

Lessons from the Heart

Christmas is a family affair

By Jim Long

God the Father has always wanted a family! In Genesis 1:26, He says "Let us make man in our image." In other words He wanted a family - children to love and care for and children who would bring honor to Him by growing up to be like Him! But something happened - that dream had a huge setback when his "kids" chose to rebel instead of

obey. At that moment sin and separation came into the world. A holy Father had a choice to make - scrap His family or save His family! Thankfully the miracle of Christmas was born in God's heart and mind - He would send his son as a human baby to grow up as the Son of man and the Son of God. He would live a



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perfect life and then become the perfect sacrifice in order to redeem (buy back) God's family.

Each Christmas we remember this amazing fact - a fact that changed the course of history - yours and mine - as well as our future. A tiny babe was born to Mary and Joseph. This was not a normal baby - this baby was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit of God. This was God being born in human flesh. He became one of us, so that we could become one of His!

John 3:16 says that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." God the Father loved us so much that He gave! - that's the First Christmas.

You see Christmas is a family affair: God the Father sending His Son, born of His Spirit to a

man and woman, Mary and Joseph, to save His people from their sins. Because of this you and I can be part of the family of God and we can teach our children the true meaning of Christmas - that God wants you to be part of His family.

To me the true meaning of Christmas is so much more awesome than anything the world has to offer. So this year, as you celebrate Christmas, don't forget the babe born in Bethlehem who lived and died and is coming again and our Father who sent Him!

Merry Christmas (Have a joyful time celebrating Christ's birth!)
Jim Long is pastor at Cutler Presbyterian Church.

Pray for people who were in hurricanes

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. Luke 1:31 Pd. Adv.

Announcements

Calvary Chapel will present **STAR SONG, A CHRISTMAS DRAMA** on Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.m. at Carroll County Auction, across from the Peters-Revington office on Ruffing Street in Delphi. The play is set at the inn which adjoins the stable where Jesus was born. The story is told from the point of view of the people at the inn, including travelers, Egyptians, a centurion, slaves and others. The event is free and open to the public.

A **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 24 at the Rockfield Presbyterian Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A candlelight service, with communion, is planned for 9 p.m. **CHRISTMAS EVE** at the First Christian Church of Flora. Everyone is welcome.

DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School	SW=Sunday Worship
AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Vernon Stingley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Kelly Furlong, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
AT THE WELL PRAYER OF FAITH CENTER, ROSSVILLE: 16 Cason St., Michael Pierson Sr., pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Fri. Night Live worship service 7 p.m.	FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Joe Hornick, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.	FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.	FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.	FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Rev. Chuck Rockey, pastor. SS: 10:50 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.	FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.	GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Danny Jewell, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. James Bretzinger, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckley, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	HISPANIC CHRISTIAN CENTER: 108 W. Main, Delphi. Dimas Palacio, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW 12noon, Tue. & Wed. 7 p.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL: 125 S. Washington St., Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. Spanish Bible study: 5 p.m., Wed. Service, 6:30 p.m., The Well Coffeehouse: Fri. 6-11 p.m.	IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Keith Raderstorff, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9-9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.	JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 8:30 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.	LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.	LIVING STONE CHURCH: Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3507
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Michael Ermil, pastor, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.	LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 7 p.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES: 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.	LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Lowell Kibler, minister. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 6 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.	MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST: 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor, SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.	OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11410 N & 900 W, Monticello. Donald Haase, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Pastor Jim Long SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Rev. Cheryl Montgomery, interim pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.	PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.	PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enderson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 6 p.m.	PYRMONT UNITED METHODIST: Mitchell Simpson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Sheila Wilimitis, youth pastor.	RADDOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Scheneck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.	ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.
FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.	ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., S. Corporate Prayer 9:00 a.m., S. Fellowship 9:30 a.m., SW 10:00 a.m.
FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.	ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfeifer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Rev. Gretchen Schneider SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Wed. Family Night: 7pm	SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Chad Hoesman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
	ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.
	YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Dave Inskeep, pastor, SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

American Heart Association
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The community is invited!

