dec. 5- God's Work Through Global Ministry Partners

On another sunny day in northern Uganda, Hector steps into the river and turns to extend his hand to Oketa Robert, a new believer. Oketa Robert walks into the water, ready to take the next step of faith and be baptized. He is one of 34 believers baptized on this day in early spring. Each new follower of Jesus is a refugee from the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement.

Hector Cabrera is a global missionary partner who works closely with International Mission Board teams in Uganda. He was sent by the missions agency, Cuba to the Nations. His primary work is discipleship and outreach in refugee camps filled with South Sudanese and Congolese. What he really wants to see is a healthy church planted in the camp.

Hector, IMB missionaries and national partners are intentionally discipling new believers and looking for every opportunity to build relationships. Hector's partnership multiplies the ministry in the area.

# December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Keith Hardison bday	2 Adult Game Day 11am	3 Nativity Workday 9am
4 Nativity Rehearsal 5pm	5	6 Church Directory pictures	7 Church Directory pictures; No Awana/Youth	8 Rick Kibbe & Sharon Lee bdays	9 Drive Thru Nativity 6-8:30pm	10 Christmas Parade 2pm; Drive Thru Nativity 6-8:30pm
11 Audrey Brannon, McKenzie Hahn & Toney Robbins bdays; Children's Nerf Games noon	12 Murray Schoen bday	13 Carmin Henry bday	14 Kylie Gutierrez bfay	15	16	17 Studies In Christian Living Class Party/ Welcome Center
18 Old Time Family Christmas	19	20	21 Barbara Clark & Angela Owen bdays	22	23	24
25 Jess Newton bday; Candlelight Service 11am (no Sunday School)	26 Jimmie Foster bday	27	28	29 Kari Collier, Dylan Henry, Wade Metzinger & Sean Munson bdays	30 Katy Gerhard bday	31

# OGBC News Notes

## Mailbox for Missions

Make use of the Mailbox for Missions to send Christmas cards to other church members. The Mailbox for Missions is located in the Welcome Center. Cards should be placed in boxes according to the recipient's last name. Then don't forget to check for Christmas cards that have been placed in the Mailbox for you. Finally, make a donation for the amount you would have paid in postage, and this money will be applied towards the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Included in this newsletter is a prayer guide for "A Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions." Use this guide during the first week of December to help guide your prayer time for International Southern Baptist Missionaries. Oak Grove gives 10 percent of our budget to missions through the Cooperative Program.

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## Year-End Giving

As the year draws to a close year end giving is on the minds of some. If you desire to make a year-end contribution to Oak Grove Baptist Church, it must be given by Dec. 25 to show up on your 2022 giving record for tax purposes. Year-end giving helps Oak Grove meet general budget needs. Also, for those that would like to give towards specific needs, we would like to widen the driveway into the church. There are many areas in the church that need to be painted including the fellowship hall and the carpet needs to be professionally cleaned.

If you would like to give to any of these designated items please write on the offering envelope what you would like the gift to be designated towards (general fund, driveway, paint, carpet, etc.).