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, December 24
7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Delphi United Methodist Church
118 North Union Street, Delphi
765-564-3791

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Advocating condom usage to teens can be dangerous

QUESTION: If you were a parent and knew that your son or daughter was thinking about engaging in sexual intercourse, wouldn't you talk to them about condom usage? If our kids are going to have sex anyway, shouldn't we make sure they are properly protected?



Dr. Dobson

jump. Your life is at stake!" How could I, as a loving father, do less?

I should add that, despite the popular myth to the contrary, teens can understand, accept and implement the abstinence message.

It's not true that young people are sexual robots, hopelessly incapable of controlling their own behavior. As a matter of fact, almost 50 percent of all high school students are virgins today, even though hardly anybody has told them it is a good thing. These kids desperately need to be affirmed in their decision and held up as positive examples for others. None of this will be accomplished by pushing condoms.

QUESTION: I read in the paper that a 14-year-old boy shot a woman in the face for no reason at all. Things like that are happening all around us. When I was a kid I wouldn't even have sassed a teacher, much less assaulted one. Today the level of violence among the young is like nothing I've ever seen! Please comment on this.

DR. DOBSON: You are right, an epidemic of violence is occurring among the young that is expected to actually worsen in the next few years. During a meeting of Prison Fellowship workers in our city, a group of hardened former criminals said the kids growing up today scare them because they have no consciences. They can kill without a hint of remorse. It is true.

In Seattle a few years ago, two boys, 12 and 13, beat to death a person coming out of a convenience store. There was no motive except a desire to brutalize someone - anyone - with a baseball bat. In Virginia, a 14-year-old shot the driver of a nearby car six times in the face. Why? "Because he looked at me," the boy said. In Los Angeles, a family made a wrong turn down a street and was subjected to a hail of gunfire that killed their little girl. Gang members poured bullets into the car for the sheer fun of it. And finally, who can forget the 5-year-old Chicago boy who was pushed from an upper-story window and fell to his death. His killers were 10 and 11 years old. This kind of random violence is more common among children and adolescents today than ever before in our history.

DR. DOBSON: I would not, because that approach has unintended consequences. By recommending condom usage to teenagers we inevitably convey five dangerous ideas: (1) that "safe sex" is achievable; (2) that everybody is doing it; (3) that responsible adults expect them to do it; (4) that it's a good thing; and (5) that their peers know they know these things, breeding promiscuity. Those are very destructive messages to give our kids. Furthermore, Planned Parenthood's own data show that the No. 1 reason teenagers engage in intercourse is peer pressure! Therefore, anything we do to imply that "everybody is doing it" results in more - not fewer - teens who give the game a try.

What I'm saying is that our condom distribution programs do not reduce the number of kids exposed to the disease - they radically increase it! And consider this: Research indicates that where disease prevention is concerned, the failure rate of condoms is incredibly high, perhaps 50 percent or greater. Condoms also fail to protect against some STDs that are transmitted from areas not covered (the base of the male genitalia, for example).

After 25 years of teaching safe-sex ideology, and more than 2 billion federal dollars invested in selling this notion, we have a medical disaster on our hands. More than 500,000 cases of herpes occur annually, and the number of reported cases of chlamydia has risen 281 percent since 1987. Forty-six percent of chlamydia cases occur in teenage girls ages 15 to 19. In addition, there are now more than 24 million cases of HPV (human papilloma virus) in the United States, with a higher prevalence among teens.

Having acknowledged these problems, why in the world would I recommend this so-called "solution" to my son or daughter? Look at it this way. Suppose my kids were skydivers whose parachutes had been demonstrated to fail 50 percent of the time. Would I suggest that they simply buckle the chutes tighter? Certainly not. I would say, "Please don't

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the President of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

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